

The original documents are located in Box 299, folder “Chastisement of Media in Briefing - Pro Citizen Mail (3)” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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July 3, 1975

Dear Mr. Counts:

Thank you for sending your views on my recent comments about a small group of reporters at my daily press briefing.

I am glad to have your thoughts on this. I am sure you realize that my comments were in no way intended as a general criticism of the press. In fact, President Ford and his White House enjoy excellent relations with the press.

Since I made my comments, the atmosphere at my daily briefings has improved considerably and the briefings are now better serving their intended purpose, which is to provide a wealth of information on the President, his activities, and his policies to the American people.

Again, thank you for letting me know your thoughts on this issue which involves only a small part of the White House press relations, but nevertheless is important to the open flow of information to the American people which President Ford so strongly supports.

Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Mr. Richard L. Counts
4646 40th Street, NW.
Washington, D. C. 20016

RN:ckb
RN-14



RICHARD L. COUNTS
4646 FORTIETH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20016

JUL 02 1975

June 27, 1975

Mr. Ronald Nessen
White House Press Secretary
The White House
Washington, D. C.

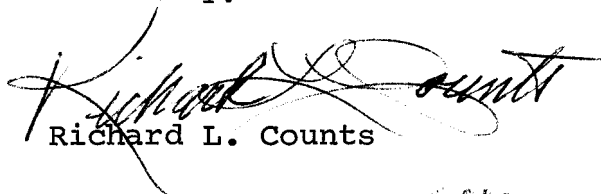
Dear Mr. Nessen:

Reported statements of your relations with and recent comments to members of the press have been read by me with much interest. Your task is undoubtedly most trying at times. It is obvious that the press corps consists of an increasing number of so called liberal members whose political and sociological views are considerably left of center and whose efforts to discredit and harass conservative elements of our government are becoming bolder.

These people and many of their employers in the media wish to coerce you, the President and the administration and shape the policies of our government more to their liking. Unfortunately, in the past, they have achieved considerable success in this regard.

It appears that your resistance to their pressures and baiting has caused some of them a bit of dismay and discomfiture. Fine! I congratulate you and hope that you continue to treat these disrupters with the firmness that they deserve.

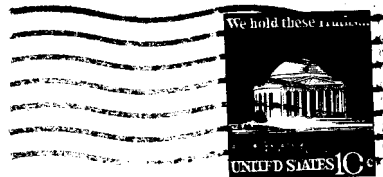
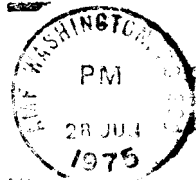
Sincerely,


Richard L. Counts

RLC/gg



RICHARD L. COUNTS
4646 FORTIETH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20016



Mr. Ronald Nessen
White House Press Secretary
The White House
Washington, D. C.

July 3, 1975

Dear Mr. Diamond:

Thank you for sending your views on my recent comments about a small group of reporters at my daily press briefing.

I am glad to have your thoughts on this. I am sure you realize that my comments were in no way intended as a general criticism of the press. In fact, President Ford and his White House enjoy excellent relations with the press.

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Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Mr. Allen Diamond
Apartment 636
451 Fulton Avenue
Hempstead, New York 11550

RN:ckb
RN-14



PHONE 481⁵¹⁶ 8259

APT: 636

Allen Diamond

JUL 02 1975

451 FULTON AVE
HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. 11550

ATTN: Mr. RON NESSEN, PRESS SEC'Y. June 27, 1975

Dear Ron,

I do not know how to reach you by letter than through the President.

You are serving a good man and a great country — us.

Do not let reporters get under your skin as that is what they want to do. By doing this they feel you will be on your guard never to release news even if it isn't necessary just to keep peace with them.

I have faced every conceivable type of person in America and never minced once through it all. In fact I made them jump.

Have a little fun with the reporters. Announce a meeting sometime with an unknown and the President and they say:

"I am pleased to announce that the President and Al Diamond had a very important discussion for two hours and 22 minutes on World Affairs and present conditions in our country unexpectedly. Of course, do not use my name but wherever it is feasible and a person is not known, play it up



as though it was a big thing and just watch these reporters react to such an announcement.

