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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

NOTE FOR: *Connie*

FROM : RON NESSEN

*I don't
want to reply.*

RAN

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Ronald Nessen
C/O The White House
Washington, DC. 20510

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Hackes, Peter Sidney NY-76 42029

Expert

5045 Kingle ST. NW. Washington, DC. 20016

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(D) REASON FOR LEAVING:	(E) IF DISCHARGED FOR CAUSE, WAS EMPLOYEE NOTIFIED OF REASON? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
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(F) Is this Person eligible for rehire? (If "NO," briefly, why not)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
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If your answer is "YES," please give full details under ITEM 6.

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47 **ATTENTION: Processing Section — Investigating Division**

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 20, 1976

Dear Bud:

Thank you for your very understanding column on the problems of being Press Secretary at this particular time.

I appreciate the insights and experience you have brought to your readers on this subject.

Sincerely,



Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Mr. Godfrey Sperling
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR
910 16th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

NOTE FOR:

Row

FROM

:

CONNIE GERRARD

*Note him a
note*



Ron Nessen on the griddle

By Godfrey Sperling Jr.

Washington

In an informal questioning of some veteran Washington correspondents over the past several weeks this question was asked: "Do you think the White House press corps is operating in a way that would prevent another Watergate — should something like that actually be going on behind the scenes?" The answer was always a "no," with the observer adding that the hard pressure being exerted by the White House press on Ron Nessen at the daily briefings certainly would not uncover anything of the dimensions of Watergate and that, in fact, this continual biting away at the press secretary was probably productive of very little.

The Washington Post, in a lead editorial on the press vs. Nessen, concludes that while such a "dueling exercise" does sometimes draw responses that are helpful to public understanding of issues, there was a question that needed examination: "the current state of old-fashioned reportorial enterprise." It does seem evident that, if reporters really want to help prevent future "Watergates," they need to be investigating other government offices — and not just pressing the White House press secretary for answers.

The man who really lives in the pressure chamber of the daily briefings, sometimes called the "bear pit" by reporters who attend, is Mr. Nessen. He is the one who is almost continually being pushed, nagged, and even insulted as reporters seek to get more information out of him. In many questions there are assumptions: that Nessen is holding out that he is misinforming, that he hasn't done his homework, and even that he is devious.

There is also the continuing assumption that the President's press secretary is also the reporters' press secretary. And this simply is not true. Mr. Nessen works for Mr. Ford, and his main function is to represent Mr. Ford with the press. He essentially is an "information" officer, which is another way of saying he is a "public-relations" officer for the President — with all the connotations that term may contain.

A good reporter knows that a public relations officer says what the person he represents wants him to say — and what he has been directed to say. And no more. And he knows the official has to put it in terms as favorable to the person he represents as possible. All this goes with the job. And it has gone with the White House press secretary job from the beginning. Only, before Watergate,

reporters lived more comfortably with this reality.

Now — perhaps out of a sense of guilt, since White House reporters were not responsible for uncovering Watergate — some reporters feel they must drag the press secretary around the room by the hair of his head to get him to "own up." On some days it seems that this urge to punish the press secretary is part of the motivation behind the nagging. "It's expiation," one veteran reporter has called it. Another said, "It's an ego trip for some of these reporters."

It is natural and probably good that reporters have become more questioning and more skeptical as the result of Watergate. Thus, some of the pressure on Mr. Nessen is an expression of sharper, more probing reporting. But with some reporters the pushing has gone beyond that. The rapier is being used; there is cutting and slashing. And joy in the havoc.

Does Mr. Nessen deserve this? He has indicated that he may not have the ideal personality for the job. But who does? Recently the White House carried on a search for a deputy press chief and some veteran, highly respected newsmen were asked to take the job. They had many reasons for rejecting it, but a major one was that they had no stomach for the inevitable daily pummeling. A number of good newsmen were approached on the press secretary's job after Jerry terHorst resigned. They would have no part of it. One who turned it down confided that no amount of money could induce him to "go through that wringer" at the briefing each day.

Some reporters say, "If only good old Jerry terHorst had stayed around — all would be different." But others are convinced that even good old Jerry, with all of his integrity, would have been torn to ribbons today by those reporters who are using this method of enforcing the post-Watergate morality.

Nessen is getting it from two directions — that he is too much of a salesman for the President and that he has been a bad salesman for the President. Both of those charges can't be correct. Perhaps he has the wrong personality for the job. But the question is: Who can be the "right" person for a job where those who judge him expect him to be something he isn't — their press secretary and not the President's?

Mr. Sperling is chief of the Washington bureau of *The Christian Science Monitor*.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 20, 1976

Dear Tom:

Your column today on "The Press and the Campaign" was useful and needed. I hope others will take your suggestion and write further on the subject as the campaign unfolds.

I have felt for sometime, both in this job and when I was a correspondent, that the press is a very large and influential institution in our society which does not get the same scrutiny and coverage as other large institutions.

I look forward to reading more of your observations about the boys on the bus.

Sincerely,



Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Mr. Tom Wicker
THE NEW YORK TIMES
229 West 43rd Street
New York, New York 10036

The Press and the Campaign

By Tom Wicker

MANCHESTER, N. H., Jan. 19—Eight years ago, at about the comparable stage of the 1968 Presidential campaign—a month before the first primary—the candidacy of Senator Eugene McCarthy was considered a poor joke by most of the political press.

