

## POOL REPORTS #9 and #10.

Marriott Inn to Buffalo Grove Senior High School and Back  
Friday, March 12, 1976

The President departed the Marriott about two minutes late and proceeded directly to his limo for an uneventful ride to the High School. Upon arriving he was taken to a holding room and separated from your pool until he appeared in the gym.

After finishing up in the gym, Ford walked to the adjoining field house where 700 or 800 spectators overflow had been waiting. He thanked them for being so patient and offered to take four questions. One was a question about individual freedoms including the freedom to send your kids to the school of your choice. Ford reiterated his opposition to court-ordered busing to achieve racial balance.

He was asked if he would support Reagan if the latter got the nomination. "I don't deal in speculation," he said. "I deal in reality, and I firmly believe we're going to get the nomination. So I deal in the facts of life. I've always supported the Republican candidate but in this case I think I'm going to be the nominee."

When Ford left the small platform to better hear one question, some kid in the crowd yelled out, "Don't fall."

The President was with this crowd about eight minutes. Then, as the pool was ushered outside, he went to a holding room to meet with some local Republicans who, we're told, may have been the Ford delegates introduced at the rally in the gym.

Tom DeFrank

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President Ford pumped hands in the gymnasium and then stepped down the hall to greet an overflow crowd of about 1000. He said: "I'll make a deal with you. I'll take four questions." The first was why hadn't he spoken with the teachers at some earlier appearance. Mr. Ford asked Congressman McClory about it and replied that he had, indeed, spent some time with the teachers.

The second was a rambling question about how one could be sure that his children enjoyed freedom and comfort. Mr. Ford stirred applause by saying, "I don't agree with court-ordered forced busing to achieve racial balance period." But he went on to say that a President cannot call up the Chief Justice and say, "You decide this the way I want you to."

Next a questioner asked, as rephrased by Mr. Ford, "If, for some reason Ronald Reagan got the nomination, would I support him." Mr. Ford's answer: "I don't deal with speculation. I deal with reality. I firmly believe we're going to get the nomination, and that's the facts of life."

(MORE)

Finally, someone asked, "Whatever happened to energy independence? Mr. Ford said that was a good question. "After one year Congress has passed four of the 13 proposals I recommended, and one of those was watered down. That's a pretty dismal record. I hope the Congress will get off it's (pause) dead center and do something."

Before leaving, he met privately for a few minutes with the 12 candidates for convention delegate who had been introduced en masse at the rally.

The motorcade back to the Marriott Inn was uneventful. He shook hands with state troopers, kitchen help and a screaming group of other employees and entered the freight elevator.

Richard Dudman  
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

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The second was a rambling question about how one could be sure that children enjoyed freedom and comfort. Mr. Ford stirred applause by saying, "I don't agree with court-ordered forced busing to achieve racial balance. You've got to say that a busing program cannot help the child justice and say, 'You decide the way I want you to be.'"  
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