Pool Report - Duluth International Airport - Farmers' Union Grain Terminal Assn. Plant

Greeted at airport by Forest Harris, State Co-chairman of McGovern organization and John Filipovitch, McGovern coordinator, and the usual gate crowd of a couple of hundred.

He walked up to fence with a "Hi, everybody," and amazed observers by shaking hands, stopping to chat a bit with the half-dozen or so Air Force officers (two Captains) and enlisted men in the crowd. There was a "Welcome to Duluth" sign, several "good luck's" and one "Go get 'em, Senator" which provoked McGovern into responding "We're gonna do that," and which, in turn, provoked the crowd into responding "Yea."

McGovern then asked Harris, "How does it look here?" Harris said something about it looking better, looking up and added:"It's one of the things you feel more than anything else." McGovern said, "So do i."

At the grain terminal, a small but surly crowd of hardhats, as some of my colleagues are fond of saying, greeted the senator. Most shook his hand politely when he offered it, but at least one young worker refused. "It's a big installation here," McGovern told one worker.

Another said, "Hi, Senator, back again I see." He answered, "Yes, back again." McGovern went upstairs to the grain terminal office with B.J. ("they call me 'Barney'") Maluskey, wearing a white hardhat with "McGovern" p rinted on it.

"You look great," McGovern said, admiring the hard hats on the heads of nearby reporters. "You look ready to go." To a woman he asked, "How do you like my hat?" "You look darling," she answered.

As he walked across the railroad tracks, he had to stop suddenly to make way for a very large and very silent, emerging boxcar. "You need a siren on these things," he said.

He walked upstairs onto a catwalk and into the control room which is used to lift boxcars in the air, tilt them and cump out the grain. "It beats shoveling," Maluskey said.

"This is a good show," McGovern said in anticipation. "We're gonna see how they unload the car." Maluskey told him that there were 130,000 pounds of grain (corn) in the car. Watching, McGovern noticed apparently that some debris was caught and removed in the cumping process. "You don't end up with a board in your bread that way," Maluskey said.

McGovern, noting that only writing press was in the control room, asked Dougherty, "Should we go out where the cameras can get a shot of this?" Dougherty replied that the cameras were shooting through the glass. And as a heavy dust cloud rose from the grain, Dougherty added, "You'd get lost in the snow."

The group then left the control room and McGovern gave his wheat scandal spiel said that the Soviet deal "has a bad smell to it." The grainery did indeed have a bad smell. As he said goodby to Maluskey, McGovern fingered the lapel of his host's doubleknit and said, "I love that suit."

Maluskey did not give it to him, but he did present him with the hard hat. Back at Duluth airport McGovenn conferred out of earshot with two Minnesota House Members, Reps. Jack LaVoy and William Walker, and also with Wisconsin Lt. Gov. Martin Schreiber. Schreiber said later they told McGovern that the race was "turning around" in the candidate's favor in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

"I talked at Neenah, Wis., last night," Schreiber said. "That's strong Republican territory. But we drew a much bigger crowd than the Republican drew the previous evening at a similar Chamber of Commerce function."

Schreiber said he told this to McGovern and that the senator was "very interested" but had counseled against "complacency."

--Waldman with a manful assist from Sperling

P.S. Quotes at the grain terminal from some workers as to what they thought of McGovern: Robert Swenson, grain inspector: "Well, I'm a kind of Republican. I'm a Nixon backer."

G.F. Lundberg, retired from Great Northern-Burlington Railroad: "McGovern? He's my man. I hope he makes it."

Rick Murtok, laborer: "He's a guy, that's all. That's all he means to me."