

October 30, 1976

Press Pool Report - Syracuse to Statler Hilton in Buffalo

The President, as he left the Syracuse rally, talked briefly with the publishers and editors from Syracuse and a few other dignitaries, and then left for the motorcade. He bid farewell to the bigwhigs before departing. On the plane, Ron Nessen volunteered the information that St. Stanislaus Church, where the President will attend church, was built in 1873, and is the oldest Polish parish in western New York.

Sen. Jacob Javitts dropped back and said as far as Ford's chances were concerned, we will do our best for him. Asked about the Buckley-Moyihan race, he said it was unfair for him to comment as much as he had not endorsed the Buckley candidacy.

When asked whether Sen. Dole was a drag on the ticket, he said he told people along the campaign trail, before you get to vote for a Vice-President, you vote for a President. He said that if there would be any chances Dole should become President, he would expect him to follow the Ford policies and be just a conservative Senator from a farm state. He noted that Dole joined with McGovern in food stamp reform and was one of the original co-sponsors of the war powers act. The implication was that he couldn't be all that bad.

In a dissertation on Jimmy Carter -- his biggest handicap was the lack of any public record on national issues. He said it was unusual for the presidential contender to have so little exposure, and he has left the public uneasy.

Ford arrived at Buffalo airport only six minutes late. He was greeted by Jack Kemp, conservative Buffalo congressman and former pro football player, and GOP chairman MacKinnon. He worked a smallish crowd along the fence then went in his motorcade via an alternate route, rather than the Route 33 expressway. There was a small crowd outside the Statler-Hilton, most of whom he managed to shake hands with. Inside the hotel Statler lobby, there was a crowd, many of whom were veterans of foreign wars convention delegates. He mingled with them for about five minutes before returning to his room at 11:35 p.m. Before going to his room, he stopped to kiss a bride who had been waiting there for quite some time.

Lucian Warren - Buffalo Evening News
Marilyn Berger- NBC

P.S. Warren left his typewriter in the lobby of the Statler-Hilton while he followed the President working the crowd. When he returned to the lobby, it had vanished. He found it halfway down the street with some gendarmes hovering over it. When he tried to claim it, they gave him a going over before releasing it.

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