

OCTOBER 15, 1976

PRESS POOL NO. 1 - AIR FORCE ONE - ANDREWS AFB TO DES MOINES

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 all out of 28 zeroed in on the President's finances.

Nessen said aboard with the President on this trip were Acting Secretary of Agriculture 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 ill effects from it.

Nessen also, 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 that Grassley wanted Ford to stay away from Iowa, a total inaccuracy. To the contrary, Grassley said, according to Nessen, he had been trying to get the President to come to Iowa.

Nessen then offered a tour-guide sketch of 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 King farm, which is in gently rolling country about 3-1/2 miles north of Boone, the President will watch a corn harvesting, 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.

\*The King farm is a 1,100 acre spread. King has 1,500 head of cattle and 800 hogs. His principal crop is corn.

\*At the Iowa State College of Veterinary Medicine in Ames, the President will sign a piece of farm legislation, which extends the emergency livestock credit act of 1974. The act was due to expire this December 31. The extension will be for two years. Basically, the act provides Federal guarantees for loans to farmers, who borrow while awaiting the growth and sale of their livestock. Maximum amount guaranteed for an individual loan under the act is \$350,000. Maximum amount guaranteed for the whole program is \$1.5 billion. Nessen said that while this was not an administration bill, the White House had supported the legislation.

Cheney came back for some idle conversation. Not much in it. Did say the President, who will watch tonight's vice presidential debate in his Joliet hotel room, had apparently talked to Dole about the debate, but had no idea what was said. Also said the President is not pressing for changes in the debate format.

JOHN OSBORNE - New Republic  
MERRILEE COX - UPI AUDIO  
AL BLANCHARD - DETROIT NEWS