

POOL REPORT #1

Andrews AFB to Rockford, Illinois
Thursday, March 11, 1976

Bo Callaway came back before plane took off, called Illinois a tough test; "I think he's going to win in Illinois but I don't think there is going to be any big numbers." Says not anticipating anything like Ogilvie's 2-1 prediction. He went forward to use the phone, then came back again after we were in the air.

After Wisconsin, Callaway said, he would like to see the President pay equal attention to the caucus and primary states. This should take place in April and May, after Wisconsin's April 6 primary. "This hasn't yet been recommended to the President as yet; it still is in the talking stage." He suggested also that the plan might be to have Ford go to a primary state and invite 3-4 convention (caucus) state delegates (to state conventions or caucuses) participate in a big meeting. There are 20 non-primary states.

As of now, Callaway said, he figures Ford has 300 delegates in the bag. Total of 2,259 delegate slots at stake, with 1,150 needed to nominate. This purely estimate by Callaway; none committed except those he won in the three primary states (no delegate selection in Vermont, earwigs.)

Callaway predicted we would be back in North Carolina next week. No crossover voting there; thinks Reagan strong in Eastern part of the state, President stronger in the Western mountain country, where most tarheel Republicans are.

"I know you are tired of hearing me say this," Callaway said, "but it is close. But we expect to win it." He was right. We are tired of hearing him say it. "You don't have to win them all big," he added, "You just have to win them all."

When does he expect Reagan to get out? "It is up to Reagan, not me; he may never get out. The most effective thing we can do is to win every primary." He added that this is not a prediction, however.

Peter Kaye came back too. He said in Illinois, we are making 15,000 calls a day from 208 telephones in 40 phone banks. Hope to reach 300,000 via phone by election day. "We have had advocates in the state for the President -- Simon, Morton, Butz, Rumsfeld, Carla Hills." Money: Got \$1.2 million to spend, expect to spend \$800,000, including slightly over \$200,000 for media.

Kaye volunteered that resentment "is showing" for what he called "The abortive Watergate attacks" by Reagan. Phone bank people getting it. "I think a lot of people think the further he goes, the more his credibility in everything else he says is brought into question." Asked if he thought it has boomeranged, he said "Certainly has among Republicans."

Nessen produced memorandum which President signed on plane, creating the new Agricultural Policy Committee (don't push, folks, there is enough for everyone). Said we will stop in Wisconsin en route home from California. On board were Senator Percy and Representative Anderson, Callaway, Kaye, Orben, Cheney, Nessen and the President. Today's farm forum sponsored by Winnebago County Farm Bureau. Will draw 600 farmers from Winnebago, Stevenson, Ogle, Dekalb, Boone and other counties. And en route, we passed over Fort Wayne and Joliet. (Bob Novak's home.)

Kohler/Rodgers/Fischer/McLead/
Thomas -- functionaries all