

December 17, 1975

Pool Report: Ford Greeting the Carolers at Christmas Ball for Congress

The President, Mrs. Ford and Susan stepped off the elevator on the Ground Floor to greet two groups of carolers-- the 19th Street Baptist Church ensemble and the "Travellers" from Mt. Vernon College.

The President: "Hi, nice to see you. Betty, Susan and I could hear you singing as we were getting dressed. The music was great. We could feel the spirit of sincerity in what you were singing. Thank you, it's nice to have you here."

The Fords then shook hands with various members of the group. One man from the Baptist Church invited the President to attend a church ~~service~~ service there. Don't know if Ford accepted.

Moving to the Mt. Vernon group, some of whom Susan knew, Ford asked: "You're the Travellers?" "No," several voices replied, "The Travellers."

The President: "You're all A students, I can tell."

The Travellers burst into song with "We wish you a Merry Christmas, we wish you," etc. The Baptist group chimed in etc.

The President: "Hey, it works real well. Again, it's great to have you here. It starts off the evening in a real good spirit."

As Ford moved off to go to the State Floor, he spied Fran Lewine and with a smile, ~~said~~ asked: "What are you writing, Fran?" Fran went up to him and asked how he will respond to the next moves of Congress on the tax bill.

The President replied: "Not tonight, girls, not tonight. We don't want to get into mundane things like that." Susan chimed in: "That's politics, Fran."
The Fords continued down the corridor.

End of Scene.

Tish Avery