Keep your cool regardless. I have no doubts that Pres. Ford gets hot under the collar when no one is around but as soon as there is an audience he puts his best foot forward.

Watch your President and you will learn the basics in facing reporters who act like tigers in a zoo just waiting for the attendant to throw the meat into the cage at feeding time.

I hope this piece of advice will help you get over this hurdle and make it easier to get on with the business of Government which is so complex and at the hands of conflicting minds and ideas which each feels is best for the people and we the people must take the brunt of it all whether or not it is good for us.

The World changes every 100 years and all the live people of today will be gone but the U.S. Government and its new people will be battling the same things over and over again.

Keep smiling even if it hurts and let a lot of it go over your shoulders.

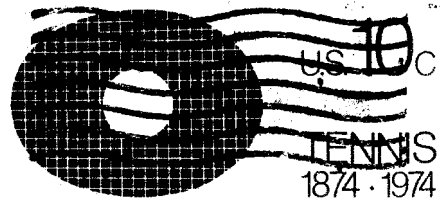
I've been all over this world and had to chuckle at your "briefing encounter".

P.S. Good Luck to you.

Respectfully,
All Diamond
EX U.S. NAVY WAR VETERAN



Allen Diamond
451 Fulton Ave
Hempstead, N.Y. 11550



The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20510

ATTN: MR. RON NESSEN, President

July 3, 1975

Dear Miss Frankel:

Thank you for sending your views on my recent comments about a small group of reporters at my daily press briefing.

I am glad to have your thoughts on this. I am sure you realize that my comments were in no way intended as a general criticism of the press. In fact, President Ford and his White House enjoy excellent relations with the press.

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Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Miss Ruth Frankel
Apartment 203
1200 Park Newport
Newport Beach, California 92660

RN:ckb
RN-14



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R N

THIS MAILGRAM WAS TRANSMITTED ELECTRONICALLY BY WESTERN UNION TO A POST OFFICE NEAR YOU FOR DELIVERY

01 11 MA 8S JUL 28

JUL 02 1975

PRESIDENT GERALD FORD
WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

CONGRATULATIONS ON PRESS SECRETARY WHO HAS COURAGE TO SUGGEST NATIONAL PRESS HAS SOME RESPONSIBILITY IN THE WAY INFORMATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT IS CONVEYED TO THE PEOPLE. FOR TO LONG EVERYONE HAS BEEN AFRAID TO SUGGEST THAT SOME MEDIA DICIPLINE MAY BE NECESSARY FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTRY

RUTH FRANKEL 1200 PARK NEWPORT 203 NEWPORT BEACH CA 92660

12:45 EST

MGMWSHT HSB



July 3, 1975

Dear Mr. Stein:

Thank you for sending your views on my recent comments about a small group of reporters at my daily press briefing.

I am glad to have your thoughts on this. I am sure you realize that my comments were in no way intended as a general criticism of the press. In fact, President Ford and his White House enjoy excellent relations with the press.

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Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Mr. Robert D. Stein
6447 Pernod
St. Louis, Missouri 63139

RN:ckb
RN-14



JUL 02 1975

June 27, 1975

Most Esteemed Press Secretary, Ron Nessen:

DELIGHTED to see you comin' 'round! Succinctly, confronting the adversary---a biased and callous media mill. I admire your courageous admonishment of the vicious journalists that shape the news in order to sell their scurrilous rags.

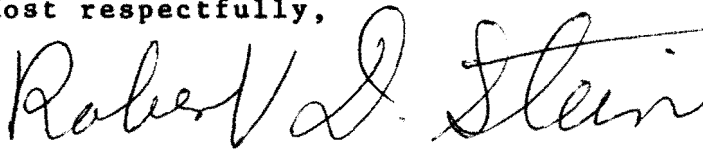
President Richard Nixon expressed my antipathy to these rascals. And if you harbor any doubts, just read our St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the unindicted co-conspirator of the Washington Post and the New York Times! That awful "tyrant" Nixon, the Vietnam War are no longer grist for the media mill so they now attack Ford and the C.I.A. page after page, thus paralyzing a needed agency that protects our homeland.