Only in the last week or ten days of the primary campaign in this state did the press catch on to the fact that the hordes of young McCarthy volunteers were shaping a real challenge to President Johnson. And when Mr. McCarthy won 42 percent of the vote here, the impact of his achievement was roughly doubled by the fact of the press's earlier neglect; a major upset appeared to have been scored, when all along the press had underestimated the strength of a campaign that could add anti-war fervor to anti-Johnson sentiment, and support both with ample manpower and a candidate on the scene.

That same year, George Romney of Michigan arrived in New Hampshire still the front runner for the Republican nomination despite a growing belief in the political press that he was inept, unable to handle tough questions and not of Presidential calibre—whatever that is.

As the New Hampshire campaign progressed, press doubts about Mr. Romney mushroomed, and he slumped in the polls; before the votes were cast in this state he withdrew—unquestionably a victim, to a large extent, of the picture the press had painted of a dunce-cap candidate with his foot in his mouth.

What was the difference? Why did press disdain—and in some cases outright hostility—fail to destroy the McCarthy candidacy, while press disdain—and in some cases, open contempt—virtually ruin the Romney campaign?

The answer seems clear. The McCarthy effort was based on genuine popular support, for an idea and for a man who had had the courage to run against the odds. Press reaction could not outweigh that basic fact, but it could and did have profound effect on George Romney—who did, in many ways, fail the test of national campaigning and who had no fundamental support, independent of his performance, to carry him through.

Again, in 1972, most of the political press gave George McGovern little or no chance to win the Democratic nomination until he scored a glamorous "upset" in Wisconsin; in fact, his strength should have been apparent all along. Senator Edmund Muskie had been presented as a virtually certain winner, but when he failed to do well here in New Hampshire—against a standard more or less arbitrarily set by the press, with aid from Mr. McGovern—his failure seemed greater than it was and no doubt contributed to his later poor showings.

The history of recent "media effects" ought to be borne in mind as



Gahan Wilson

the 1976 campaign moves along. The press—television most certainly included—inevitably reflects in its articles and broadcasts the perceptions (however arrived at) of the people who write and produce them. Their perceptions tend to be remarkably similar, since these men and women influence each other as well as the public; and these perceptions also can be wrong. Both the herd instinct and the universal human tendency to prepare for the last war are prime reasons; venality, bias and conspiracy usually are not.

Already the process can be seen at work this year:

¶ Jimmy Carter of Florida clearly has been promoted by the political press as the "surprise" of the campaign so far. Today's Democratic caucuses in Iowa may begin the process of determining whether or not this is a press perception of a public truth. Mr. Carter's "good press" may have helped it become a truth; but paradoxically, if he does not do as well in Iowa and particularly in Florida as the press perception suggests he will do, his campaign could be badly

Fred Harris, with his radical economic program, can't win, even though he obviously has some substantial support. This almost certainly hurts Mr. Harris; but if he should win or do well in the early primaries, he would be helped by the "upset" effect.

¶ Most reports on George Wallace, despite routine caveats about his health, see him as the smashing vote-getter of 1968 and 1972, a perception yet to be substantiated in 1976.

And beware, readers and viewers, of any story low-rating a candidate for inept "press arrangements." Hell hath no fury like a reporter whose baggage has been left in Berlin, N. H., or anywhere else, for that matter. Even such minor concerns can influence the perceptions of political reporters. Press perceptions and their impact on public judgment, in fact, are a subject well worth other articles as the campaign unfolds.

¶ The press has spread the idea that

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 20, 1976

Dear Jim:

Thank you for the understanding insights you brought to your readers in your Sunday article on the problems of being Press Secretary at this particular time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ron Nessen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "N".

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Mr. James M. Naughton
NEW YORK TIMES
1920 L Street, NW
8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20036

The Press Secretary Deflects Barbs Aimed at His Boss



Michael Martin/Black Star

Nessen's Problem: He's A Shield With a Thin Skin

By JAMES M. NAUGHTON

WASHINGTON—One of President Ford's senior campaign aides said he nearly drove his car off Massachusetts Avenue the other day while guffawing at a radio news account that Rogers C. B. Morton was being appointed White House counselor on domestic and economic issues.

"Economic policy!" the campaign aide hooted a day later, recalling his surprise. "Rog Morton on economic policy!"

In fact, as the campaign official knew, the press suspected, departing Commerce Secretary Morton conceded and, by week's end the White House was finally acknowledging, Mr. Morton's principal role in the Executive Mansion was to give some belated coordination to Mr. Ford's disjointed Presidential candidacy.

The flap occasioned by the Morton announcement—Democrats and even the Republican chairman of the Federal Elections Commission openly

questioned paying Mr. Morton \$44,600 from tax funds to engage in partisan politics—served as one illustration of the current nature of President Ford's press relations.

In and out of the White House there were those who, quickly suggested that Ron Nessen, the Presidential Press Secretary, had botched the announcement by trying to persuade a skeptical White House press corps that Mr. Morton would give but "incidental" attention to politics. "You have to expect that from a girgin White House," said a Ford campaign official. "The choice of the word 'incidental' was unfortunate," said a White House aide.

But the subject of Mr. Morton's salary and how to submerge his political function in a job description of White House "counselor" had been the topic of conversation among Presidential aides and had been cleared, it was suggested authoritatively, by Mr. Ford himself. Only by indirection did anyone try, though, to blame the President for the snafu.

Mr. Nessen accepted the blame. To hear his associates tell it, he did so willingly. They said that

Mr. Nessen was pleased, in a perverse sense, when the National Press Club recently issued a report crediting the President with restoring civility to White House press relations and chastising Mr. Nessen for flaws in the White House communications process. The report, said one friend of Mr. Nessen's, bolstered his confidence that he was earning his keep by "drawing a certain amount of fire and heat away from the President."

