

The original documents are located in Box D25, folder “Radio-TV News Directors Association Dinner, Los Angeles, CA, November 23, 1968” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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*Set - Nov. 23, 1968
Los Angeles, Calif*

A NEW ERA OF GOOD FEELING WILL BE USHERED-IN IN WASHINGTON WHEN RICHARD M. NIXON IS SWORN IN ON JAN. 20th AS THE 37th PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. I HAVE THAT ON AUTHORITY OF THE FAMOUS WASHINGTON POST CARTOONIST, HERB BLOCK, WHO SAYS HE IS GOING TO BE REAL NICE AND GIVE DICK NIXON A CLEAN SHAVE.

~~IN THIS NEW SPIRIT OF BIPARTISANSHIP, WE CAN PROBABLY EXPECT (YOUR PRESIDENT?) BILL ROBERTS, AN OLD-LINE DEMOCRAT,~~

2/NOTES

~~TO BE NAMED HEAD OF USIA. THAT'S A GOOD WAY TO GET RID OF A GUY WHO'S GIVING YOU TROUBLE. . . . AS YOU MAY KNOW, I'M UP HERE AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR DICK NIXON. AND THAT'S A SWITCH. I PLAYED CENTER FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN WHEN DICK WAS A SCRUB END IN WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA. YOU CAN BLAME BILL ROBERTS FOR MY BEING SENT INTO THIS GAME AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR DICK. IF I HADN'T SHOWN UP, HE WAS GOING TO EXPOSE ME BACK IN THE SNOW COUNTRY OF BOYNE CITY, MICHIGAN, FOR SPENDING MY POST-ELECTION VACATION IN PALM SPRINGS.~~

3/NOTES

AS LEADER OF REPUBLICANS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
I HAVE HIGH HOPES FOR THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION...AND I'M
HERE TO TELL YOU A LITTLE OF WHAT TO EXPECT.

DICK NIXON IS OFF TO A GOOD START. *and I feel no reason why things should change* HIS FIRST APPOINTMENT
~~WAS TO NAME ROSE MARY WOODS, HIS LONGTIME PERSONAL SECRETARY,~~
~~AS HIS WHITE HOUSE SECRETARY. YOU KNOW THE TERRIBLE NAMES~~
THAT DEMOCRATS HAVE CALLED DICK OVER THE YEARS. WELL, NOW
THINGS ARE LOOKING UP. THE DEMOCRATS HAVE A NEW NICKNAME FOR
DICK. THEY CALL HIM "ROSE MARY'S BABY." ~~WAS AN IMPROVEMENT~~

4/NOTES

AND NOW THAT I HAVE DICK NIXON LAUNCHED ON HIS NEW ERA OF
However before going further
GOOD FEELING, I WANT TO COMPLIMENT THE MEN AND WOMEN OF
RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWS. THIS, OF COURSE, WILL HAVE TO BE
OFF THE RECORD. YOU'VE HEARD THE EXPRESSION... "HOW WILL
THAT LOOK IN COLD PRINT?" WELL, THE PHRASE IS WELL CHOSEN.
THERE IS SOMETHING COLD ABOUT THE PRINTED WORD, AND THIS
CONTRASTS SHARPLY WITH THE WARMTH AND INFORMALITY OF RADIO
AND TELEVISION. SO YOU HAVE AN ADVANTAGE OVER THE
PURVEYORS OF THE PRINTED WORD...THE ABILITY TO BRING OUT A

5/NOTES

POLITICAL FIGURE'S PERSONALITY AND TO HAVE HIM COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH THE PEOPLE.

NOW, WHAT WILL THE NEW NIXON ADMINISTRATION MEAN TO RADIO AND TV? ONE OF THE MOST SOLEMN PLEDGES DICK NIXON MADE DURING HIS CAMPAIGN IS THAT HIS WOULD BE AN 'OPEN' ADMINISTRATION...NOT ONLY OPEN TO IDEAS FROM THE PEOPLE BUT OPEN IN ITS COMMUNICATION WITH THE PEOPLE. ^{I trust + hope} ~~AND I SAY YOU~~ WILL SEE AN END TO THE CREDIBILITY GAP. I THINK THAT IN NAMING RON ZEIGLER AS A WHITE HOUSE ASSISTANT BUT NOT AS AN OFFICIAL PRESS SECRETARY, NIXON WAS SAYING THAT HE AND HIS

6/NOTES

CABINET OFFICIALS WILL BE IN DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH THE PEOPLE...THROUGH THE NEWS MEDIA.

