

August 25, 1992

(Canton, Michigan)

A handful of supporters were at Sheraton Chicago for uneventful sendoff. Motorcade and helo trip to Meigs Field uneventful, as was departure at O'Hare.

As we were leaving Air Force One at O'Hare, Mary Matalin passed out not a fax, but a 4-page "Counter-rebuttal on Clinton's Tax and Fee Record."

Bush was greeted at Willow Run Airport by local Republicans and Points of Light. He then left his jacket in the limo and went over to rope line to mingle with maybe three dozen well wishers. Many were workers at Chrysler Pentastar Aviation, an airline equipment services company at Willow Run. Bush asked some of them what they did there, what sort of training they had, etc. He lingered there for 10 or 15 minutes, shaking hands with people, chatting.

Nothing Earth shattering. Bush said things like "Good to see you all" and "Thanks for the welcome."

Someone else said, "You gave a good speech, you gave a good speech (in Houston)."

Someone else asked: Where was Barbara? "Out on the West Coast, I think," he replied.

Scattered greeters on limo route to Canton. Motorcade pulled into library for Business Roundtable, but quickly changed course to rally site because of imminent rainstorm.

Maybe 5,000 shrieking people at rally site, where pool #3 took over. (And where we were given comparisons of Bush-Clinton record on CAFE.)

Rick Berke/N.Y. Times