

The original documents are located in Box 28, folder “9/25/76 - Mississippi River Boat Trip” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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September 22, 1976

The President's trip to Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and FloridaSummary ScheduleSaturday, September 25:

4:30 a.m. Press check-in
5:30 a.m. Press plane departs Andrews AFB enroute Kenner, LA
6:50 a.m. President and Mrs. Ford depart South Lawn
7:00 a.m. (CDT) Press plane arrives New Orleans International Airport
7:10 a.m. President and Mrs. Ford depart Andrews AFB enroute
New Orleans International Airport, Kenner, LA
7:20 a.m. Press buses depart airport enroute Lutchet-Vacherie
Ferry Landing
8:30 a.m. Press buses arrive ferry landing and board the
Natchez IX
10:00 a.m. The SS Natchez departs landing dock
5:30 p.m. SS Natchez arrives at the Toulouse Street Wharf,
Jackson Square, New Orleans

Sunday, September 26:

Following church, at approximately 11:30 a.m., the motorcade will depart New Orleans, stopping briefing in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi; Gulfport, Mississippi; and will arrive in Biloxi, Mississippi at approximately 3:15 p.m. There will be full filing facilities and about a one hour stop.

At approximately 7:30 p.m., the motorcade will arrive at Bates Field, Mobile, Alabama. Following remarks at Bates Field, the President will depart enroute Miami, Florida.

The President is expected to arrive at Miami International Airport at approximately 10:30 p.m. (EDT). The President and the press corps will overnight at the Marriott Hotel at the airport.

Monday, September 27:

At 11:30 a.m., the President will address the 83rd Annual Conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police at the Fountainbleu Hotel in Miami. Attendance is expected to be in the area of 4500 people. Following his address, the President will probably one or two other events in the Miami area, and then depart for Washington some time between 2 and 3 p.m. This will put us back into Washington at about 5 or 6 p.m.

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Louisiana

Political

The Almanac of American Politics describes Louisiana as one of the weakest states in the country for the GOP. But there are two Republican representatives in the eight-person delegation.

David Treen, who represents the 3rd District, was the first GOP member of Congress from Louisiana in the 20th century. Treen, a conservative, had run several times before he was successful in 1972. Most of the district is Cajun country with miles of swamps, but it also includes some of the almost totally white suburbs of New Orleans. French is considered the first language in this area. The Republican Congressional Committee does not think Treen's opposition is serious.

Henson Moore captured the 6th District seat in 1974, after incumbent Democrat John Rarick was defeated in the primary. Actually Moore ran twice against Democrat Jeff LaCaze, because of voting irregularities. The 6th includes the capital, Baton Rouge, and surrounding rural and solidly conservative parishes. (Counties in Louisiana are parishes, a term dating back to the French influence.) Moore, an attorney, will be 37 on October 4th. He also has minimal opposition.

Rarick, whose virulent racism is well-known, is running as an independent in the 1st District. Rep. F. Edward Hebert is retiring after 36 years in Congress. The district includes northern and eastern New Orleans and two parishes along the Mississippi River. The delta lands of the Mississippi are communities of French-speaking river pilots and shrimp fishermen. This is also an area rich in oil with large offshore deposits. The Republican candidate is attorney Bob Livingston. He will face the winner of a Democratic runoff September 25th.

Livingston is a former U.S. attorney and District Attorney for Orleans Parish. He also is assistant Attorney General for Louisiana. A Navy veteran, he is 33 years old, married with three children. His wife's name is Bonnie.

The RCC thinks he could be a winner.



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The other possible Republican victory is in the state's most rural district, the 5th. This is Otto Passman's seat. Passman was defeated in the primary by dairy operator Jerry Huckaby.

The Republican candidate is Frank Spooner, an independent oil and gas operator and producer from Monroe, the district's only urban center. Spooner, 38, is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma. He is married with four children. His wife's name is Mary Louise. Spooner was a Reagan delegate and vice chairman of the Louisiana delegation at the National Convention. This is considered a tough race.

Passman has been in Congress 30 years. The 5th includes large plantations along the Mississippi and small hill farms. It has a 35 percent black population.

There is a Republican candidate opposing Rep. John Breaux in the 7th District. His name is Charles Huff. He is not considered a strong candidate.

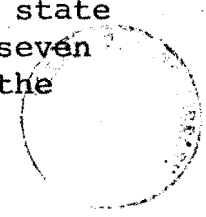
Neither of the two Democratic Senators, Russell Long or J. Bennett Johnson, is up for re-election.