That interpretation sounded like a rationalization on the part of the Press Secretary—the press club study said, among other things, that his conduct of press relations in China last year may have been "the most inept performance in modern times"—but it at least underlined what has become common to Presidential press policies: They often aim more at insulating the President than at enlightening the public.

As the press club study panel noted, Mr. Ford has been uncommonly accessible in 17 months as President. He conducted 24 news conferences (former President Nixon held 37 in 67 months) and afforded correspondents the option of a follow-up question. He submitted to innumerable interviews and began recently to hold semiformal conversations with groups of journalists. He attended social functions at reporters' homes and partied with the press here and in Vail, Colo. He writes congratulatory notes to journalists of his acquaintance who earn promotions or win awards. He calls many in the press by first names, although he keeps referring to Aldo Beckman of The Chicago Tribune as "Adolf" and Jules Witcover of The Washington Post as "Julius."

If his predecessors have been calculating—the common view is that President Kennedy seduced, President Johnson bullied and President Nixon bugged the press—there is a prevailing impression that Mr. Ford's cordiality is sincere, no more than a reflection of an open personality.

Presidential Reassurances

Mr. Ford "doesn't complain" about negative press accounts and rarely indulges in "mild grumbling" at unfair printed gossip about his family or the leak of sensitive information, according to the Press Secretary. When Mr. Nessen, who clearly does have thin skin, feels depressed, he is said to be reassured by the President, "Do what you think is right. Don't let it get you down."

There are, though, some close to Mr. Ford who believe, on the basis of their observations, that his geniality is at least partly calculated and his accessibility is attuned as much to the post-Watergate climate of political openness as it is to Mr. Ford's instinctive amity.

"My theory," said a senior White House official, "is that it bugs him nearly as much as it bugs me and others when he gets an unfair rap, but I can't imagine him saying it out loud. It's a part of his political personality. Down deep he has this private rule: 'Don't attack the press.'"

Genuine or not, Mr. Ford's attitude stands him in good stead. Presidents always try to persuade the press they can do no wrong. The press routinely looks for Presidential flaws. The process usually leads to gradual disenchantment on both sides. In Mr. Ford's case, the President and the press continue on good personal terms—and Mr. Nessen has become the object of growing dislike or disfavor among the correspondents, some of whom would as soon bait him as question him now. They blame Mr. Nessen for the evasions, obfuscations or, as in the case of the Morton announcement, the occasional shams.

Mr. Nessen more likely does what he does, however well, on the basis of policy. An impression was current late last year that Mr. Ford might be on the verge of replacing his spokesman. Mr. Nessen has remained and probably will be at his lectern in the foreseeable future. So long as he is willing to be the object of scorn that might otherwise be directed at his boss, Mr. Nessen admirably serves the President's purposes.

James M. Naughton is a White House correspondent for The New York Times.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

24 Jan 1976

Dear John,

Anyone who reads Clauswitz on vacation NEEDS a vacation!

I'm sorry I missed you when you were in Washington. I really needed some time off. Unfortunately I had to come back from Florida a week early because my deputy, Bill Greener, was stolen away by Rumsfeld to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs. I ended up going to Vail when I didn't intend to. But I learned to ski, finally, and as everyone predicted I loved it.

I'm sorry that the outlook for PBS broadcast of my daily briefing is not good. I agree with you that a great innovation would be a TV channel (or channels) set aside for live broadcast of events such as my briefing, Congressional hearings, various news conferences, etc., which are now handled by the networks only as a series of "snippets" :30 seconds long.

Ever since I came to the White House I have been fighting to keep various staff members from adopting an "anti-press" attitude after bad or misleading stories about the President appear in the papers or TV. Now I feel the anti-press tide is getting too strong for me to turn back. In fact, I feel that I am gradually joining it. I see in Kevin Phillips "Media Reports" that a number of large newspapers have assigned reporters full time to cover the press coverage of the campaign. This is an encouraging sign, partly an outgrowth of "The Boys on the Bus." I am a strong believer in the press covering the press with the same intensity it covers the other important institutions in America.

Things are looking up for the President, I think (and for the Press Office, too). But I expect there will be a lot of ups and downs before the year is over. Believe it or not, I enjoy this job more and more all the time.

My hippy daughter, aged 20, has come to live in Washington, ostensibly to go to broadcasting school but really to become a "groupie" with a rock band. I find it totally impossible to get through to her or influence her life in any way. It's maddening.

Let us know when the baby comes. Cindy sends her love.





Kansas City Public Television
2100 Stark
Kansas City, Missouri 64126
(816) 461-8100

Monday, January 5, 1976

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.



Dear Ron:

Your very nice letter arrived while we were in Arizona attempting to find sunshine and settling instead for subsidizing Mexican breweries. WHY CAN'T THE GOVERNMENT DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE WEATHER? If we can put a man on the moon...

I read Clauswitz. An evil genius. Heady stuff for vacation browsing.

I was in Washington while you were in Florida (as I learned by calling across the street from the Hay-Adams). I dealt with enough bureaucrats at PBS, CPB, the National Endowment for the Humanities etc. to make leaving a real pleasure. There was some fun around, including a semi-drunk lunch with Goralski, calls to old friends, etc., but I came away less impressed than ever with the state of things in national-level public television. It needs a good shake. The stations, like this one, stumble along on poverty-level funding while staffs grow ever larger in ever-larger, more opulent settings at PBS and CPB. The tail wags this particular dog.

