

10/8/76

Press Pool ~~13~~ 13

Ford worked the rope at the Lawton airport for a good 15 minutes, then took an uneventful motorcade to Montego Bay Motel, where he pressed a little flesh among a small crowd outside, then went in.

After a short wait, Ford entered a function room to sign a proclamation designating Oct. 10 as "Native American Awareness Week."

On hand for photo were a half-dozen or so Oklahoma tribal chiefs, including Sylvester Tinker of the Osage, Ross Swimmer of the Cherokee, and chiefs from Caddo, Kiowa, Comanche and Apache tribes.

Number of local pals also on hand for photo. Ford read a short statement hailing the one million American Indians for their "honored place" in American history.

An Indian organizer of the proclamation effort, Jerry Elliott, a Cherokee and Oklahoma native who now works at the Houston space center, was on hand, and said Dr. Ted Marrs of the White House staff was the man who gave him the okay for the proclamation-signing here.

After pens were distributed, Ford left for two closed meetings in the hotel -- see bible -- where the invitation lists included 59 cattlemen and 72 wheat farmers.

Ed declared at Montego Bay for evening. Anything else will come from the Sandpiper press room.

Nyhan Boston Globe
Osborne New Republic