

POOOL REPORT:

March 27, 1976

KABC INTERVIEW, AF 1 to FRESNO

Your pool was totally barred from the interview by the White House despite the fact ABC producers said it was perfectly all right for the pool to be present.

Deputy WH Press Secretary John Carlsen was arbitrary and brusque in saying "there is no reason for the writing pool to be present during the interview." Strong protest was to no avail. The interview is embargoed thusly: ABC plans to use one cut tonight which will be made available to anyone who asks after 7:30PM EST today. They may use a second cut on their 11:00 EST show and if and after that is used it will be made available upon request. The bulk of the interview and presumably the transcript is embargoed until 3pm EST Tuesday.

The site of the interview is the Brentwood Room. The President and interviewer were to sit in two gold ochre chairs separated by a lamp and an end table. There were close to two dozen technicians, producers and agents in the room. The President arrived for his interview at about 8:31 PST.

The president stopped briefly in a hallway near the Brentwood room to sign autographs for three young boys, about 10 years old, who were standing by some elevators in the hopes of seeing him.

"My God, that's him," one of the kids gasped as Ford approached. The trio was wearing yellow Golden State Warrior t-shirts and while he was signing some cards, Ford said, "Who is Golden State?"

"They're a basketball team, but Washington is good ~~xxxx~~ too," said one of the kids.

"Why aren't you home cleaning up the yard?" Ford said as he finished signing his name and walked on ~~the~~ to the interview.

Dick Cheney, on his crutches, did remarkably well at keeping up with the fast-moving presidential party as they walked on.

After the interview as the president was walking past, pool asked for his reaction to Vail-ski tragedy.

He kept walking saying only, "I haven't seen the details yet." Motorcade to airport uneventful, altho Pres did depart thru basement entrance.

Aboard AF-1 Nessen was asked about WH News Confer and he said one could be expected "relatively soon." Also expect campaign trip to Wisconsin next Friday and Saturday. Nessen denied conflict between reports of Kissinger Cuban comments and WH version. "We've never given any indication there was an immanent crisis."

Beckman
Rodgers