

POOL REPORT - DETROIT NEWS

President's visit to University of Michigan's D.C. alumni's 23rd annual congressional dinner, March 5

President left White House for Washington Hilton in motorcade at 8 p.m. Guest of honor at "THIS IS YOUR UNIVERSITY, MR. PRESIDENT" dinner attended by some 700 Washington area alumni, including ~~33~~^{about 24} members of Mr. Ford's class of 1935. Reminisced about his college days during 15-minute talk.

Noting title of dinner, he replied "All I can say is that they sure didn't know that back in '35 ... said he washed so many dishes at his frat house that he was the only athlete in the university's history who " had a football knee and dishpan hands" ... ~~recalling~~ recalling dismal 1-7 record and 34-0 loss to Ohio State his senior year, he quipped, "what really hurt me most was when my teammates voted me the most valuable player. ... Mr. Ford said he wished some of his critics had attended the dinner so they could find out he got his undergraduate degree in economic ... " I got my first degree in 1935, and I've been getting the third degree from some sources in 1975" .. turning serious for a moment he noted the nation's current troubles and asked, " but what's wrong with hard times and a challenge ... I think one a little harder and a little stronger ... he concluded by urging his audience to keep their " sights set on tomorrow...#

The President stayed on through a multimedia presentation by a student singing group recalling what the U of M was like in 1935 and then heard university president Robben Fleming and Dean of academic affairs Frank H.T. Rhodes extoll its virtues today. ~~President~~ President departed after singing of the ~~school's~~ school's traditional "Yellow and Blue" at about 10:15. In hallway on way out, he spent about five minutes ~~talking~~ chatting with ~~the~~ Russell Davis, a high school All-American ~~halfback~~ halfback at Woodbridge, Va high, who will attend Michigan next fall. Returned to White House at 10:15.