

POOL REPORT

Air Force One - Portland-Pittsburgh

October 26, 1976

Nothing spectacular on flight; Nessen said the foreign policy speech had been planned for a "couple of days," which your poolers assume date back to the debate in Williamsburg, when Carter talked about the Yugoslavian situation.

Landed on time in Pittsburgh and after shaking hands with the folks on the tarmac, the President came directly to the Hilton. He was wearing a dark olive raincoat to ward off the chill air, and when he left the car, he shook hands with about 15 people standing outside and waiting to greet him.

He entered the lobby and shook about 20 more hands, acknowledged cheers and good wishes, and as he passed the bar -- closed in accordance with Pennsylvania liquor laws -- he saw some young people standing in the entryway. He shook about a dozen more hands, and still more as he entered the elevator.

The people seemed friendly, which they would have to be to wait half the night for the President.

At one point, Ford turned to the pool and asked "Where's Phil Jones?" We told him Phil was on the press plane and he nodded.

Going back to Portland for a moment, the President shook hands with many people as he left the hotel, then walked to the fence to work the crowd. Everybody seemed happy to see him -- many thanked him for coming to Oregon -- except two. One carried a sign reading "Green-Ford, Lemon '76" and another kept shouting "we've got 10 per cent unemployment, you know."

En route to the airport, Ford kept the microphone going all the way though he sat in the closed car. He kept saying "Hi" and "Thank you," especially at major intersections and where he spotted clusters of people along the streets.

At one point, the motorcade came to an almost complete stop to let a dog (mongrel) cross NW 33rd Avenue.

Nessen said they tried to arrange that mini-press conference in the hotel, but were unable to find a suitable place for it, so they decided to have it at the airport -- which you saw, heard, and no doubt loved.

Saul Kohler
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