

AUGUST 18, 1975

POOL # 4

Fairgrounds to the Hotel
Des Moines, Iowa

Nessen gave these additional facts about today's program:

The President held two short meetings which were not on the original schedule.

The first was a meeting with the President of the Iowa Farm Bureau, J. Merle Anderson, and the Executive Director of the Iowa Farm Bureau, Ken Thatcher.

The second meeting was with the President of the Soybean Council, Merlyn Grodt. Both meetings were held in the President's suite at the hotel.

The reception - which is dubbed a GOP fund-raiser, was expected to draw 500 to 750 people at a fee of \$100 each. The President is to make a speech at the reception and to present a Republican Hall of Fame award to two persons: Burt Newell and Charles Wittenmeyer.

Tonight's dinner is to be a very small and exclusive affair. Only 25 to 30 people will be present. The price of admission to this affair is \$3000 each which can be paid either in money or in work for the party. At the dinner the President will present a plaque to a major Iowa fund-raiser named Richard Kautz. The Iowa Republican party, before tonight's affair, had a deficit of \$75,000.

The President has been in Iowa twice before as President, once last fall and the second time on October 31 at an Airport rally in support of former Congressman Wiley Mayne.

The Iowa poll published in yesterday's edition of the Des Moines Register, gave Ford a popularity rating of 67%. This represents a very sharp increase from the results in January of this year when the percentage approved the President's actions was 52%.

On July 24, the Iowa poll published a survey of opinion of the Mayaguez affair. The results were: 82% approved the President's action, 9% disapproved.

The Republican National Committee is paying for the entire trip after the stop at Rifle, Colorado.

Howard Norton
Paul Healy
Don Fulsom

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