

OCTOBER 13, 1976

## POOL REPORT FROM NEW CITY TO PARAMUS AND PARAMUS TO LIBERTY HALL

The President left the New City Courthouse waving to the crowd, he stood up in his car talking to the crowd and waving as he left town. The New City Police Department provided a mounted police escort instead of the usual motorcycles and the clip-clop of the horses hoofs provided an interesting counterpoint to the music of the engines. The President stood up all the way to the edge of the town greeting the people gathered around the route. Your pool learned that Walter Cronkite of CBS News interviewed the President shortly before the departure, and probably will use the interview tonight in competition with that other middle income personality, Barbara Walters. Cronkite also drew applause when he left the courthouse but the applause for the President was considerably louder.

The President traveled to the Garden State Plaza Shopping Center in Paramus without incident. He worked the crowd and greeted local candidates, received a key to the city, a King James version of the Bible from someone in the crowd, and a bouquet of red and white carnations from a girl in a polish costume carrying a sign which said "I love you" in Polish. He also kissed two babies and this was one of the best crowds of this trip. Police Chief John Michland of Paramus estimated the crowd to be fifteen thousand.

Among the signs were "Jersey Loves Jerry" to which the President made reference in his speech, "Ford is no Playboy," which the President acknowledged with a wink and a three ring Ballantine sign. "Ford Keeps the Country Running," "Elephants Eat Peanuts." The Secret Service ordered a local policeman trying to operate a videotape machine from the roof of the shopping center.

After the speech, with Senator Clifford Case following close behind, the President worked the crowd and stopped to chat with a man in a wheelchair, then posed for pictures with some of the candidates before leaving.

On route to Liberty Hall, Ron Nessen told the pool the President has no plans to travel next week prior to the Williamsburg trip for the third debate. Nessen said there have been a lot of entreaties for him to go all over the country but he will resist traveling once he returns from St. Louis because of the press of legislative bills awaiting action and in order to prepare for the debate.

Nessen said the President would review Carter's statements from the first two debates and would polish his own presentation for the third.

Nessen said things are so tight at the White House that Cheney spent the entire stop at Paramus checking on the President's schedule for tomorrow. He said things were so crowded on the schedule that some things had to be postponed from tomorrow until next week, and that the President will have to work on three bills when he arrives back at the White House tonight. Nessen would not say which bills are involved.

Kohler/Talbott/Compton

###