

OCTOBER 16, 1974

POOL REPORT NO. 3

Wednesday morning, Kansas City, Missouri

The President began his day with a meeting with Senator Bob Dole (R-Kansas) who asked to see the President to talk about the grain situation, export controls, and the Vietnam Veterans Education Act.

They sat in chairs in the Presidential Suite and the President said to Dole, "You don't have a WIN button. I'll give you one. I keep losing these things." The President pinned a button on Dole who commented, "I've got a Larry Winn button." The reference was to Representative Larry Winn, Jr. (R-Kansas). "People say I'm cooperating with Larry," the President said.

The President then talked of his meeting with the Future Farmers of America last night and said, "Those kids were wonderful." He noted he was particularly impressed by Mark Mayfield, FFA President. "Say, he's attractive," the President said. "I'd like to have him on my side, and I hope he is."

Later the President said that he got a call from Charles Finley, owner of the Oakland Athletics inviting him to throw out the ball today. "I'm going to be a little busy," Ford said he told Finley.

After the meeting with the President, Senator Dole said they talked about export controls and the President said he is opposed to export controls. "He made it clear he is opposed to export controls," Dole said, "But we have an obligation to monitor grain exports." Dole went on to say the President's concern was the domestic supply, global food obligations of this country and to make sure that the food is going to those who really need it and that it is not just to build up stocks.

On the Vietnam Veterans Education Act, Dole pointed out that 51 Senators have signed a letter asking the President to support the bill. The measure is now in Conference and Ford told Dole he would have to wait to see what the bill contained. Dole also said they talked of politics and his own race and Dole with a smile reported he had "pulled ahead" of Representative Bill Roy, Democrat, in the tight Kansas contest.

In an afterthought, Dole pointed out he told the President the farmers are upset at the Administration's actions halting the export of wheat and corn to Russia because they felt the suspension was being viewed as a price control mechanism. Dole said the President assured him that was not the case.

The President at 8:00 a. m. attended a coffee fund-raising event given by Missouri Republicans. The tab was \$1,000 a person to shake hands with the President, say hello and have a cup of coffee. About 50 plus attended. Among those at the coffee, were Governor Christopher (Kit) Bond of Missouri; Lieutenant Governor William Phelps; Attorney General John Danforth and the Senatorial candidate, B. Curtis, 63, former Member of Congress who is opposing Senator Thomas M. Eagleton (D-Missouri). The funds arised at the coffee and at the breakfast later where 250 attended and the tab was \$100 a plate are to be split between Curtis and the Missouri State Republican Committee. Curtis last reported raising \$160,000 for his campaign compared with Eagleton's \$430,000. (The College students at the breakfast paid \$10 a plate).

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Dean Burch, Counsellor to the President, talked about the campaign appearances today and said the President is going to places where he believes the Republicans have a chance to win. "We wouldn't go somewhere where a Republican wouldn't have a chance." Asked if that meant Curtis had a chance to win, Burch replied, "You've got to remember we were here (in K. C.) anyway. I hope he has." Then he added the President wishes Curtis well. He needs a man of his economic expertise at this time."

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