

Pool report Air Force I, Dallas to Lubbock

After addressing the overflow crowd, Ford went to a reception in the room across the hall from the press room and spent about 20 minutes mingling and talking to the guests.

Uneventful drive to Love Field, although there was a car resting on its top in the opposite lane of one expressway. By the time we got there, there were a couple of people looking at it, but no hectic activity.

The president asked one of the motorcycle cops about it. The policeman said there were two people in the car and it turned over several times. Could not hear too clearly but the policeman seemed to be saying neither were killed. Not certain of that, however.

Ford greeted a doorman at the press area and talked to local reporters very briefly.

One questioner wondered if he had closed the gap that polls showed Reagan had opened up.

"We're achieving alot of momentum. We're closing the gap very very rapidly. It's a close close contest. I get more optimistic every day. We're trying our very very best to win."

He was asked then if the closing of military bases in Texas had hurt him. Several were mentioned by name, but he missed them.

Ford said he didn't think it would hurt his candidacy, since it was Congress that reduced funds that made the closings necessary.

Nessen came back on AFI one briefly and was asked if Ford's early morning press conference remarks on Kissinger indicated any backing away. "The president has not changed his mind on Dr. Kissinger. There's not a quance in the world (meaning the interview)," Nessen said.

Nessen said the accident on the freeway happened a few minutes before we got there. <sup>local police</sup> A car at the end of the motorcade was asked to drop off and offer any assistance he could. Secret service was told by radio that a man in the car had a broken leg. Prez apparently unaware of incident, Nessen said.

John Cochran NBC  
John Osborne, New Republic  
Alto Cochran, Chicago Tribune

Add to Air Force One Pool Report

Dallas to Lubbock

April 30, 1976

After the pool report had been written and sent away for reproduction, Nessen came back to the pool with the answer to a question that had been asked earlier in the flight.

The question was whether the President in his references to "guaranteeing minority rights" in the countries of Southern Africa meant that the United States would guarantee those rights, and if so, how would he propose to implement this guarantee?

Nessen said he would "make some inquiries" and, without directly quoting the President, said as the plane was landing that the President meant to say that the United States would do its best to obtain such guarantees from controlling governments but not to provide the guarantee itself.

John Cochran	NBC
John Osborne	New Republic
Aldo Beckman	Chicago Tribune

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