

Richard Nixon Presidential Library
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Folder List

<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>	<u>Document Date</u>	<u>Document Type</u>	<u>Document Description</u>
50	5	05/27/1960	Memo	The Vice President's Schedule. Les Arends Day-- Melvin, Illinois. 2 pages. Duplicate not scanned.
50	5	05/12/1960	Newspaper	Vice-President Nixon to Speak at Melvin Friday, May 27. Author and newspaper unknown. Not scanned.
50	5	n.d.	Newspaper	Nixon Blasts 3 Democrats. Written by William Anderson for the Chicago Tribune. Not scanned.
50	5	06/03/1960	Memo	To: Advance Men, From: Bob Haldeman. Re: Melvin, Illinois Trip.
50	5	05/27/1960	Memo	Melvin, Illinois Trip details. 3 pages.

C O P Y

CONFIDENTIAL

THE VICE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE

LES ARENDS DAY -- Melvin, Illinois

Friday, May 27, 1960

12:15 p.m. Both Arrive United Air Lines Hangar #8 - next to
Butler Aviation - Washington National
Airport

12:30 p.m. Both Takeoff on United Air Lines Charter for Chanute
EDT Air Force Base, Illinois

3:00 p.m. Both Arrive Chanute Air Force Base -- Greetings from
CDT Congressman Arends and Governor Stratton

3:15 p.m. Both Depart Chanute by motorcade for Melvin
No one will ride with you - Congressman
Arends and Governor Stratton will
follow respectively in separate cars.

4:00 p.m. Both Arrive outskirts of Melvin -change to convertible
Motorcade through downtown Melvin

4:15 p.m. Both Arrive Melvin High School -- greet assembled
students

4:30 p.m. Both Depart School -- Walk to Les Arends' home -
1-1/2 blocks -- greet townspeople enroute

4:45 p.m. Both Arrive Les Arends home -- sandwiches available
RN Press meeting in back yard -- (30 minutes)

5:30 p.m. Both Depart Arends' home for Fairgrounds - 1-1/2 block
greet townspeople enroute

5:45 p.m. Both Arrive Barn Dance Hall at Fairgrounds
(RN, PN, Arends and possibly Stratton)
Receiving Line - distinguished guests - 600

6:30 p.m. Both Depart for Speakers platform

6:50 p.m. Both Entertainment begins
Kankakee Champion Drill Team
Presentation of Colors
Bloomington Barbershop Chorus

LES ARENDS DAY - Melvin, Ill.

- 2 -

7:30 p.m. Both Program begins -- Mrs. C. Wayland Brooks, M.C.
Invocation
Distinguished Guests
Presentation by Bryce Harlow
Governor Stratton
Presentation of Lifetime membership
in the American Legion to Les Arends

8:30 p.m. RN THE VICE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

Program Continued
Retiring of Colors
Benediction

9:15 p.m. Both Program concludes

9:30 p.m. Both Depart Fairgrounds by car for Chanute

10:15 p.m. Both Arrive Chanute Air Force Base --
Takeoff on United Air Lines Charter for
Washington, D. C.

2:15 a.m. Both Arrive United Air Lines Hangar #8 - next to
EDT Butler Aviation -- Washington National Airport

THE VICE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE

LES ARENDS DAY -- Melvin Illinois

Friday, May 27, 1960

12:15 p.m.	Both	Arrive United Air Lines Hangar #8 - next to Butler Aviation - Washington National Airport
12:30 p.m.	Both	Takeoff on United Air Lines Charter for Chanute Air Force Base, Illinois
3:00 p.m.	Both	Arrive Chanute Air Force Base -- Greetings from Congressman Arends and Governor Stratton
3:15 p.m.	Both	Depart Chanute by motorcade for Melvin No one will ride with you - Congressman Arends and Governor Stratton will follow respectively in separate cars
4:00 p.m.	Both	Arrive outskirts of Melvin -- change to convertible Motorcade through downtown Melvin
4:15 p.m.	Both	Arrive Melvin High School -- Greet assembled students
4:30 p.m.	Both	Depart School -- walk to Les Arends' home - 1 1/2 blocks -- greet townspeople enroute
4:45 p.m.	Both	Arrive Les Arends home -- sandwiches available
	RM	Press Meeting in back yard -- (30 minutes)
5:30 p.m.	Both	Depart Arends' home for Fairgrounds - 1 1/2 blocks greet townspeople enroute
5:45 p.m.	Both	Arrive Barn Dance Hall at Fairgrounds (RM, FN, Arends and possibly Stratton) Receiving Line - distinguished guests - 600
6:30 p.m.	Both	Depart for speakers platform:
6:50 p.m.	Both	Entertainment begins Kankakee Champion Drill Team Presentation of Colors Bloomington Barbershop Chorus

Friday, May 27, 1960

7:30 p.m. Both Program begins -- Mrs. C. Wayland Brooks, M.C.
Invocation
Distinguished Guests
Presentation by Bryce Harlow
Governor Stratton
Presentation of Lifetime membership in the
American Legion to Les Arends

8:30 p.m. RM THE VICE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

Program Continued
Retiring of Colors
Benediction

9:15 p.m. Both Program Concludes

9:30 p.m. Both Depart Fairgrounds by car for Chautau

10:15 p.m. Both Arrive Chautau Air Force Base --
CDT Takeoff on United Air Lines Charter for
Washington, D. C.

2:15 p.m. Both Arrive United Air Lines Hangar #8 - next to Butler
EDT Aviation -- Washington National Airport

C/S

June 3, 1960

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO: ADVANCE MEN

FROM: Bob Haldeman

RE: Melvin, Illinois trip

As I did with the upstate New York trip I will try to summarize some of the good and bad points of the recent trip to Melvin, Illinois in the attached memorandum.