I regret to say that Washington-level public TV types have nothing but a negative reaction to the White House briefing idea. They speak of high cost and, in summary, can't grasp my notion that it would be dandy TV fare. I have a hunch that nothing like this is going to get done until there's a broadened spectrum in television, perhaps a second set of public television channels (UHF) devoted to open-ended, unedited, real-time event reflecting government in action.

The Ford Foundation is phasing out its support of public television after a quarter of a billion dollars pumped into it. I think if Ford were still in the business, or if another Ford could be found, underwriting would be possible for doing the briefings. Goralski says corporations are very wary about underwriting anything political now, although Gulf is helping to underwrite a new, intensively edited half-hour daily radio report (National Public Radio) on Washington events.

I still think it's a good idea. People I've talked to in stations agree.

Lucy and Carrie stayed in Arizona after I left to return to work. They'll be back tomorrow, and Lucy will have to begin getting ready for a new arrival late this month or early next.

I very much appreciate your kind comments about my paper on broadcast news. I'll look forward to your book but hope that's a project well down the line.

KCPT is licensed to and operated by COMMUNITY SERVICE BROADCASTING of Mid-America, Inc.

Our love to Cindy and Edward...

Regards,

John Masterman



KCPT

Kansas City Public Television
2100 Stark
Kansas City, Missouri 64126

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Ron Nessen
Press Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

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Julian Goodman
Chairman and
Chief Executive Officer

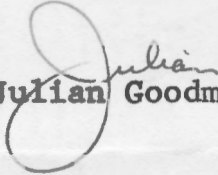
January 26, 1976

Dear Ron:

Thank you for your nice note about my Distinguished Service Award from the NAB, and I am grateful to you also for passing along the President's comments.

I am also pleased that you will be with us at the Iranian Embassy. It's very gracious of Ambassador Zahedi to do it, and Betty and I are looking forward to it.

Sincerely,


Julian Goodman

Mr. Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.



January 30, 1976

Dear Walter:

This is a fan letter.

I believe the six minutes you devoted last night to Dr. Kissinger's testimony on Angola was the most responsible coverage of a major issue by a television nightly news show in a long time.

It was so different from the usual 30 or 45 second "snippets" of sound on film which are usually broadcast to represent the view of public figures.

I believe your lengthy coverage of the Kissinger testimony did a great deal to help the public understand the complex issues involved in the Angola situation. I hope this is the start of a trend towards longer and more meaningful treatment of important issues.

I don't know who else at CBS was involved in the decision to handle the Kissinger story at length, but I hope you will relay to them too my compliments on this responsible journalistic development.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Mr. Walter Cronkite
CBK
524 West 57th Street
New York, New York 10019

RN/jb



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 30, 1976

Dear David:

Once again you have brought a fresh and independent view to an emotional subject in your column Sunday on premature journalistic judgments at this early stage in the election year.

Incidentally, your comment that the recent polls showing the President ahead of Reagan were buried in the newspapers, but probably well displayed in the White House News Summary, led me to check just how the News Summary did handle polls.

For whatever interest it may be to you, reports of Reagan leading the President in polls on January 8, 9 and 20 appeared on pages 2, 7 and 8, respectively, of the News Summary. A report on the President leading Reagan in the polls on January 23 appeared on page 7 of the White House News Summary.

I don't know what that all means, but I thought you might be interested.

Stay in touch. I am sure we'll meet somewhere along the trail.

Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Mr. David Broder
The Washington Post
1150 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20071

*Don't send.
RAN*

THE WHITE HOUSE

Mr. David Broder
The Washington Post
1150 15th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20071

A Campaign Trail of Confusion

The presidential race is only in its fourth week and already there is enough confusion to confound a Kissinger, were there a Kissinger turning his intellect to domestic politics, which, fortunately, there is not.

The first two rounds of the marathon campaign tournament—the Iowa and Mississippi caucuses—produced enough surprises to make one suspect that buried in the welter of regulations from the Federal Elections Commission is one suspending the law of averages for 1976.

Consider, for example, the odds you could have gotten on the following propositions, had you been crazy enough to bet a month ago:

Jimmy Carter's Georgia charm will wow the voters in chilly Iowa, but leave the good old boys in Mississippi cold.

Sargent Shriver will get more votes from the Protestants in the piney-woods than he does among the Catholics in Dubuque.

George Wallace will draw a bigger crowd in Boston than in Jackson.

Jim Eastland's candidate, Lloyd Bentsen, will barely outpoll the Choctaws' favorite, Fred Harris, in Mississippi.

Wallace's followers will flock to the black-run caucuses as if they'd been waiting all their life for the chance.

Morris Udall will turn serious and Birch Bayh will be at a loss as to how to get his name in the paper.

Ed Muskie will upstage Hubert Humphrey and Scoop Jackson for prime-time television exposure.

Jerry Ford will sail through a 90-minute grilling on details of the budget without a flaw while Ronald Reagan actually has trouble convincing people that it would be nice to have a \$90 billion tax cut.

And Terry Sanford will wind up the presidential race in the black.

The chances of any of these things happening, let alone all of them, in the first four weeks of the year seemed minimal. Yet there are those in the journalistic world who will try to convince you that they discern a logical pattern in all this and they know how the game is going to be played the rest of the way.

That's nonsense.

The only pattern in this presidential derby is the lack of pattern, the only likely proposition, that whoever is a hero today will be a bum tomorrow.

Consider the case of Carter. He began last week by being hailed as a conqueror, in some newspapers, for finishing second

"The only pattern in this presidential derby is the lack of pattern; the only likely proposition, that whoever is a hero today will be a bum tomorrow."

to Ulysses S. Uncommitted in Iowa. He ended the week by apologizing to Humphrey for calling him a "a loser" in Vermont. That's quite a comedown.

