

September 6, 1974

POOL REPORT

Add Two

Head Table Reception

At 7:15 pm the President, escorted by Gov. Milton Shapp, entered Independence Hall, where he and Shapp inspected the (cracked) Liberty Bell for the benefit of photographers. Ford hunkered down to see what was inside the bell, but brought back no report. Then marched upstairs to long, dim, candle-lit hall where head-table guests were waiting to greet him. Someone gave him a double martini on the rocks with a twist, which he sipped occasionally while he worked the crowd. Mostly light chatter. Gov. Meldrin Thompson (R., N.H.) told Ford New Hampshire Republicans would have a good ticket. President signed autograph book of Myra Ann Kline, 10, daughter of Pennsylvania Lt. Gov. Ernest Kline.

At one point aide urged Ford to go left to shake some hands. Then terHorst urged him to go right to pose with couple in Revolutionary costume playing the harpsichord. Ford protested "somebody said I should go that way," but obeyed terHorst, and posed with John and Laurie Gearhart, of Williamsburg, Virginia. After 15 minutes of this, Ford went to get ready to enter dining tent. Rest you have.

Bob Boyd