Also attached is a copy of the schedule for the Melvin, Illinois trip. This trip was advanced by Bob Ogden and Bob Haldeman. We did the Advance work two weeks ahead of the actual visit and then went back into Melvin early Friday morning prior to the 3 o'clock arrival at Chanute Air Force Base of the Vice President's party.

As I am sure you understand, this critique is put together solely for the purpose of taking advantage of the things we learn on each successive trip and not to imply that there was anything particularly wrong with the Melvin trip itself.

MELVIN, ILLINOIS TRIP

May 27, 1960

AIRPORT ARRIVAL:

This airport arrival was somewhat different than usual because of the fact that we used Chanute Air Force Base instead of a regular civilian airport. This was necessary because Chanute is the only adequate field in the area near Melvin, Illinois. Melvin itself is a town of 550 people and there were, of course, no landing facilities there.

The usual problems involved in using a military field came up in varying degrees. The base commander, of course, wanted to have a full honor guard and the base band, etc. This was, of course, not permitted. However, even at the last minute before the plane landed, a large number of troops were turned out to stand as an honor guard but the base commander, General Gainey sent them away when it was requested that he do so.

We did leave a detail of air police who formed a passage from the ramp of the plane up to the motorcade lineup by lining up in two facing lines about 15 feet apart. The greeting committee which consisted of the Governor, Congressman Arends and a couple of other people, then formed within this area and it worked out very well.

The cars were lined up in a good location, and swung out right in front of the plane landing area as soon as the plane had stopped so that it was easy to move from the aircraft to the cars and to get out of the base.

MOTORCADE:

The motorcade lineup was very good and numbers were provided for all the cars so that their positions in the motorcade were easily determined. There was some problem in that we did not have an opportunity to meet with the drivers and give them their basic instructions. This is extremely important and should always be done in the future.

We also ran into a problem because although we carefully specified the number of cars needed, the local committee had arranged several more cars than were necessary and were very disturbed by the possibility that they would not all be used. There was no alternative but to firmly inform them that it would not be possible to use more than the specified number of cars.

The instructions on not using a lead car came out after the motorcade plans had been set up for Melvin and consequently a lead car had been scheduled. We did arrange, however, to have it run a mile or more ahead of the motorcade at all times so it did not create any particular problem.

When the motorcade arrived in Melvin the Congressman, the Governor and the Vice President changed to convertibles for a motorcade through the downtown Melvin area.

This would have worked out all right except that ahead of the Vice President's convertible they put an open car with press photographers and TV people to get pictures of the parade through town. This of course, is o.k. as long as we have control of the speed of this lead vehicle. In this case, the driver went much too slowly and we were unable to speed him up. In this connection, it's important to be sure that if there is a photographic car running ahead of the Vice President's car during a downtown parade, the driver is carefully instructed as to the speeds he is to use, and that he is to watch the No. 1 car for instructions on speed. He is not to take his instructions from the photographers riding with him.

Later in the day we had some motorcade problems because the drivers did not remain with their cars and as a matter of fact, in the evening when it was time to depart for the Air Force Base we never did find two of the car drivers and fortunately, the party going back to the plane was smaller than that coming in, so we were able just to leave their cars there. This could, however, have created a serious problem.

MEETINGS:

The first major stop was at Melvin High School to greet assembled students and this worked out pretty well. They had roped off a passageway from the street up to the High School steps for the Vice President and his party and this was a very good idea since he was able to walk along and greet the crowd without being closed in by them. Unfortunately, this walkway disappeared after he got to the steps so there was no way of getting out except through the crowd.

This resulted in a number of policemen filling in around the Vice President and the perennial problem of too many uniformed officers arose then and stayed with us for the rest of the trip. This is something we have got to figure out a way of stopping. At this point, all we can do is stress at every possible point, that there is no need for uniformed officers to escort the Vice President through crowds or through the various parts of his itinerary.

The main event at the Fairgrounds posed several problems that would have been difficult to avoid.

Upon arrival at the Fairgrounds there was a receiving line set up in the barndance hall; admission to which was supposed to be for committee members and distinguished guests only who were supposed to come in from a back entrance to the Fair Grounds. This didn't work out and instead, the general public lined up at the doorway to get into this building and therefore the reception became a regular public reception. Fortunately, the size of the crowd was not nearly as big as expected and it was possible to accommodate a large number of the people who were in line.

At the end of the reception, the Vice President and the official party went over to the fish-fry line to get some food and have pictures taken and then went over to the Speakers platform in a different part of the fairgrounds. All of this was on foot, and worked out pretty well as far as moving through the crowds were concerned except for the fact that again there were too many uniformed policemen.

The arrangement of the Speakers platform was extremely bad. It was faced at right angles to the seating area which they called a grandstand, because there was supposedly going to be a very large standup crowd in addition to those who would be able to sit in the grandstand. Because of rain and lack of adequate personal contact in getting people out, the crowd was much smaller than expected and there were consequently very few standees. This made a rather awkward arrangement but no one seemed to be particularly aware of it.

The local committee had roped off an area in front of the Speakers platform extending back about 20 feet from the platform, leaving a great, empty space. We changed this by moving the ropes in so the people could come right up to a few feet from the platform instead of being held way back. This is important to remember for future occasions. We should never let them set something up that keeps the people way back from the speaker.

The program was too long...especially for a stand-up crowd but this seems to be hard to avoid at a testimonial occasion.