

October 28, 1976

PRESS POOL NO. 43: Cleveland Airport - WJW TV-Studio - Karlin Hall - Parade - Fundraiser Remarks

President greeted at Air Force One ladder by son, Michael; Cleveland Mayor Ralph J. Perk; Ray C. Bliss, Akron, Ohio Republican National Committee member and ex-national GOP chairman; group of Ukranian costumed children from St. Josaphat School, Parma (Cleveland suburb) led by Sister Celine.

President received a Ukranian Easter ball, hand carved wood (a "Pysanka"), a Blessed Mother medal and a doily made by one of the pupils. "All 'A' students?" Ford asked. President went down line of Northeastern Ohio Congressional and local candidates, including U.S. Rep. and Mrs. J. William Stanton, R-Painesville. Uneventful motorcade to WJW Chanel 8. Arrival 3:32 p.m. EDT. A dozen well-wishers at edge of parking lot got Presidential handshake. "Give 'em hell," a man said to the President as he went to the door. Greetings from station managers, handshakes with station personnel for a few minutes before disappearing from view.

Doug Blaser said allowing writers to monitor taping would be considered. At 4:37 p.m. he returned to say the decision was no. "It's a commercial," he said, like the others and not open for media coverage. Doug was reminded this is the first time traveling media not able to watch broadcast without dropping off live coverage. Doug said same will occur Saturday in Houston; we will be airborne before broadcast. No word about transcript. The unmonitored show featured Michael Ford, Former Rep. Edith Green, Joe Garagiola and the President. No Ohio politicians. Doug said 690,000 people watched the Wednesday night show in Pennsylvania and that station WJW predicts 930,000 viewers for tonight's installment.

President departed WJW at 5:55 p.m. waved to a few spectators, uneventful motorcade to start of street parade at 6:07 p.m.

Speaking through car PA, President called out, "Howdy... How are you... Nice to see you... Right on..." other greetings to friendly looking persons one and two deep behind police barricades. A few Carter-Mondale signs but no heckling. You saw the rest.

Inside Karlin Hall -- you heard speeches -- about 350 persons, according to Fire Marshall. Visual highlight was the singing quintet: Pres., Son! Taft, Governor Rhodes, Mayor Perk and former U.S. Senator Frank J. Lausche, D-Ohio, who strongly endorsed Ford, arms up, hands clasped and belting out "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" not once, but at two separate points.

President finished 6:55 p.m., shook some hands and departed at 7:01 p.m. with the President using talking car for goodbyes to crowd. President was about 20 minutes late for banquet. You heard awards banquet remarks. In audience, but not introduced, was U.S. Rep. Ralph Regula, R-Ohio. President finished speech 7:58 p.m. and we were ushered out as he appeared to be leaving.

George Embrey - Columbus Dispatch  
Lee Lescaze - Washington Post

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