

Pool Report--Air Force One--Springfield to Andrews 6/11/76

Ford was sweating profusely as he came out of the exhibition hall, where he had struggled through a dense crowd, shaking hands.

Outside the hall, he worked the crowd for several minutes. On a grassy knoll overlooking the parking lot a man in a Nixon mask was standing with a placard [redacted] saying "Pardon Me." Couldn't tell whether Ford saw him.

As Ford shook hands along the [redacted] rope, Reagan's white Cadillac was parked a few hundred yards away, on the other side of the parking lot. As the Ford motorcade left the lot, the presidential limo passed about 50 feet [redacted] from Reagan's car.

Uneventful trip to the Springfield airport, where Ford worked the crowd for about five minutes.

On Air Force One, pool was given list of participants in the two meetings that Ford will hold Saturday to discuss busing. We assume the same announcement and list were handed out on the press plane.

Asked about the participants in the [redacted] first meeting, Nessen described them as "people who have [redacted] dealt with the school integration problem in their communities successfully with a minimum of busing."

Asked specifically if they were anti-busing people, Nessen replied: "They're very much more thoughtful about the issue than to be able to sum them up in one phrase."

Pool pressed Nessen on the identities and attitudes of the two groups but could not get anything more. He said [redacted] the meetings were put together by the Domestic Council but said he had little info about the participants. Several times Nessen was given an opportunity to deny that [redacted] the invitation list was "stacked." He refused to do this but said it was because it was a "no-win question" and because he had little knowledge of the persons invited.

Nessen said there would be additional meetings next week on the President's busing legislation, including [redacted] meeting with civil rights leaders. No details available [redacted] a [redacted] on number or dates of the further [redacted] meetings.

Deakin  
DeFrank  
Pierpoint