

APRIL 10, 1976

POOL REPORT/AIR FORCE ONE/DALLAS TO EL PASO

Uneventful motorcade from Fairmont Hotel to Love Field. Ford shook a few hands and boarded.

Shortly before landing Mrs. Beryl Milburn of Austin, Ford campaign director, came back. She said it was a "tight race" and the Ford visit would have "tremendous significance" on the campaign.

She said the Ford organization in Texas is urging him to visit East Texas, Tyler and Longview, the Gulf Coast (Corpus Christi, Houston), West Texas (Lubbock and Abilene) on the next swing through the state before the May 1 primary. With delegates to be decided by district contests, she said "we're running 24 campaigns in Texas."

She said Reagan was popular because he was a frequent visitor to the state, particularly with fund raising appearances. She said the Texas Republican was "conservative ideologically" and the state's Republicans were dedicated that way. She said the President is conservative, too.

She felt Connally would remain neutral. She said there was a big undecided vote, 30 percent by Ford organization tests.

"It's loose. They (the undecided) could go either way."

Mashek--U. S. News
Beckman--Chicago Tribune
Boyd--Mutual

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