Mr. Ford made front-page news last month by running second to Reagan in the Gallup Poll. The January poll showed him back in front of Reagan—but it was tucked away on the inside pages, except, one presumes, in the White House news summary.

The only sane response to this sort of political fluctuation and journalistic flimflam is to avoid big and premature conclusions. Those who can retain a certain detachment about the proceedings may even find a source of amusement. One suspects that is really why Sanford, a wise man who has, luckily, never been able to suppress his own sense of humor, decided to join such other observers of the vagaries of political behavior as Ted Kennedy and John Connally in the spectator's gallery for this race.

Meantime, there are some strong early contenders for recognition in categories other than presidential nominee. John Bell Williams, the former governor of Mississippi, became an instant favorite for the "Worst Winner of the Year" award by his antics at his precinct caucus in Mississippi.

Williams, a Wallace supporter, had the voting cards of all the Wallace backers in his precinct in his hands, when he launched into a tirade against the "loyalty oath" language on the forms. To dramatize his disgust with this bureaucratic infringement on his oft-employed right to bolt the party of his fathers, the fiery Williams dramatically ripped the thick wad of Wallace ballots to shreds.

At which point, the only people not applauding his act claimed the precinct for Carter by a vote of 2-0.

The "Most Meaningful Interview of 1976" judges will have to consider carefully the tape obtained by one radio reporter who approached a somewhat ruffled black gentlemen, who had arrived late, in response to an urgent summons at a precinct in Canton, Miss., last Saturday morning.

The reporter framed an all-embracing question. He asked the voter's feeling on participating in this novel and meaningful experience of joining with the white leaders of his community in choosing among the five presidential contenders, and wondered if it had fulfilled all his expectations.

"Man," said the voter, "they just got me out of bed. I don't understand any of this."

That's the sort of way this reporter feels.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Ron --

Here's the material for your letter to Dave Broder:

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c g



NEWS & COMMENT

The President's Daily News Summary

Leading The News...

FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 1976

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NEWS & COMMENT

The President's Daily News Summary

Leading The News...

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NEWS & COMMENT

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NEWS & COMMENT

The President's Daily News Summary

Leading The News...

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

NOTE FOR:

Ron -

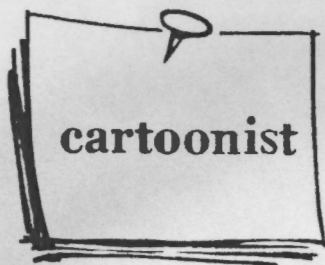
FROM

: CONNIE GERRARD

RN
saw

No need for a written
thank you. I wrote
him (your signature)
a very nice letter
requesting it and
thanking him in
advance,





NATIONAL CARTOONISTS SOCIETY

Vic CANTONE

P.O. BOX 2514
GRAND CENTRAL STATION,
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

A
E association of american editorial cartoonists

FEBRUARY 4, 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500

MR. RON NESSEN,
PRESS SECRETARY
TO THE PRESIDENT

DEAR MR. NESSEN,

THANK YOU FOR REQUESTING MY CARTOON WHICH
APPEARED IN THE JANUARY 10TH ISSUE OF
EDITOR & PUBLISHER. PLEASE FIND ENCLOSED
THE ORIGINAL.

I'M SORRY FOR THE DELAY IN SENDING IT SINCE
THEY HAD TO LOCATE IT AT THE PRINTING PLANT.

BEST REGARDS.

Sincerely,
Vic CANTONE



February 10, 1976

Dear Vermont:

What a wonderful quote from Lawrence Durrell!

**I'm having it printed and framed and will hang
it in my office.**

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

**Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President**

**Mr. Vermont Royster
903 Arrowhead Road
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514**

RN/jb



VERMONT ROYSTER
903 ARROWHEAD ROAD
CHAPEL HILL, N. C. 27514

February 6, 1976

Dear Ron -

You'll be interested to know that I have received quite a number of letters on that column "The Adversaries" of which all were favorable save one. The one was an irate letter from a member of your faithful press corps followers (and a member of the Press Club) who says I should be drummed out of the Club for being arrogant, supercilious and ignorant of the situation. At least he knows how to use adjectives.

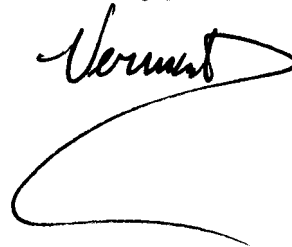
You may also be interested in a quotation that would have been worked into the column except for lack of space. It comes from Lawrence Durrell's novel, *Esprit de Corps*. As follows:

"A press officer is like a man pegged out on an Afridan ant-hill for the termites of the daily press to eat into at will."

You might find that useful smetime.

Meanwhile I thank you for your note and especially for passing on the word that the President might see me at some convenient time. I will be back later to take up that invitation.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vermont". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a large, sweeping horizontal flourish that extends to the left and then curves back towards the center.