OF COURSE, I THINK NEWSMEN HAD MORE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THAN THE CREDIBILITY GAP, ~~UNDER THE OUTGOING ADMINISTRATION.~~ THERE ARE OTHER SERIOUS THREATS TO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS...

LIKE THE CURRENT FCC INVESTIGATION INTO RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWS COVERAGE OF THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION IN CHICAGO. I PERSONALLY AM APPALLED AT HINTS OF GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER THE EDITORIAL JUDGMENT OF NEWSCASTERS IN COVERING THE NEWS I WOULD VIGOROUSLY OPPOSE ANY SUCH ACTION. IN FACT, I AM

Frankly I want to bid my Democratic colleagues who complained about what my allegedly did to [unclear] By any standard performance was better than theirs

7/NOTES

MORE DISTURBED BY THE ROUGH TREATMENT ACCORDED NEWSMEN IN CHICAGO THAN I AM BY THE COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE KIND OF NEWS COVERAGE GIVEN THE CONVENTION BY THE NETWORKS. ~~AND THAT~~ REMARK CONTAINS ABSOLUTELY NO PARTISANSHIP. BUT I WOULD REMIND YOU THAT BECAUSE OF THE DRAMATIC NATURE OF ELECTRONIC NEWS COVERAGE, ^{both as to time & content} PEOPLE IN RADIO AND TV HAVE ^{very} A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO EXERCISE GOOD JUDGMENT AND RESTRAINT. I THINK YOU KNOW THAT. Whitney Young ~

WHILE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT FEDERAL REGULATORY AGENCIES,

8/NOTES

LET'S GET ONE THING STRAIGHT. IT IS A GROSS DISTORTION FOR ANYONE TO IMPLY THAT AGENCIES LIKE THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION ARE GOING TO DO ANYTHING LESS UNDER PRESIDENT NIXON THAN TO ENFORCE THE LAWS AS WRITTEN BY THE CONGRESS. WHEN DICK NIXON PLEDGED AN END TO 'HEAVY-HANDED, BUREAUCRATIC' REGULATION OF INDUSTRY, HE WAS SAYING THE LAWS WILL BE FAIRLY AND FIRMLY ENFORCED BUT THERE WOULD BE NO HARRASSMENT OF INDUSTRY BY THE GOVERNMENT. THERE IS A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BALANCED ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAWS AND WHAT I CALL

9/NOTES

HARRASSMENT...AND I THINK THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT DICK NIXON
WAS TALKING ABOUT. ^{As a postscript} ANOTHER WAY TO PUT IT IS THAT THE
REGULATORY AGENCIES WILL NOT BE USED FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES.

BEFORE I TALK FURTHER ABOUT THE NEW NIXON ADMINISTRATION
AND PROSPECTS FOR ITS PROGRAM, LET'S TAKE A QUICK LOOK AT
THE NOV. 5 ELECTION.

THE SURPRISE IN THE ELECTION RESULTS IS NOT THAT DICK NIXON
WON---BUT THAT HE CAME SO CLOSE TO LOSING.

IT IS SAID BY MANY THAT MR. NIXON DOES NOT HAVE A
MANDATE. I MAINTAIN THAT HE DOES. HE HAS A MANDATE FOR

NOTE CARDS

LOS ANGELES

Nov. 23, 1968

Congress of the United States

Office of the Minority Leader

House of Representatives

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Gerald R. Ford
M.C.

SATURDAY

RADIO-TV NEWS DIRECTORS ASSOC.
DINNER



Notes for
Radio-TV
News Directors
Dinner Speech -
Sat - Nov 23, 1968

~~91~~



Clarity ^{The Bureau of Health}
~~Wet~~
by Guyman Joderick
Koppel, AFL-CIO
Boaz Ho. Neary &
by Reginald
Whitney Young of the
Nat'l Urban Lge

Cabinet will Nixon
be pledged, incl. Dems,

Uniform nat'l
welfare payments
as a means of stopping
the flow of rural poor
to the slums

Per. 62/6R
459-7153

Walt Russell



54192

73782

54131

Brougham

J. T. S. Co.
215-112

Walt Thorne



> Plug for Congressional ^{might} ^{odd} ¹⁶ ^{in revenue} Reform

> Plug for Tax ^{tax} ^{still} ^{contingent} ^{of purchase} Reform

> Plug for greater water pollution control efforts

> Emphasize driver for peace II
 Write the endorsement proposal to TV for R. and pledging help.

