

October 15, 1976

PRESS POOL #4

President and Mrs. Ford came down from their room in the Joliet Sheraton at 9:00 p.m. and walked across the lobby to a large room where a debate watching party was in progress.

They had been in their room about an hour when they came down. And Terry O'Donnell had told us when they had arrived at the hotel that they planned to have dinner in their room while watching the early part of the debate.

Photographers were let in to the room for several minutes after the President got settled. About 30 people there including Congressman Railsback and O'Brien both Illinois Republicans.

The President sat next to Chuck Percy. An end table separated the couch where he sat and where Mrs. Ford sat. On her left was former Congressman Leslie Arends. We are told the President will telephone Dole immediately after the debate. We will be there, we are promised during the conversation.

No visible reaction to the debate during the brief time we were there. About 30 people in the large room with about a dozen seated on a couch stretched across the front of the room and the others in more relaxed postures around the room.

We are told that others in the room include: Rod McKaen, Rear Admiral Alan Shephard, Jr., Congressman and Mrs. Robert Michel and Congressman John Anderson. Also Mr. Knebel, Acting Secretary of Agriculture.

Aldo Beckman - Chicago Tribune

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