Mr. Ron Nessen
The White House

TIME

888 16TH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

PH
✓

Feb 23, 1976

(202) 293-4300

Dear Ron

I had a good column on
Ford's payday and then out came
the figures on where his money goes
and I got scuttled. I am going
to try and receive it in the future,
However. Thanks for your generous
assist in getting to Mrs Downton

Warm regards

Hugh

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5
6

The White House
Washington



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PMS PRESIDENT FORD

WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

DEAR MR PRESIDENT

IN THE HEADLINES AND ON PAGE 4 OF THE NATIONAL INQUIRER OF MARCH
30TH 1976 APPEARS AN ARTICLE ABOUT ME IN WHICH THERE IS A REFERENCE
TO YOU IN THE CONTEXT OF A SUPPOSED PREDICTION BY ME

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE ARTICLE WAS DONE WITHOUT MY KNOWLEDGE,
PERMISSION OF APPROVAL, AND THE STATEMENTS IN THE ARTICLE ATTRIBUTED
TO ME WERE NOT MADE BY ME THE AUTHOR OF THE ARTICLE HAS APOLOGIZED
TO ME I FELT THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW THE FACTS RESPECTFULLY

JEANE DIXON SUITE 411 1225 CONNECTICUT AVE NORTH WEST WASHINGTON
DC 20036

NNNN

FORM 0805 PRINTED BY THE STANDARD REGISTER COMPANY, U. S. A.

Jimmy Carter will become President of the United States after a photo-finish race against Ronald Reagan, predicts famed psychic Jeane Dixon.

But Carter's surprising victory will come only after an incredible year in American politics in which:

- Both President Ford and Reagan will face assassination attempts — and the President will be wounded.

- Ford will be plagued by betrayal, domestic woes and a health crisis . . . and will resign.

- Nelson Rockefeller will become "caretaker President" for several months, until a new President has been elected.

- George Wallace's election bid will be halted by the problems affecting his health.

"This will be the most dramatic year ever in American political history," Mrs. Dixon declared in an exclusive ENQUIRER interview.

"The elections will have every ingredient of drama. There will be great danger and near-tragedy, betrayals in more than one camp and a neck-and-neck race right down to the wire."

The world-renowned seer, who predicted the assassina-



JEANE DIXON



'CARETAKER': Nelson Rockefeller will take over for several months until a new President is elected.

Jeane Dixon Predicts The Next President

tions of John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy, is convinced that assassins will go after Ford and Reagan this year.

"When I meditated on their horoscopes, I was horrified," said Mrs. Dixon, pointing toward an astrological chart covered with scribbled notes.

"Ford is in great danger. I'm already receiving vibrations of evil, of attempts on his life, from several directions. They're the same kind of vibrations I received just before Robert Kennedy was shot, although then I tuned into only one channel of evil.

"I feel that several groups of people — four or even five — are plotting to harm not only President Ford, but Ronald Reagan. Both men must triple their security.

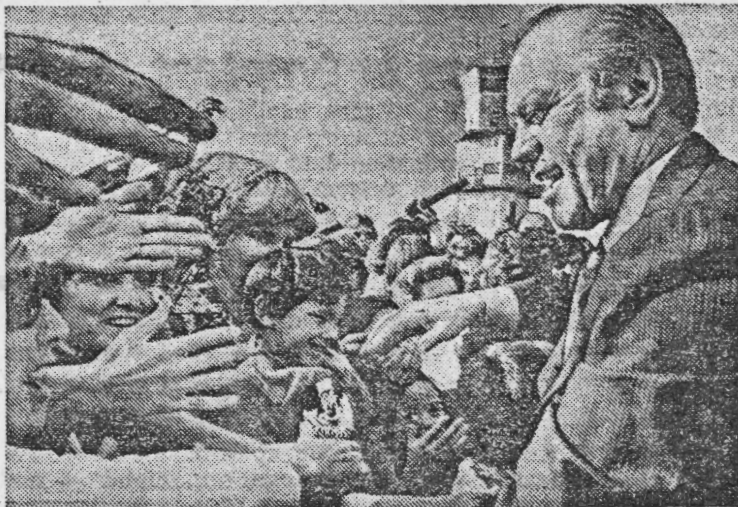
"Ford's danger months are April and July, with the biggest danger probably coming in July. I sense that a northern city will be the setting for an attempt on his life.

"I see the President walking outdoors — and then three shots blast out from a crowd of people. His gray suit is torn at the side by a bullet. Security men quickly surround him and push him down near a fire hydrant."

The President will suffer only a slight wound to his side — but the attempt on his life, combined with serious domestic pressures and a campaign that isn't going well, will cause him to consider stepping down from the presidency, Mrs. Dixon said.

Ford also faces betrayal by a trusted staff member — who'll embarrass the President by revealing his plans concerning a foreign country.

"This betrayal of trust will cause several men in high places to leave their jobs in disgrace," Mrs. Dixon declared. "It'll also prompt former members of the Ford Admin-



ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT will be made on President Gerald Ford's life — and he will be wounded.



VICTORY will be the reward for the surprising Jimmy Carter — who'll be our next President.

istration to publicly reveal past errors and this will damage Ford.

"Finally, shortly before the nominating convention, a health crisis will arise for Ford — and he will resign."

Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller will occupy the Oval Office as a "caretaker President" for the last months of Ford's term. But Rockefeller won't try to be elected on his own, Mrs. Dixon feels.

"So at the Republican convention we shall see only one

candidate — Ronald Reagan," she said. "But Reagan, too, faces assassination attempts.

"October will be the real crisis month for him. That's when an assassin will narrowly miss . . . and only a super-alert security man will save Reagan's life. I believe the attempt will be by bomb rather than bullet. It'll be planted in a basement or underground garage — but Reagan will escape unharmed."

The Democratic race will be steeped in drama, Mrs. Dixon predicts.

"I see the charismatic Jimmy Carter beating off late but determined bids for the nomination by Hubert Humphrey and Morris Udall," she said.

