

OCTOBER 24, 1974

POOL REPORT # 1

(Air Force One--Andrews to Des Moines)

Wheels up 10:03 a.m., two minutes earlier than scheduled. Nessen came back to report that the White House would release a statement on the signing of the Commodities Exchange Act later today.

Nessen was asked if there might be late additions to Thursday's speeches and replied, "I wouldn't be surprised to see him adlib."

It was also confirmed that the President plans to vote absentee and thus won't return to Grand Rapids after his appearance next Tuesday in order to vote. Nessen unsure whether the President has already voted but he definitely intends to vote.

Elaborating on his speculation at Wednesday's briefing, Nessen said there were no plans for further campaign travel after next week's three-day swing ending in Wichita, Kansas, on November second. The President will return to the White House after the Kansas stop instead of overnighing. "You know he likes to get home at night," Nessen said.

Nessen knew of no plans for the President to visit the former President on the California trip next week. Asked if there were a possibility of a visit, he said, "I don't think so," but will check further. He was also asked about speculation that the President might leave for Japan from Palm Springs and said he didn't know where the departure for Japan would occur.

The President spent most of the flight working on business, going over today's speeches and talking with Nessen and Rumsfeld. Others on the flight included Mrs. Everett Dirksen, Dean Burch, RNC Chairman Mary Louise Smith of Iowa among others.

Late in the flight, Nessen returned to say that Mr. Ford has received no reports on the former President's health but was aware of his condition through the newspapers. The standard procedure is for Nixon's physician, Dr. John Lungren, to call Dr. William Lukash. "Dr. Lungren has not called Dr. Lukash, and we have not called him." Nessen said.

Nessen also said that there are no plans for President Ford to visit the former President next week during the California trip.

Tom DeFrank  
Larry O'Rourke

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