Democratic Governor Edwin Edwards, a former House member, was the first Cajun elected in decades. Edwards is not a Jimmy Carter fan. He has officially endorsed Carter, but privately he has released his people to work for the President. Edwards' wife, Elaine, will be on the boat.

Moon Landieu, the Mayor of New Orleans, will also be on the boat. Landieu, a Democrat, is active in the League of Cities. He is considered very liberal.

Issues

Abortion and the Equal Rights Amendment are especially sensitive topics in Louisiana. The lower part of the state is about 75 percent Catholic. ERA has been defeated seven times in the state, and the PFC contact says many of the President's volunteers are from the anti-ERA forces.



Lousiana Politics, Page Three

There is solid opposition to busing. Louisiana has a black population of 30 percent.

The PFC contact says amnesty has hurt Carter in Louisiana. Like many Southerners, people in Louisiana are strong on the military and pro-defense.

Food and architecture are two sources of great pride in southern Louisiana. With many French and German descendants, there is a strong ethnic flavor to the area.

The oil and gas industry is also very important economically along with fishing and agriculture. Carter's stand on divestiture has not gone down well in Louisiana.

The PFC contact describes the political battle in Louisiana as being over the Wallace vote. Wallace carried the state in 1968. Louisiana is fairly typically Southern conservative on most issues, although less strenuously opposed to social welfare than other states, because of the Huey Long influence. Huey has been dead 30 years, but because of his son's power, the influence is still there.

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Mississippi

Political

Senator John Stennis, 75, is unopposed for re-election. The Governor, Cliff Finch, is also a Democrat. There are two Republicans in the five-man House delegation.

Both Republicans are young, married, Baptists, lawyers, Ole Miss graduates with two children. Thad Cochran, 38, was first elected in 1972. His district includes the capital, Jackson, which has a population of 153,000. His wife's name is Rose. He has opposition, but is expected to win.

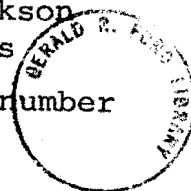
Trent Lott, who represents the 5th District, was also first elected in 1972. His district includes the Gulf Coast, where the President will be campaigning. The 5th was Rep. Bill Colmer's district, and Lott was his administrative assistant. Lott, 33, does have a well financed opponent. His opposition is a state representative and a Catholic (the Catholic population in Mississippi is concentrated along the Coast). Lott's wife's name is Patricia. Lott is expected to win, but the race could be tough.

Dorothy Cleveland, 65, is the Republican challenger to Rep. Sonny Montgomery of the 3rd District. She is not expected to do well.

Roland Byrd is challenging Rep. David Bowen in the 2nd District. Although Byrd is not expected to win, he is considered a good candidate, who may run again.

Issues

The sensitive issues in Mississippi are very similar to Louisiana. Mississippi statistically is the Nation's poorest state. Unlike the PFC contact in Louisiana, the Mississippi contact made a point that there were no racial conflicts in the state. The ugly image Mississippi got in the 60s has been of deep concern to both races, and there is genuine pride in having survived the turmoil. Jackson has busing, but there was a minimum of fuss when it was implemented several years ago. There are, however, a number of white private schools in the state.



Mississippi, Page Two

The beautiful old homes, legacies of the "Old South," are very much centers of pride in Mississippi. Spring pilgrimages, like those in Virginia, are planned for all year round. The one in Natchez is justifiably one of the most famous.

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Football

Football is more than a sport in the South, it is almost a tribal ritual. College football is very much a part of the social season. I have friends who graduated from Ole Miss ten years ago, and they still go to almost every game, both home and away. Most people aren't that fanatical, but I can't remember a fall in Memphis that did not include at least a couple of football games and accompanying parties.

Here's the rundown on pertinent games for this weekend. Ole Miss (the University of Mississippi, located in Oxford) plays Southern Mississippi at Hattiesburg. This is a fierce in-state rivalry. Mississippi State University, the third major state university, will play the University of Florida at Gainesville.

Louisiana State University (LSU) will be playing Rice University at Baton Rouge. Tulane University, which rarely has a decent team, will be playing Boston.

The competition between LSU and Ole Miss is so fierce that one year the irate losers overturned and burned a railroad car.

The pro team in New Orleans is the Saints. The number two quarterback is Archie Manning, a former Ole Miss star. Archie has had problems with his throwing arm, but he has lots of fans. The Saints play in the Super Dome, the world's largest enclosed sports arena.



