

October 16, 1976

Pool Report - Sheraton Motor Inn to the "Honest Abe"

The President and Mrs. Ford left the Sheraton Motor Inn at 8:52 a.m., 12 minutes behind schedule. There was a small crowd outside the motel, behind the ropes. They gave him a friendly welcome, although one man, who, apparently had only gotten a glance, was heard to say: "It wasn't worth it."

During the short ride to Union Station in Joliet, a distance of about four blocks, Ford stood up in his limousine, waving to people on the streets. Standing up beside him was Rep. George M. O'Brien, Illinois Republican, whose district includes Joliet.

Outside the station, the President worked the crowd for several minutes, and so did Mrs. Ford, and James R. Thompson, Republican candidate for Governor of Illinois.

Inside the station, the President and Mrs. Ford walked upstairs to the ticket window on the second floor, where they exchanged a few words with Amtrak ticket agent, Richard Steller, but did not actually buy tickets. Steller said tickets had been issued for them in Chicago. He did not know the amount of the fare.

A pooler asked the President, "Did you buy a ticket?" Ford replied, with a smile, "I write by check, I write by check." And Mrs. Ford chimed in, "Didn't you know that?"

Then they went out onto the platform and worked the crowds some more, after which the President got up onto the platform and you heard the speech.

Nessen reports that Wednesday night in Joliet, a White House Secret Service man found several young men passing out Carter buttons in the White House Staff Advance Office. Advanceman told the pool the Carter people were looking through papers in the empty office when they were discovered. Poolers asked, "Was anything missing?" Advanceman answered, "We don't know." They did not appear upset about the incident.

Cheney confirmed for the pool that starting Friday night with the debate in Williamsburg, President Ford will begin traveling... a trip that will take him right through the election day. Details to follow.

Ann Compton - ABC

Jim Deakin - St. Louis Post Dispatch

#