

OCTOBER 29, 1976

Pool Report - Milwaukee (post education speech) and trip to St. Louis.

Good sized crowd was waiting for the President around the Marc Plaza hotel. The President - who had worked the magic car machine a little bit on the way - got out of the limo for a little extra vehicular hand-shaking about a block from the hotel. Crowds were four and five deep for a block in each direction from the intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and Fifth Avenue. President worked crowd for half a block on Fifth...turned the corner and shook hands along Wisconsin up to the hotel entrance. He kissed two girls on the cheek...both were in Slovak costumes. At hotel entrance President got a series of gifts from ethnically costumed and goose-bump covered children. Okay trivia freaks...this is what he got: 1 all beef summer sausage...and 3 kleibasa neatly boxed. 1 salami - unboxed. 1 large doll in ethnic costume with eyes that blink. Two small dolls - 1 male the other female - dancing - in ethnic costume. 2 white roses in a vase. 6 carnations - 2 orange, 2 white, 2 blue. A framed bicentennial poem entitled "At Your Side There Were Germans Too." A membership pin in the Damnauschwabeen Society - an ethnic group. (Your poolers can't pronounce it - we just spell it.) Thus endeth the gifts.

Lobby of the hotel was jammed - as was the mezzanine. President went into the Monarch Room where a crowd of about 200 - invited guests - heard brief remarks. Congressman Bob Kasten said there was no attempt this morning to pack the WEA hall with pro-Ford folks. Speech was piped back - best line in case you missed it, "Wisconsin is critical, Wisconsin is crucial. If we carry Wisconsin we're in." "It's like the last quarter of the big game - and boy, this is big! Let's have Wisconsin in favor of a wolverine."

Back on the street - President worked the crowd back to intersection of Wisconsin and Fifth. The ever present Johnny Grant had been exorting the crowd. President mounted a podium and spoke briefly to cheering crowd. (Before he got there he had been shaking hands in front of a restaurant and disco hall called the Red Garter - one man had a sign "Beer City welcomes Ford"). Speech from the street corner podium was the same old stuff. Under marquee for restaurant - Marc's - home of the big boy. Ford asked for quiet so people could hear him - he got it from a chorus of ssshhh's. Speech mentioned jobs - economy - defense etc. Talking of August 1974 he said "it wasn't a very pleasant time to become President."

While shaking hands in the area - President met a couple of hard hat construction types who asked him to stop by their work site. He did. Stopping at the shell of a new Blue-Cross, Blue-Shield building going up at the intersection of 4th Street and Michigan Street. Building to be about ten stories. President shook a few hands - gave him a hard hat which he put on. Presented by Daniel Henry from Waukegan, Illinois. President was also given a pair of welders goggles which he put on and then realized he couldn't see anything because there were Ford-Dole stickers pasted on each eyepiece.

(More)

That's all the junk - we've saved the good stuff until last. Otherwise you'd have never read this stuff.

Cheney (on background) says he today has added Wisconsin - because of what the President said in the Marc Plaza reception* - and Iowa to his "conservative" list of states in the Ford column. The addition of those states - he says - guarantee that the President will have enough electoral votes for victory. Ody J. Fish, Wisconsin national committeeman and member of the Morton steering committee, and former state party chairman of Wisconsin, said his list shows "no basic disagreement with the White House figures, but everyone there has his own list." Fish says his list shows Ford winning 293 electoral votes. Fish's list - according to Cheney is a bit less conservative. Fish said "there is going to be a Harris poll released in a day that is going to make us look awfully good." He said he couldn't say more.

As for Wisconsin, Fish said, "It's relatively tight, but I'll take any bets anyone wants to make." Pool never bets - just reports.

Take that ear.

Gibson - ABC
Wyngaard - Scripps-Howard

*Cheney said - again keep in mind all on background - that President was reflecting PFC confidence now about Wisconsin. Again a reminder - Cheney on background - Fish in on record.

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