For immediate release
Thursday, September 22, 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford will accompany the President to Mississippi and New Orleans on Saturday, September 25. She will depart New Orleans on Sunday, September 26 en route to Milwaukee, Wisconsin to attend the United German Societies' Oktoberfest on Sunday afternoon. The festival will be held in old Heidelberg Park in Glendale and is hosted by the five Bavarian societies in Milwaukee. Sunday will be the last day of the six day celebration.

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one hour after church (around 11:00 o'clock)

2:40 Air Leave - Milwaukee Airport

3:00 arrival at Oktoberfest

{ 3:00 Arrival
{ 3:30 Oktoberfest



Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

TRIP OF THE PRESIDENT TO
LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, ALABAMA AND
MIAMI, FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER 25 - 27, 1976

PRESS POOLS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1976

PRESS POOL #1 - Air Force One from Washington to New Orleans
International Airport.

AP - Cormier or Mears or Pett
UPI - Thomas or Growald
UPI Photo - Cancellare
AP Photo - Tasnadi
New Republic - Osborne

UPI Audio - Gene Gibbons
New Orleans Times-Picayune - Foe
ABC Crew (3) - Hill and Tessem and
Bauer

PRESS POOL #2 - Travel pool from airport to Lutchet-Vacherie Ferry
landing, tour of SS NATCHEZ.

AP - Cormier or Mears or Pett
UPI - Thomas or Growald
AP Photo - Tasnadi
UPI Photo - Cancellare
Newsweek Photo - McNamee
Time Photo - Halstead
U.S. News Photo - O'Halloran

New Republic - Osborne
UPI Audio - Gibbons
New Orleans Times-Picayune - Foe
ABC Crew (2)
CBS Crew (2)
NBC Crew (2)
ABC Radio Engineer - Bauer
Lighting Technician

PRESS POOL #3 - The President's departure from SS NATCHEZ at Reserve
Ferry Landing and return. (Assemble in Press Center at 10:50 a.m.)

AP - Cormier or Mears or Pett
UPI - Thomas or Growald
AP Photo - Tasnadi
UPI Photo - Cancellare
Newsweek Photo - McNamee
Time Photo - Halstead
U.S. News Photo - O'Halloran

U.S. News - Mashek
St. Louis Post Dispatch - Deakin
AP Radio - Rodgers
ABC Crew (2)
CBS Crew (2)
NBC Crew (2)
ABC Radio Engineer - Bauer
Lighting Technician

(MORE)



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1976

PRESS POOL #4 - The President's departure from SS NATCHEZ at Destrehan Ferry landing, and return aboard SS NATCHEZ. (Gather 1:30 p.m.)

AP - Cormier or Mears or Pett	Newsweek - DeFrank
UPI - Thomas or Growald	Toledo Blade - Kane
AP Photo - Tasnadi	Mutual - Boyd
UPI Photo - Cancellare	ABC Crew (2)
Newsweek Photo - McNamee	CBS Crew (2)
Time Photo - Halstead	NBC Crew (2)
U.S. News Photo - O'Halloran	ABC Radio Engineer - Bauer
	Lighting Technician

PRESS POOL #5 - Motorcade from Toulouse Street Wharf to Hyatt Regency Hotel. (Assemble in front of press scaffold immediately following remarks.)

AP - Cormier or Mears or Pett	Time - Ogden
UPI - Thomas or Growald	<u>Baltimore Sun - Dobbin</u>
AP Photo - Tasnadi	ABC Correspondent - Compton
UPI Photo - Cancellare	ABC Crew (2)
Newsweek Photo - McNamee	CBS Crew (2)
Time Photo - Halstead	NBC Crew (2)
U.S. News Photo - O'Halloran	ABC Radio Engineer - Bauer
	Lighting Technician

PRESS POOL #6 - Travel from Hyatt Regency to restaurant, return from restaurant to Hyatt Regency. (Assemble at 7:30 p.m. in press center)

AP - Cormier or Mears or Pett	New Republic - Osborne
UPI - Growald or Thomas	Columbus Dispatch - Embrey
AP Photo - Tasnadi	NBC Correspondent
UPI Photo - Cancellare	ABC Crew (3) - Hill and Tessem and
Lighting Technician	Bauer

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1976

PRESS POOL #7 - Travel from Hyatt Regency to St. Louis Cathedral, writers only in cathedral, and return to Hyatt Regency.

