

Pool report--No. 8

Remember the uneventful flight from SF? Well, it ended 10 minutes late because a commercial airliner which had been circling because of bad weather told the LA tower it required priority handling because it was low on fuel. Air Force One yielded, allowing the other plane to land safely. This explanation comes from Terry O'Donnell and ~~xxxx~~ pilot of Air Force One.

Ford greeted ~~at~~ LAX by various politicians, among them LA Mayor Tom Bradley and two Republican congressmen, John Rousselot and Carlos Moorhead. ~~The~~ The congressmen accompanied ~~to~~ Ford to North American Rockwell.

In conversation with your poolers Rousselot said he brought up the President's debate statement about Eastern Europe during the brief ride to the B-1 plant. "What he meant was he ~~did~~ does not concede those countries will remain under Communist domination forever," Rousselot said. He added that Ford, as a congressman, annually sponsored the Captive Nations Resolution. Asked if that Ford's statement would hurt the President politically, Rousselot said: "I think it will be explained completely, totally and fully, and I think there will be a full understanding of it."

Rousselot called the debate "a tossup" and said he thought that Carter had done better than he did the 1st time. But he also predicted that Ford would carry Southern California.

Overlooking the B-1 mockup on stage ~~whenxxxxxxx~~ at Rockwell plant, Ford said he was impressed with the size of the bomber. "It's actually smaller than a B-52," one Rockwell official told him. "It's about the size of a (Boeing) 727." Ford was told that over 300 test flight hours had been flown by B-1 prototypes. From test pilot Bobk: "The tests went very successfully, I think."

Working the crowd after his speech, president made remarks like, "It's a great weapons system," and "It's a fine job that you're doing." He received many positive comments in return and one employe, D.E. Buis, said to him: "Four more years."

On the motorcade ride from North American Rockwell to USC campus, a young black man ~~xxxxxx~~ standing on the street, called out: "You lost the debate."

--lou cannon  
--gene gibbons

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Ford came out of the Sutro residence, which was shrouded in an early morning fog, at 7:03, seven minutes ahead of schedule. He chatted briefly on sidewalk with John Sutro and either ignored or did not hear attempts by ~~xxx~~ reporters to get his attention.

As he entered his limousine, he waved to a small group of spectators across the street and said, "Nice to see you all."

Trip to Los Angeles uneventful.

cannon, washington post  
gibbons, upi audio

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