Shirley
LI 3-5000

Bob McLennan

MA 8-6872

Nixon, from House and Senate, keenly aware -- and appreciative of Congress' power...Not like LBJ who tried to hold-on to control of Senate...Makes House-Senate leaders important

NIXON'S METHOD OF OPERATION: See attached UPI story... Expert study groups... Laying groundwork...Already has foundation in the work of the Coordinating Committee which brought together all varying thoughts within the party... GOP unified on board approach.

New Admin - "There is no substitute
Tone - for R.N.
Approach -

1st warm -

like a pitcher getting into a
new ball game. (Roberts/Cherastin)



RADIO-TV NEWS DIRECTORS.

Compliment to Bill Roberts -- isn't he the president?
Man who asks the sharp questions.

Informality of radio-tv as compared to cold print of newspapers...Meet the Press -- Face the Nation -- Issues and Answers -- bring out a political figure's personality...A chance to communicate directly...The Ev and Gerry show -- your regular sessions with John Rhodes -- a free and easy (?) exchange between members of Congress and correspondents.

What does new administration mean to Radio-tv? Freedom of Information...Congressional Reorganization (which you supported) has clause dealing with radio-tv coverage of House committees.

Nixon...A credibility gap problem inherited from LBJ. By not naming Ron Zeigler as official "press secretary," Nixon obviously moving to take on that communicating role...Probably more news conferences...Perhaps go back to FDR days of regularly scheduled sessions...Close election -- rapport.

MEAT

Assess elections, especially House races. Why didn't you take the House?...Outlook ~~of~~ for combinations of Republicans and, say, middle-of-road Democrats...For instance, Allan Cranston, in first Washington news conference, said would support Nixon on central city program with tax concessions etc...That leaves Democratic liberals -- the Democratic Study Group -- trying to find a place...Members talked about drive to dump Speaker; have retreated there; now talking about Committee assignments.

Black Tie

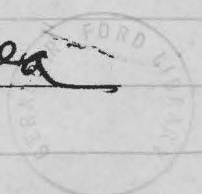
- Some spec. on what Nixon
 Admin might be ~~doing~~ proposing
- What reaction in Congress
 - What 91st Congress might be like -

Emph. on "Look Ahead."

Radio-TV News Directors
 RTNDA = Ass'n +
 greatly concerned about FCC
 order to nets to ans. complaints
 about

It time Fed Gov't has taken
 any action to control elite judges
 over news stories. Fairness
 Doctrine prev. used re: Equal Time.
 a limit at retail by the Gov't +
 dangerous invasion by Gov't of gears
 of free press
 FCC is creature of Congress
 = Gov's some concern in this area

High
 Gov't
 Control



7+8 (10th) 8:30 a.m. Thurs →

Bill Roberts in L.A. *

Radio-TV News Directors
Internat'l Conf

Paul White Award — to guy
who has done most to advance
electronic news casting * Being
made to Ted Pearson — an atty &

Sat Night

repres. broadcasters
in suit involving
Fairness
Doctrine *

Principal speaker

TWA 61
at 3 p.m.

Am. there at
5:10
returning
from 28
at 11:15 pm

500 broadcast news directors
repres. Network & individ. States
450 fr. U.S. & 50 fr. Canada

7:30 p.m. = Beverly Hilton Hotel
Code 213 = 274-7777 in L.A.
Speech at 8:30 approx

20 mins. fr. airport
We'll pay all expenses &
provide hotel room

J. W. Roberts
Rm 308 -

major party
speech

Harbness - Radio + T.V.

regulatory agency but no censorship

with right a responsibility
even greater because of
immediacy - more dramatic
than "black & white" newspapers.
Therefore, more restraint.

Riots } divisive / controversial
War }

no inhibiting of news but
restraint.