AP - Cormier or Mears or Pett	U.S. News - Mashek
UPI - Thomas or Growald	CBS Correspondent
AP Photo - Tasnadi	New York Post - Lang
UPI Photo - Cancellare	CBS Crew (2)
Newsweek Photo - McNamee	ABC Crew (2)
Time Photo - Halstead	NBC Crew (2)
U.S. News Photo - O'Halloran	CBS Radio Engineer - Perkins
	Lighting Technician

(MORE)



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1976

Press Pool # 8 - Travel from Hyatt Regency, New Orleans to Bay St. Louis, to Gulfport, to Biloxi, luncheon at Fisherman's Wharf Restaurant, and travel to Mavar's Cannery. (Assemble at Hyatt Regency motorcade at 11:10 a.m.)

AP - Cormier or Mears or Fett	Time - Cloud
UPI - Thomas or Growald	ABC Correspondent
AP Photo - Tasnadi	Knight-Ridder - Eisele
UPI Photo - Cancellare	CBS Crew (2)
Newsweek Photo - McNamee	ABC Crew (2)
Time Photo - Halstead	NBC Crew (2)
U.S. News Photo - O'Halloran	CBS Radio Engineer - Perkins
	Lighting Technician

PRESS POOL #9 - Tour of Mavar's Cannery, travel from Biloxi to Pascagoula, travel to Bates Field, Mobile, Alabama. (Assemble press area at conclusion of remarks.)

AP - Cormier or Mears or Fett	New Republic - Osborne
UPI - Thomas or Growald	NBC Correspondent
AP Photo - Tasnadi	New York Times - Naughton
UPI Photo - Cancellare	CBS Crew (2)
Newsweek Photo - McNamee	ABC Crew (2)
Time Photo - Halstead	NBC Crew (2)
U.S. News Photo - O'Halloran	CBS Radio Engineer - Perkins
	Lighting Technician

PRESS POOL #10 - Air Force One from Mobile to Miami International, and travel to Marriott Hotel. (Gather at front of press area upon conclusion of remarks to proceed to Air Force One.)

AP - Cormier or Mears or Fett	Christian Science Monitor - Sperling
UPI - Thomas or Growald	CBS Correspondent - Pierpoint
AP Photo - Tasnadi	CBS Crew (3) - Bargamian and Gerlach
UPI Photo - Cancellare	and Perkins
Newsweek - DeFrank	

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1976

PRESS POOL #11 - Travel from Marriott Hotel to Fontainebleau Hotel, travel Villa Maria Nursing and Retirement Center, tour of Center, travel from Villa Maria to Marriott Hotel. (Assemble 10:50 a.m. in Press Center.)

AP - Cormier or Mears or Fett	U.S. News - Mashek
UPI - Thomas or Growald	Scripps-Howard - Knap
AP Photo - Tasnadi	ABC Correspondent
UPI Photo - Cancellare	NBC Crew (2)
Newsweek Photo - McNamee	ABC Crew (2)
Time Photo - Halstead	CBS Crew (2)
U.S. News Photo - O'Halloran	NBC Radio Engineer - Alvarado
(MORE)	Lighting Technician



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1976

FRESS POOL #12 - Travel from Marriott Hotel to Miami International Airport.
(Assemble at motorcade 3:45 p.m.)

AP - Cormier or Mears or Pett
UPI - Thomas or Growald
AP Photo - Tasnadi
UPI Photo - Cancellare
Newsweek Photo - McNamee
Time Photo - Halstead
U.S. News Photo - O'Halloran

Time - Cloud
Copley - Shore
RKO - Evans
NBC Crew (2)
ABC Crew (2)
CBS Crew (2)
NBC Radio Engineer - Alvarado
Lighting Technician

FRESS POOL #13 - Air Force One from Miami to Washington.

AP - Cormier or Mears or Pett
UPI - Thomas or Growald
AP Photo - Tasnadi
UPI Photo - Cancellare
Time - Cloud

Copley - Shore
RKO - Evans
NBC Crew (3) - David Steigelman and
Bill Powell and Charles Alvarado

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please contact
Marcia Kavanaugh
T.V. 6 News
588-9458



