

FOOL REPORT

Liftoff at 9:45 five minutes before schedule

Frank Zarb. He said the Administration is in agreement with Congress on about 60 per cent of "all major areas of substance" on a total energy package. "Much of it was there already."

We generally agree on the goals, the question at this point is the rate of progress--how fast are we going. The "main sticking point" is the economic impact, the fear that by moving too rapidly there would be a "retardation" of the recovery.

"We are still examining this to see who is right."

When asked how long it would take to reach the compromise, he said the discussion with Ways and Means could be completed in 2-3 weeks or less. He said that agreement has not been reached on the gas tax. The gas tax has to be considered as part of the total program. We are now focusing on a goal of 2-million barrels a year (reduced imports) by the end of 1977. Have not precluded getting part of it by 1976. It was originally planned to have action by Congress on April 1. Now, if we get a "good enough start," we can get the 2-million bbls by 1977. The other areas of agreement are: strategic reserves, emergency standby measures, virtually all of the long term conservation measures. In all, about 60 per cent of total package. Asked what from practical standpoint they expected by the end of 1975, Zarb answered a half million to 600,000 bbls. "It depends on timing. If they moved immediately they can still get 1-million this year."

Ron Nessen came back and reported that before leaving the White House the Irish Ambassador came to the White House and delivered a bowl of shamrocks--a tradition for St. Patrick's Day. Asked if Rockefeller would look into C.I.A. assassination issue he said, "why not wait to ask the President" at today's news conference. Asked if might be bombshell additions to Notre Dame speech, he shook his head negatively but said

"it's ~~not~~ possible he ~~might~~ might add something about Vietnam and Cambodia." ~~He said~~ *Nessen* said that there are only 4 more working days left for Congress to pass a tax bill before ~~the~~ its scheduled vacation. ~~He said~~ He said that Seidman called the Senate Finance committee bill an "Easter egg basket bill"--a seasonal variation on a Christmas tree bill. "President wants a clean tax bill quickly and that's no secret." Kissinger has been in touch with White House average of twice a day by phone and cable since he is gone. Asked if Kissinger has given up on Cambodia he answered "Not that I know of." He quoted Jim Schlesinger as saying last week that "In Southeast Asia you can't count on anything."

Don Fulsom
Phil Shabecoff

POOL REPORT

AIR FORCE ONE SOUTH BEND TO WASHINGTON

About 200 students waited outside the library for the President to emerge from the dinner with the Governors. The Presidential party came out of the library 50 minutes behind schedule, and the President received a football autographed by all ~~XXXX~~ members of next year's Notre Dame team and coaching staff from Frank Allocco, expected to be the starting quarterback.

President worked the crowd, and the 10-minute motorcade to the airport was routine.

At the airport, a crowd of 2,000 and the St. Joseph High School marching band awaited the President. He worked the fence -- every blessed inch of it -- and takeoff was at 10:55 local time.

Hushen came back and told us the President liked the setting for the Press Conference. He was concerned whether everyone could hear, and was assured they could.

Gaylord Shaw, our esteemed and beloved colleague who will be shifting signals soon, was invited forward for an off-the-record chat with the President as the plane flew toward Washington via Fort Wayne, Ind., and Front Royal, Va., at 33,000 feet and 590 MPH.

Landed ~~XXXX~~ Andrews AFB at 1 a.m., and to all a good night.

Saul Kohler

John Mashek