However Ron, I criticize you for stating to the press: "President Ford is an honest man and a man of integrity." Granted the President certainly is, but there is an inuendo against his predecessor and I for one uphold and champion President Nixon. NEVER, NEVER were his colossal achievements recognized much less appreciated. But his enemies seized upon a stupid burglary hammering away at it day and night just to eject him from the Presidency.

Well Ron, you're comin' 'round to seeing what an irresponsible enemy the media is. Cut their water off! They ruined and disgraced, by pre-meditated design, a great President.

Your comments are solicited.

Most respectfully,



Robert D. Stein
6447 Pernod
St. Louis, MO 63139



ROBERT STEIN
6447 PERNOD AV
SAINT LOUIS MO 63139



Press Secretary Ron Nessen

The White House

Washington, D. C.

*Personal,
please.*

July 3, 1975

Dear Miss Cotton:

Thank you for sending your views on my recent comments about a small group of reporters at my daily press briefing.

I am glad to have your thoughts on this. I am sure you realize that my comments were in no way intended as a general criticism of the press. In fact, President Ford and his White House enjoy excellent relations with the press.

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Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Miss Helen Cotton
15 Hartford Avenue
Granby, Connecticut 06035

RN:Ckb
RN-14



HELEN M. COTTON
15 HARTFORD AVE.
—GRANBY, CONN. 06035

JUL 02 1975

June 27, 1975

Dear Ron,

My class at NEWINGTON missed the message from the PRESIDENT and the photos. It went very well, otherwise.

I realize the people at the WHITE HOUSE have been busy, but other PRESIDENTS always had time for this special class of students at the NEWINGTON HOSPITAL SCHOOL (my school for nine very happy years.

I think you have been doing a fantastic job as press secretary - don't quit. We have never known as much as we now know about the PRESIDENT's activities.

Would you please see if I could receive a personal presidential letter for my scrapbooks. PRESIDENT FORD is only the PRESIDENT missing among my whose who collection.

THANK YOU.

SINCERELY,



MISS HELEN COTTON
HARTFORD AVE
GRANBY, CT.



Ron,
original of
this letter
sent to
appropriate
off to
consider
this request
P.

July 3, 1975

Dear Mr. Carter:

Thank you for sending your views on my recent comments about a small group of reporters at my daily press briefing.

I am glad to have your thoughts on this. I am sure you realize that my comments were in no way intended as a general criticism of the press. In fact, President Ford and his White House enjoy excellent relations with the press.

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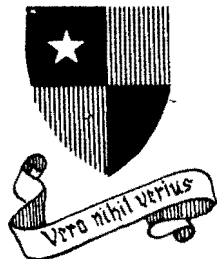
Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Mr. Robert W. Carter
Dean
The Congressional Schools of Virginia
3229 Sleepy Hollow Road
Falls Church, Virginia 22042

RN:ckb
RN-14





The Congressional Schools of Virginia

JUL 02 1975

3229 SLEEPY HOLLOW ROAD . . . FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA

June 27, 1975

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

Dear Mr. Nessen:

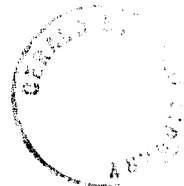
I know that my personal feeling will not mean that much to you, as we have never met, however after reading this mornings Washington Post, I felt that I HAD to write to you. I think you are doing a GREAT JOB!

I have followed your career for some time and for the first time in many year's we have a Press Secretary that is honest, this means a great deal to the American people. Please do not resign. You should be use to the Press by now. I am sure that there are many many more that think as I do Mr. Nessen, you have a very difficult job, one that I would never want.

I know some members of your staff and they think VERY HIGHLY of you.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Carter
Dean



RWC;km



OFFICE OF THE DEAN
*The Congressional Schools
of Virginia*

3229 Sleepy Hollow Road
Falls Church, Virginia 22042

SPECIAL DELIVERY

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

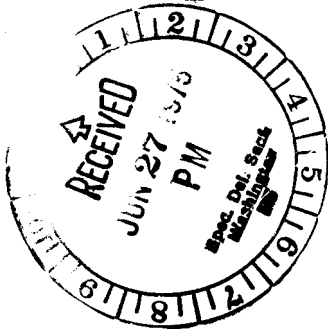
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SPECIAL DELIVERY

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July 3, 1975

Dear Mr. Sive:

Thank you for sending your views on my recent comments about a small group of reporters at my daily press briefing.

