

POOL REPORTST. LOUIS RALLY TO AIRPORT AND  
BOARDING AFI

October 29, 1976

James A. Baker, PFC chairman, after the rally said "All these appearances are going over very, very well." He said the campaign "would keep plugging away the way we have been." For states specifics, New York is "very winnable. Right now, we're slightly behind." Pennsylvania: "Roughly even."

The talking car did its number enroute airport. Lukash said he thought a "good night's sleep" had helped the President's voice and he sounded "much improved this morning", but had no comment on the raspiness at the St. Louis rally. Will there be more steam inhalation tonight? "I think so," Lukash said.

Working a line of airport employees, he was handed a sign which said "Ford has a better idea. He doesn't want the middle class working for (picture of a peanut)."

More Baker at airport: In New York within a point or two. In Texas ahead 2-3 points. He repeated Cheney saying perhaps only four of the big eight were necessary rather than the originally projected five. Says they are leading in four: California, Illinois, Texas, Michigan. Said expects President to continue on "high road" rest of the campaign.

Just before leaving the President met with St. Louis area Rabbis, and Jewish business leaders on the tarmac. The session arranged by Alfred J. Fleischer, St. Louis building contractor. Group was from a lunch at a nearby country club at which Senator Jacob Javits, R-New York, spoke for Ford. Fleischer is the Missouri State Republican Finance Chairman.

Before coming out, Ford had been interviewed by Chris Condon, KSD-TV (NBC), St. Louis.

Poolers, who had not been provided passes, were not allowed close enough to hear what Ford told the Jewish group, but there is apparently a transcript coming "eventually". White House appointments secretary Terry O'Donnell gave this paraphrase: "The Ford Administration has given Israel 40% of total U. S. aide since creation of the Jewish nation. The President decided a strong working relationship with Israeli P.M. Rabin, quoting Rabin as saying "The Israeli-American relations have never been better than under Ford. The President said that is as it should be and what Americans want.

Hines - Houston Chronicle

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