

August 17, 1976

**POOL REPORT - PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH REGIONAL WHIPS
AUGUST 17, 1976 - 8:30 a. m.**

President had convened the meeting before we came in. Meeting was held in his 18th floor office (large room with desk, conference table, beige rug). List of those present will be distributed by the White House. President was sitting between Rogers Morton (on his left) and Robert Griffin (on his right).

Ford was asked, "Who's winning?" He replied: That was decided two to three weeks ago."

Do you have a Vice President? "We have several." How many is several? "The dictionary says it's more than two." Is he asking for the whips' advice on Veep? "We certainly get their help."

President said, "It's more pleasant here than other places you've been." We didn't know what he meant."

Asked the outlook for 16C, Ford said, "I'm optimistic." What did he think of the keynote address?? "I thought all the speeches were good." He laughed, satisfied with his remark. We were then ushered out and Helen Thomas told the President to "carry on".

Gruenberg - Chicago Daily News
Drew - New Yorker Magazine
Berger - NBC

#