I am glad to have your thoughts on this. I am sure you realize that my comments were in no way intended as a general criticism of the press. In fact, President Ford and his White House enjoy excellent relations with the press.

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Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Mr. Charles Sive
1801 Randallia
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805

RN:ckb
RN-14



Mr Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
White House
Washington DC

1801 Randallia
Foot Wayne
Ind 46805

JUL 02 1975



Dear Mr Nessen

The writer must agree with you, that you need a change of press conference policy. As a reporter you know the problem the men and women going to the conference are not doing their home work.

When a reporter asks a President are you going to drop a atom Bomb in Korea or question on C I A that only puts the President on the spot ~~and~~ and any fool should know the answers without asking.

Mr Nessen I suggest you only cover two subjects on a program.

You tell the reporter their Press session will be on Health Education Welfare and Commerce Dept.

The next time it may be State Dept and Defense Dept.

Then the boys must get off of the butt and become news investigators and know their subject and do a little home work.

Several million of red old boys 65 and over are hot under the color about the 2520 limit on Social Security. What a question.

I do hope you will decide to run for U.S. Senator for Michigan since Senator Dost will retire.

If you wish feel free to talk to

my friend ²Fraser Jerry Brown of Lansing Mich
if Jerry does not run for Senator himself he
sure would make a good campaign manager
Jerry was a State Senator from Alpena Mich
and a lobbyist for the Great Lakes and that
is where we became good friends.

Whenever there was a grand opening of
a Great Lakes new plant, I as a rule got
Jerry to be organizer and principal speaker
Jerry has a good way round and a silver tongue
plus he knows Michigan from the Northern
point to Southern Point.

Also you may know Bill Swank Music
editor at Jackson Michigan he works for that
chain of papers in Michigan. Bill's wife also
is a news caster with the Radio at Jackson.

Bill and I went to high school at
St. Joseph Mo we were in the same graduation
class 1927.

If you talk to Bill feel free to use my
name that I told you to talk to him.

Mr. Mason recently a official of the
St. Joseph Hospital at Fort Wayne called me
and stated they want to build on a wing
to the hospital it would cost eleven
million dollars however they don't have the
money.

Cong. Gerald R. Ford was well aware that
I have opposed large welfare programs.



and I felt his veto on the housing program was right

As far as George Murray goes when he gets to heaven he will bitch because he will feel the Harp is out of tune, and if it was built in a Republican factory, you and I know George will know it is out of tune, even Jesus Christ couldn't tune it to make him happy.

My point when the housing is built the money is gone etc

Mr Nissen Fort Wayne has about 10% unemployment if the Penelgon, Health, Educati or Welfare could come up with the eleven million dollars they would hire a lot of people to put up the building plus after the building is built the Hospital would hire a lot of people which create jobs not only does it create jobs but it holds down hospital costs.

The Penelgon Ut Dept Transportation states put a lot of money into State Highways or interstates at all times we should prepare for War along with highways we should have a Hospital Program of expansion



I feel this is a good idea and would win favor with American people.

A certain percent of the money the Federal Government puts into Interstate Highways by VA Dept Transporters a certain percentage must be set aside to expand Hospitals.

Also why have a Civil Defense program if you don't have a Hospital expansion program.

Mr Nessen do you or the President know of any program where St Joseph Hospital could get eleven million dollars to expand.

St Joseph Hospital has a burn unit that is pattern from Michigan Univ and it is one of the best.

St Joseph Hospital is also close to Interstate I 69 US 30 on the new wing they could install a Helicopter Landing port for Military Helicopters.

Recently South Bend Lathé got 5 million from the Government Job Corps in Fort Wayne 8 million so some where the federal govt must have money for Hospital expansion.

