

September 24, 1976

PCCL REPORT #4 - Residence to Benjamin Franklin Hotel

From outside Otto Haas domicile on Delancy Street to Ben Franklin Hotel President emerged from House at 10:16 a.m., only one minute after scheduled time. While waiting, your pool talked with Michael Raoul-Duval, the Ford coordinator for the debates, who volunteered that the President this morning is "very, very upbeat, rested and relaxed," that the President was "very pleased with the format of the debates, and that he "had coffee" this a.m. at the Haas residence with Wallace Pfister, Vice President for News of ABC, and Elliot Bernstein, ABC Producer of the Thursday night debate; that he thanked them for staging the debate and that he wasn't bothered by the 28-minute audio lapse. Duval says they explained what happened, but didn't elaborate about the explanation, saying that will have to come from ABC.

Duval quoted the President as telling the ABC folks that the "debates were good and those things (audio difficulties) are going to happen occasionally."

Duval says he didn't think the debates were as dull as some people think and that the people are very much interested in hearing what's to be done about unemployment, even though sometimes the specifics might seem to be dull. "It's important for people to make up their minds on these issues," says Duval.

The President spent a couple of minutes as he emerged from the Haas house to thank the host family, shake the hands of the Haas family and those of some of the neighboring families.

At one time he said he spoke with his wife, Betty, last night, and said she wished she could have been here.

As he got into the Presidential limousine he was asked his reaction to the debate and commented: "I enjoyed them and I was very pleased with the result."

Motorcade to Ben Franklin uneventful.

Lucian Warren, Buffalo
Evening News

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