

POOL REPORT -- Union, N.J. to Andrews AFB

10-13-76

Car ride from Town & Country Inn to Newark Int'l Airport was uneventful. Ford stood up long time waving to dwindling crowd and saying "I'll be back." Wheels up 6:30 p.m.

On plane, Nessen announced schedule for Thursday as:

- 10 a.m. - swine flux shot in Dr. Wm. Lukash's office.
- 11:40 a.m. - sign H.R. 71, medical care for veterans
- 8 p.m. Medal of Freedom black tie dinner for Martha Graham.

Ron said no press conference is scheduled at this time.

During flight, Rear Adm. William Lukash came back and told us that ~~President Ford~~ Ford is planning to get his swine flu shot at 10 a.m. Thursday. The rest of the family in the next few days as they return to Washington.

Asked if there is "any dagger to the President," Lukash said "No." I have reviewed those incidents of ~~their~~ deaths of elderly individuals with apparent heart disease. In my judgment, there are no clinic or laboratory evidence that the flu vaccine is connected with their deaths."

Lukash advised that "elderly people in their 60's, with cardiac disease," or those who have "apprehension" about flu shots, do not go to the "so-called flu clinics but get their flu shots from their personal physician."

"I think it is a safe vaccine," Lukash said. When you consider the potential hazard of a swine flu epidemic, "I have ~~to~~ to go back to the practical dictum: an ounce of prevention is better ~~for~~ than a pound of cure'."

Lukash recalled an epidemic ~~was~~ last year, which he called a "mild strain," caused deaths, and said the swine flu strain is "100 times" more severe.

Lukash ~~was~~ in Atlanta "within the last hour," and also ~~talked to~~ ^{communicated with} "some of my colleagues in the field," before deciding to go ahead with the Ford shot.

As his parting shot (so to speak), Lukash joked that flu shots would be available for the White House press corps "as soon as we get another batch in."

K JONES J. B.
- Kenley, Mashek, Boyd

P.S. Asked if he would do any special monitoring or precautions for Ford after the flu shot, Lukash said no; he's always available in his office.

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