Should you be able to find out anything where St Joseph Hospital could get the Eleven Million it would be appreciated if you would let me know and I'll pass along especially to proper people at St Joseph Hosp Charles Seitz Jr



MR. CHARLES SIVE
1801 RANDALLIA
FORT WAYNE, IND.
46805



Mr Ron Nesser
Press Secretary
White House
Washington
D C

Personal

WHITE HOUSE MAIL
RECEPTION & SECURITY
JUN 30 1975
Processed by:

July 18, 1975

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Thank you for your letter and sharing with me your views on the news media and its function in our society.

I read with interest your comments and observations on this issue, but would feel remiss if I did not point out my high regard for the many fine professionals in the industry. I'm sure you are aware of my recent comments during one of my daily briefings but hope you have not interpreted them as a general criticism of the press. In fact, President Ford and his White House enjoy excellent relations with the Press.

Since I made my comments, the atmosphere at my daily briefings has improved considerably, and the briefings are now better serving their intended purpose -- to provide a wealth of information on the President, his activities, and his policies to the American people.

Again, thank you for letting me know your thoughts on this issue which involves only a small part of the White House press relations, but nevertheless is important to the open flow of information to the American people which President Ford so strongly supports.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Mr. Henry Marshall
Post Office Box 1191
Lompoc, California 93436

RN/RH/mlu



June 28, 1975

Mr. Ron Nessen
The White House

JUL 01 1975

fo. Box 1191
Lempoc, CA
93836

Dear Mr. Nessen:

Sometimes I wonder whether I am the ONLY person in this country who has some apprehension - and some comprehension - of the awful power monopoly of the media and of the way it is being used.

Well, not the ONLY one. Charles Lindbergh certainly had. And Burt Wheeler. And Martin Dies. And Bob Taft - who otherwise would have been President. And Richard Nixon - from the time of Alger Hiss a marked man. They thought they had buried him twice - and they finally did. Watergate or no Watergate, he never had a chance to escape from the relentless, ruthless, implacable cold fury and hate of the institution he had helped to ~~prove~~ prove wrong on such a vital matter as The Spy Who Sat Next to the President - and was admired by Mrs. FDR, Justice Frankfurter, Dean Acheson, and the entire media except the Chicago Tribune.

Then there was Douglas MacArthur, a man of 1000 times the attainments of Eisenhower or Marshall but always had a hostile press. And McCarthy - whom the media will never allow to die. And George Wallace. Barry Goldwater. Ronald Reagan. Sam Yorty. And Spiro Agnew. Poor Spiro - for a time I pinned some hopes on him.

Mr. Nessen - FOR GOD'S SAKE don't give up this fight. It must be brutal to face what you must face, but if it is humanly possible, stand your ground. Although I fear the outcome is clear - Mr. Ford will want to maintain good media relations at all costs - including ditching a "controversial" press secretary.

Mr. Nessen WHAT IS the answer? We hear of the corrupt monopoly of executive power under Nixon. POWER? Poor fellow, he was trying to defend himself with a pea shooter compared to the power of the media. The oil company oligopoly? BIG BUSINESS? Why, they are mice, insects compared to media power.

Who IS the ESTABLISHMENT? The establishment is the media and its darlings who have free entry into its columns, free use of its mikes and cameras - Nader, Common Cause, Cesar Chavez, Rocky, Javits, Percy, Proxmire, Jackson, Tunney, Cranston, NOW, NAACP, the show biz liberals.

Of course, you know all this. But what's to do? How do you PROVE that KNX, KNXT, CBS, NBC, ABC, UPI, AP, the L.A. Times, et al are biased and wrong-headed? You would have to produce tapes of KNX 24 hours a day, ½ lb. of L.A. Times print - including the unspeakable, obscene "cartoons" of Herblock, Conrad, Oliphant, Feiffer, and that moronic Trudeau.

How anyone can listen to a press conference and have a shred of respect for the Rathers, Brokaws, and the rest of the nitpickers is beyond me. It is not questioning - it is needling, harassing, intimidating. There is not a whit of objectivity, of honest probing for real news.



No, this guy is trying to force some admission, or some statement that a construction can be pinned on that the Pentagon is planning to use nuclear weapons on North Korea - which should have been done last time - and on North Vietnam, too. This guy is trying to pin something more on the CIA or FBI. Oh - victims of the media hatchet men - J. Edgar Hoover.