WDSU-TV

520 ROYAL STREET NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70130

SEPTEMBER 25, 1976

SHEILA WEIDENFELD
PRESS SECRETARY TO THE FIRST LADY

MS. WEIDENFELD,

I REALIZE THE PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY HAVE A VERY BUSY SCHEDULE DURING THEIR BRIEF STAY IN OUR CITY. HOWEVER, I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE A FEW MINUTES OF BETTY FORD'S TIME FOR AN INTERVIEW, FOCUSING, OF COURSE, ON THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. I UNDERSTAND THE BEST TIME WOULD BE JUST BEFORE MRS. FORD'S DEPARTURE FROM NEW ORLEANS TOMORROW, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26. AS SHE HAS DONE NATIONWIDE, BETTY FORD HAS WON THE RESPECT AND ADMIRATION OF MANY ORLEANIANS.. I'M SURE THEY WOULD ENJOY A PERSONAL VISIT WITH HER.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

RESPECTFULLY,

Maria Kavanagh

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Rm. 2319

Mrs. Sheila Widanfeld
Press secretary to the First Lady

Aug. 2, 1976

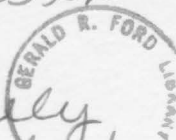
Dear Sheila,

Hey! I just wanted to write you a note to let you know how much I enjoyed meeting and talking with you at the reception for President Ford last Friday in Jackson -

The entire experience was really something for me and I loved every minute of it - I especially enjoyed meeting Mrs. Ford (thanks to you!) but I must admit that Ron Wessen is still my hero!

I'm serious about your coming on another trip, just to visit & have fun this time though, - no work! Let me know next time you're down this way! Best wishes in the campaign!

Sincerely,
Katy Smith



Katy Smith
3317 W. 4th St.
Toussaintbleau Ap
Nattiesburg
Mississippi 39401



Mrs Sheila Wiedenfeld
c/o White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington
D.C.





Steamboat Foray In Carter Country

By Edward Walsh

Washington Post Staff Writer

DESTREHAN, La., Sept. 25—With a Dixieland band providing the background music, President Ford invaded Jimmy Carter's home territory today, churning 53 miles down the Mississippi River aboard the steamboat Natchez in a carefully planned demonstration of his affection for the South.

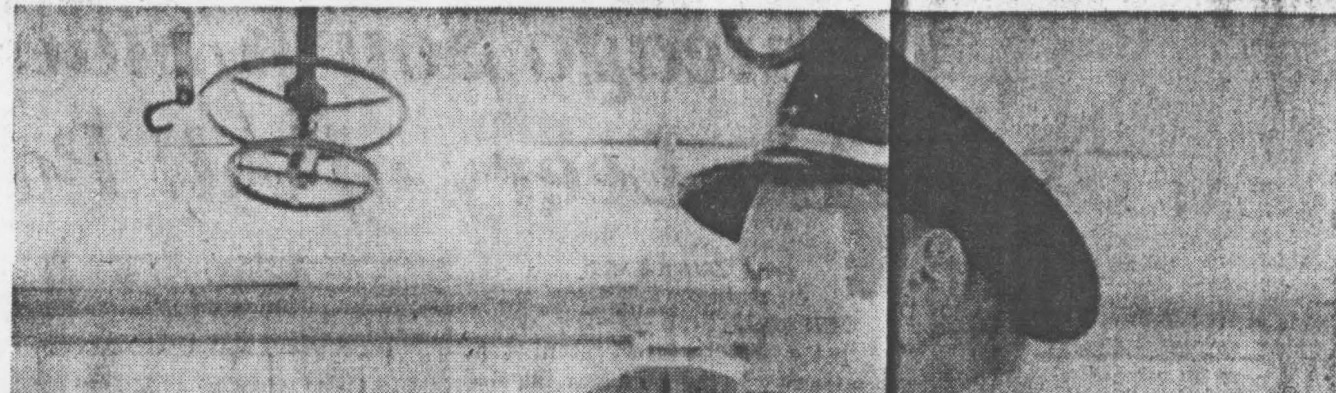
The President, accompanied by scores of prominent Republicans from throughout

Sunday, Sept. 26, 1976

Ford Moves Into Carter Territory

FORD, From A1

transporting 153 reporters, photographers and broadcast technicians



Ford Won't Avoid Issue of Watergate

By Stephen Isaacs

Washington Post Staff Writer

President Ford's campaign managers have decided not to avoid the issue of Watergate and now are planning to confront it head-on in their advertising.

Douglas L. Bailey, whose firm of Bailey Deardourff and Eyre is han-

he's the only one responsible, but cannot separate the comeback country from the leadership country has had."

Bailey disagrees with Raf categorization of his strategy as dangerous, saying, "That's the danger of his administration, of his accomplishments as President. In