

POOL REPORT

JANUARY 1, 1977

FORD RETURN FROM SKIING

President, accompanied by the usual ski crowd, plus General Scowcroft, came down to the bottom of Chair 16 about 11:20 a.m. Said it was great up there... snow was ideal... warmer than yesterday... and hardly anybody up there.

He was asked about a televised news report that one of the considerations in his proposal for Puerto Rican statehood was a desire to federalize oil reserves offshore Puerto Rico. "That has no relevance at all," Ford said. "That was not a matter that, at least, I considered. I had heard nothing of any consequence concerning it." Ford was then asked about Carter's statement that the people of Puerto Rico should be the ones to initiate any statehood proposal. "Well, I respect his opinion, but I respectfully disagree." What about Tip O'Neill's statement that he was "shocked" by the statehood proposal. "Well, Tip hasn't probably thought much about it," said Ford with a smile.

President was then asked four times whether he will propose more pardons and did not answer the question. The last time he said, "I can't tell you at the present time. We issued some about ten days ago. An extensive list. In fact there were two lists. Whatever the Pardon Attorney recommends... we'll take up." Ford then walked away, saying loudly: "Have a good day, Happy New Year." But he stopped again for photographers and was asked by someone whether he placed any bets on Michigan in the Rose Bowl game. "A couple," said Ford. "They won't disappoint me."

President Ford stopped to have photo taken with two members of Vail ski patrol... and said of today's skiing... "It was one of the best days."

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