Why weren't these media guys on the ball when JFK and RFK were running the show? Or FDR and Harry Hopkins? Oh, brother, if we would like to see some REAL undercover shenanigans and some real coverup - let's go back into THOSE archives. And now they are even making a saint out of old Harry!! What next?

Is there an answer? Not that I can see. Unless conservatives are satisfied to read U.S. News, National Review, Wall St. Journal and pretend that everything is all right. But is there any way of getting an objective TV news program? Or an objective TV network? Why not? Our side is supposed to have all the money - I mean the conservatives - the squares - the extremists. Why can't we have ONE honest, fair broadcast network?

Well, this is a situation which can't be saved by having M. Stanton Evans and Phyllis Schlafly on Spectrum once a week, or allowing the National Rifle Assn. to reply to another idiotic editorial by George Mikelaw of KNX. How will an occasional statement by Mr. Kelley cure the increasingly tarnished image of the FBI when, as yesterday and today, all the reports from Oglala were laced with inferences that the FBI MAY HAVE BEEN "pusing around" the Indians - (THE AGENTS pushing around a Sioux Tribe?) - well, that was what "SOME INDIANS" said - hearsay, uncorroborated, anonymous comment - like so much NEWS concocted to put into doubt what seem to be the plain facts of the Oglala incident or the SLA shootout in L.A. - which the media has unrelentingly attempted to make appear a police vendetta. (Add another victim of the media - L.A. Police Chief Ed Davis).

It doesn't really matter what the incident or situation is - if the FBI is involved - the LA Police - the CIA - you KNOW what the "news" reports are going to sound like. The police persecution of rock shows, of pot parties - the "police state" invasion of schools to try to trap drug peddlers - shocking, horrible - to the ACLU - ALWAYS the good guys.

I guess it's a losing battle, Mr. Nessen - just like it has been a losing battle in Poland, in Czecho-Slovakia, in Portugal, Vietnam, Laos, Uganda, India. There again - how much furor has been raised by Mrs. Gandhi's MONSTROUS star chamber proceedings - but what if it had been Saigon? What if it were Rhodesia?

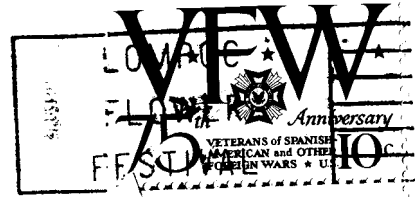
Well, again, I know I'm not telling you anything you don't know. What I don't know is what's to be done. Do you?

As Walter Cronkite says: "And that's how it is...." only when Walter says it - that's how it ISN'T.

Sincerely, *Sam Marshall*

P.S. I'm from Nebraska -64 years old - practiced law with Roman Hruska - 1938-41 - with Montgomery Ward and Sewell Avery 1941-51 - worked in food industry - personnel, advertising, PR, taught law, English free lance writer, and now work with retarded (better than lawyers).





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

Handicapped People Try
Harder. Why Don't YOU
Try the Handicapped?

July 18, 1975

Dear Miss Solenberger:

Thank you for sending your views on my recent comments about a small group of reporters at my daily press briefing.

I am glad to have your thoughts on this. I am sure you realize that my comments were in no way intended as a general criticism of the press. In fact, President Ford and his White House enjoy excellent relations with the press.

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Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Miss Marjorie Solenberger
1646 Avon Way
Petersburg, Virginia 23803

RN:ckb
RN-14



RN-14

Spelling of last
Name.



July 11, 1975

JUL 17 1975

Dear Mr. Nessen:

This seems to be such a good piece of advice, I would like to pass it on to you with sincere good wishes for better press relations.

Margie Solenberger
Solenberger

Compliments of
YOUR NEWSPAPER

THE INDEPENDENT VIRGINIAN, Inc.

Chesterfield, Virginia 23832

P. O. Box 99

748-7261



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THE DIVIDING LINE

For the Press Secretary, The Tables Are Turned

By Patrick J. Buchanan

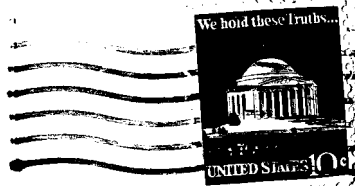


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