

The schedule for Monday:

8:30-10:30 a.m. -- staff meetings

10:30 -- meeting with Israeli deputy prime minister/foreign minister Yigal Allon, in U. S. for UN general assembly session.

1:07 p.m. -- depart for Union Station to lay a wreath at statue of Christopher Columbus on Columbus day. Return to White House at 2:10 p.m.

2:30 p.m. -- meeting with Rogers Morton and campaign steering committee (Bob Dole will attend).

3:30 p.m. -- meeting with Dole, at Dole's request, to talk about the campaign.

Ford's campaign manager, James A. Baker III, came back to talk to the pool about the campaign. The highlights:

~~Next think next~~ In the five week campaign, ^{said Baker,} "we think we've had four ~~something~~ outstanding weeks. We recognize this last week has been less than outstanding. We think this is something to be expected. . . that there would be peaks and valleys. We are extremely pleased with the results* of the Oklahoma and Texas visits, because of large and enthusiastic crowds.

Baker cited the Darden poll as showing evidence that Carter is "slipping in the south." He said the campaign's telephone canvass showed Ford "leading in Texas," and "we're very ^{enthusiastic about our prospects for carrying both} ~~enthusiastic about our prospects for carrying both~~ Texas and Oklahoma." Baker said the last poll (as opposed to the telephone canvass) showed Ford trailing Carter slightly in Texas -- a poll taken by Robert Teeter.

Baker said "We would acknowledge that we hit a bump last week with the But_z matter, ^{and} the eastern European clarification." He added, "this is the first time in five weeks that the President has clarified any statement that he has made in the ~~campaign~~ course of the campaign or that it's been felt ~~necessary~~ that it's been necessary to clarify." He went on to say that there were six instances of Carter having to clarify statements: 1) ~~the~~ taxing the middle income people; 2) taxation of church property; 3) Playboy interview; 4) remarks about LBJ; 5) remarks about Clarence Kelley; and, going back to the primary, 6) ethnic purity.

Those clarifications, said Baker, were things Carter "felt compelled to explain if not issue an outright apology."

Asked to characterize the campaign, Baker said: "I would characterize it as having hit a bump that did slow us down for a week. We feel we have regained the momentum with our very successful forays into Oklahoma and Texas." Five or six weeks ago, said Baker, people were writing Ford out of the race altogether. Now, some polls show us dead even; other polls show the president slightly behind -- 5 or 6 points.

Said Baker: "We have a campaign strategy that we think is the right one. It's been successful, and it's one we are going to continue to pursue."

Asked about the Rev. Criswell's endorsement, Baker said, "it will be important to us. He's an acknowledged leader not only among southern Baptists, but among Evangelicals." Aboard Air Force One, Ford telephoned Criswell to thank him for his support.

Asked to comment on the damage done ~~to~~ by the East European controversy, Baker said: "It contributed to the slowdown in our campaign last week." He added that the President had explained the remark, which he described as being "not as precise as it could have been." ^{Of} Ford's strong support for the captive nations resolution, and his policy not to ~~acknowledge~~ ^{acknowledge} Soviet domination of the East European nations, said Baker, "I don't think it's going to have a major effect."

Baker said Ford's less than outstanding week "was not occasioned in any way by the fact that we were out of the White House."

Speaking of the special prosecutor's probe of Ford's finances, Baker said "we would prefer to see it disposed of. . . We would be delighted to see it resolved."

On Butz: "I firmly believe we regained whatever momentum we ~~had~~ ~~lost~~ lost."

Will Ford be more aggressive? ~~xxxx~~ Regarding the third debate, that decision is still to be made. On the campaign overall, said Baker, "I would expect ~~him~~ to see the President get somewhat more aggressive in his campaign appearances, not to the point ~~of~~ Governor Carter has reached when he called Ford more secretive than ^{Richard} ~~the~~ Nixon or a worse president than Richard Nixon. It seems to me those are ~~quite~~ ~~rather~~ rather desperate-type tactics.

Said Baker: Ford's chances of winning the election are ~~not~~ better than they were five or six weeks ago, when people were writing us