

Press Pool No. 1 Air Force One Andrews to Des Moines — 10/15/76

No substantial news. However, there were some odds and ends of information from Nessen, who incidentally said he thought last night's press conference had some of the toughest questions he had heard in 20 years in Washington, noting that 11 out of 28 zeroed in on the President's finances.

Nessen said aboard with President on this trip were Acting Secretary of Agriculture ~~and~~ John A. Knebel, Dick Cheney, Max Friedersdorf, speech writer Bob Orben; also Don Penny.

Asked about the President's swine flu shot, Nessen said the President himself had said he experienced no ~~reaction to~~ ^{ILL EFFECTS FROM} it.

Nessen also ~~said~~, without being asked, offered the information that contrary to an earlier press story, Rep. Charles Grassley, wants the President to campaign in Iowa. He said White House has a letter from Grassley, who is in today's airport welcoming party, calling the story a ~~total inaccuracy~~. ^(That Grassley wanted Ford to stay away from Iowa) To the contrary, Grassley said, according to Nessen, he ~~wanted~~ ^{had} been trying to get the President to come to Iowa.

Nessen then offered a tour guide sketch of ~~for~~ today's Iowa trip. Some facts and figures:

* Iowa State University, which has an enrollment of 22,000, has never been visited by an incumbent President before. However, Eisenhower visited there on his way to the 1952 GOP convention.

* Boone, Iowa, where the President will visit the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall King, is the birthplace of Mrs. Mamie Eisenhower. It has a population of 12,468, an unemployment rate of 2.8 percent, and a work force of whom 52 percent are in agriculture.

* At the ~~Boone~~ King farm, which is in gently rolling country about 3 1/2 miles north of Boone, the President will watch ~~a~~ ^{the} harvesting, ~~and~~ visit a corn crib operation and look at a portable grain elevator. He also will view some prize beef cattle. At lunch in the King home, he will be joined by the Kings, two sons, John and Randy, Knebel, and Gov. and Mrs. Robert Ray.

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