"Finally, the hard-fought race will come down to a battle between Carter and Humphrey at the Democratic convention. But Carter will win the nomination — thanks to some behind-the-scenes wheeling and dealing that will surpass what normally goes on in the corridors of power."

Carter will go on to occupy the White House, Mrs. Dixon predicts. "I sense that he and



TOUGH FIGHT ahead for Ronald Reagan — but he'll be the loser after a photo-finish race.

Reagan will be in a down-to-the-wire fight for the Presidency — but Carter's vibrations indicate he will win.

"Ironically, I sense that Reagan has better international vibrations than Carter, and that many people feel he would make a better President . . . but that isn't to be. The will and positive emanations of the people are all moving steadily toward Carter — his drive for the White House will be irresistible."

None of the other top Democratic contenders has any hope of reaching the Oval Office, Mrs. Dixon believes.

"For George Wallace, I see health problems that will force him out of the race. I feel he must take especially good care of himself in May.

"Henry 'Scoop' Jackson will suffer an early setback in the campaign, and it will dishearten him enough to quit.

"Morris Udall's chart shows he won't be elected President, either — but in 1977 or '78 he'll probably be appointed to a high government position."

Mrs. Dixon added that Sen. Ted Kennedy also won't become President this year.

"Kennedy could have his party's nomination, but won't take it yet. However, he'll adopt a more serious approach to politics after this year — and in 1980 we may see Ted in the White House," she said.

— PAUL BANNISTER

Two quick-thinking sisters deflated a bank robbery when they let the air out of the tires of the getaway car, turned off the motor and pocketed the car keys.

They then chased down the two bewildered robbers as they attempted to flee on foot, captured one and tied him up with a belt — before turning him over to the authorities. The other robber was arrested just a few minutes later.

"Somebody had to do something to stop them," explained Mrs. Shirley Bowland.

Shirley, 27, and her sister, Mrs. Rebecca Griggs, 28, had pulled up to the drive-in window of First Farmers National Bank in Amboy, Ind., on January 6. Recalled Rebecca, "We saw a car pull up in front of the bank and park on the wrong side of the street. That's

2 Brave Sisters Foil Bank Robbers' Getaway

the way some robbers had parked just a month before. I turned to my sister and said jokingly, 'Do you suppose they're going to rob that bank again?'"

A minute later the bank manager, Herman Agness, ran outside shouting, "Call the police, the bank's being robbed!"

The two women frantically searched for change so they could phone the police, but neither had a dime.

"My first thought was to take the bandits' car so they couldn't get away, but Shirley had another idea. 'Why don't we just take the keys out?' she asked."

Shirley turned off the motor and grabbed the keys. She then let the air out of the tires. At that moment somebody yelled, "Here they come!" — and Shirley darted across the street into a restaurant. The



LUCKY BELT: Mrs. Rebecca Griggs shows bank manager Herman Agness belt she and her sister, Shirley Bowland (right) used to tie up robber.

two robbers, outfitted in ski masks, dove into their car — and got the shock of their lives when they found the motor off and the keys gone.

"They jumped out and started running," Rebecca declared. "When I saw that nobody was trying to stop them I

turned my car around and started after them."

A wild chase followed. The robbers got confused and were soon heading back towards town. Rebecca was able to pick up Shirley before they spotted the bandits again.

"Just then I heard a shot,

which we later learned was fired by a grocer nearby. One of the men stopped," Rebecca continued, "then he started running again. I shouted, 'Freeze!' He threw his hands up and shouted, 'Don't shoot!'"

"Shirley and I got out of the car and told the man to lie face down, spread-eagle, which he did. Then I took the belt off my coat and tied his hands behind him while Shirley kept her foot on the guy's neck."

Completely unarmed, Shirley and Rebecca took their prisoner back to town.

They turned the bandit over to a sheriff's deputy. Police arrested the other robber 15 minutes later. The two had made off with \$30,000, according to police reports. Both bandits have been indicted on federal bank robbery charges and are awaiting trial.

— LEONARD SANDLES

Ron Nessen PHV

You been talking
to her about your
book?

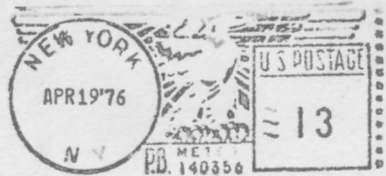


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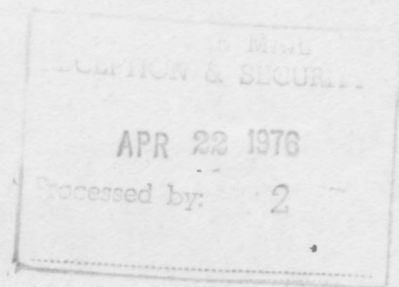
NBC

Richard C. Wald - 512

National Broadcasting Company, Inc.
Thirty Rockefeller Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10020



Mr. Ron Nessen
The White House
Washington, D.C.



TV WHAT'S ON? RADIO

Star-Studded Tony Show A Delightful TV Event

By KAY GARDELLA

All Edward Herrmann has to do after winning a Tony last night for "Mrs. Warren's Profession" is add an Emmy to his collection for his role as FDR in "Eleanor and Franklin," the David Susskind production on ABC. Herrmann, an Emmy contender, was one of the 76 winners collecting their statuettes at the Shubert Theater during the glamorous, well-produced Tony Awards show by Alexander Cohen.

Televised on ABC starting at 9, the Broadway bash has been the topper in the massive number of awards shows that have been on this year, including the most-recent comedy awards show hosted by Alan King on the same network. The hosts, George C. Scott, Richard Burton, Diana Rigg, Eddie Albert, Trish Van Devere and Jane Fonda, and the well-groomed performers and presenters, turned Tony into a first-class event.

