

SEPTEMBER 25, 1976

POOL REPORT AT DESTREHAN, LA.

After the speech you all heard, Ford, wearing his third shirt of the day, a red, short-sleeved golf shirt, worked the crowd of several thousand. At ramp, local officials gave him a commemorative plaque from the St. Charles Parish Police Jury, which is equivalent to County Commissioners. Had red rose put into shirt buttonhole.

Crowd was friendly, cheered him on with shouts of 'good luck'... 'You're doing a great job' etc. One man called out 'Carter'd go wild with these good lookin' women.' President autographed right wrist cast of uniformed boy scout Mark Fabre, 13, of Luling (across the river). Mark said he broke it playing football.

Perspiration ran down Ford's cheeks, chin and nose. Red shirt was wet.

Trailing him were Rep. David Treen of this district (3d) and Cong. candidates Robert Livingston (1st) and Frank Spooner (5th).

At end, Ford received a display of local products, including crawfish, oil, beans, sugar, corn, soybeans, wheat. A dozen children had waded into foot deep water to get close to him at ramp. He lifted one, a blond girl of about six, gave her a hug.

Along the way, he saw signs in the crowd urging him to "Veto Grain Bill." Local people said this refers to the bill that would end scandal-ridden private inspection of export grain in Louisiana and Texas, put Federal inspectors in charge. Local people oppose because it threatens some 150 embargoes, that he would work for responsible grain inspection legislation and, "We'll try to do our best for those who have done a good job in the past."

Ted Knap/Scripps-Howard

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