The Broadway stars — Shirley Knight of "Kennedy's Children," Carole Bishop of "A Chorus Line" etc.—all departed themselves with tremendous style and charm. Scott, especially, lifted the lengthy production into a verified atmosphere that made a viewer heady with excitement, and a visual reminder of the potential of theater in its true sense. Broadway may have its problems but they could only be helped by last night's marvelous fast-paced presentation.

Between the musical production numbers, the nostalgic recollections and all the glamorous people on hand, it was a night to remember. Let's hope Emmy does as well.

White House Gibes:

We don't know about you, but we always get a comforting feeling to know the President of the United States and his press secretary have time to horse around on a television show. It assures us that things are running smoothly in the nation's capital.

Today, the bridge between show business and politics is traveled both ways. Either politicians are finding more and

more of the United States appeared on. The skit might have waited.

Nessen is a natural showman. But all press secretaries have to be, we guess. Pierre Salinger wound up during the past Olympic coverage from Austria as a commentator. Sports, like show business and politics, go hand in hand.

The press secretary, who carried a heavy load on the program, observed that the late-night comedy program is no different from White House press conferences. Another reassuring thought. He had great fun picking on the President's double meanings. "I usually know what he means," he said. "It's after he says it I get in trouble." He pretended to answer a call from Ford from the White House. "Yes, I'll accept the charges," he said. Then he added, "You heard my monologue and had it explained to you?"

The best skit of the night featured Nessen and Chevy Chase as Ford stumbling around the Oval Room, bumping into a wall, playing golf with a tennis racket and wearing a helmet while he talked to his dog Liberty. Nessen read him his daily schedule and reminded him of a 9:30 Easter egg hunt. "I better hang up the kids' stockings," said Chase.

The Saturday night series has come a long way since it began

on an awkward note. This past weekend's Nessen-hosted show ran smoothly and there were plenty of laughs to be had. Some among the press corps in Washington would be happy to see him stay on NBC, we're sure. How about it, NBC? Or is that what he has in mind after November?

The equal-time rule does apply, so Gov. Reagan you're next.

Strikers and a Conductor:

Strikers today have it pretty good compared to 60 years ago in England. A check of the picket line before NBC will show there are no bashed-in skulls from police clubs or other evidence of violence. But if you look at the "Piccadilly Circus" drama tonight, "Stocker's Copper," on PBS (WNET/Ch. 13) at 8:30, you'll see a different labor story.

Through the relationship of two men, a striker named Manuel Stocker (Bryan Marshall) and a cop named Herbert (Garreth Thomas), the bitter story is

told of what happened in 1913 when a group of china clay workers at a mine in Cornwall, west England, decided to go on strike. The drama, filmed in Austelle, Cornwall, where the strike took place, is rich with realism.

Tomorrow night on WNET/Channel 13, if you're musically inclined, there's an intimate portrait of Antonia Brico, the famed woman conductor. As made by a former Brico student, folk singer Judy Collins, "Antonia: A Portrait of a Woman," is a potpourri of film clips, newspaper clippings, interviews and scenes of the dynamic Holland-born conductor.

One gets some different insights into the musical world through this program, which has, unfortunately, too much of a haphazard quality about it. Conducting engagements, which began with the Berlin Symphony in 1930, are retraced, including a Met concert: her favorite music is discussed, and her personal life capsuled

What do you do if your pet cat can't lick the habit of killing off the neighborhood birds?

We're there first

remember. Let's hope Emmy does as well.

White House Gibes:

We don't know about you, but we always get a comforting feeling to know the President of the United States and his press secretary have time to horse around on a television show. It assures us that things are running smoothly in the nation's capital.

Today, the bridge between show business and politics is traveled both ways. Either politicians are finding more and more time to do an old soft shoe or old vaudevillians and Hollywood stars have hung up their soft shoes for a seat in the government. Sometimes it's wise, we guess, to reach for a laugh instead of a vote.

President Nixon, prior to his election, made the most prophetic statement of his life on NBC's "Laugh-In" when he said, "Sock it to me." As for "live from New York, and it's Saturday Night," the opening line by President Ford on NBC's "Saturday Night," this will take a little incubation before anything profound is hatched.

The telecast, which featured Ron Nessen as host, was funny. Chevy Chase and his gang of Not Ready for Prime Time Players got a little out of hand when they threw in the routine about Autumn Fizz douche in the same program as the Presi-

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The New York Times

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036
(202) 293-3100

RNV

April 30 [1976]



Dear Ron,

Thank you for your call.
It was most thoughtful of
you.

Unfortunately, I missed the
Saturday night show. I was
fast asleep by that time,
having left the hospital
that morning and gratefully
climbed into my own four-poster.

It was kind of you to
mention it to the President.

He called one evening.

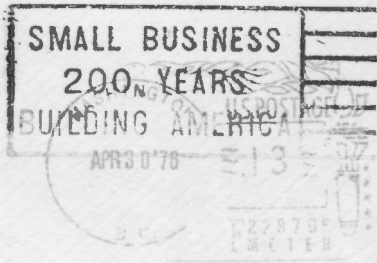
Please give him the enclosed

Thank you note.

I'm back at work now,
tho still taking it a bit
sore for a couple weeks.

Fondly,
Maggie





Personal

Mr. Ron Nessen
Press Office
The White House
Washington D.C.

Hunter
The New York Times

WASHINGTON BUREAU
1920 L STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

