

The original documents are located in Box 132, folder “President, 1976-77 (4)” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Ron Nessen donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

August 3, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

RON NESSEN

Here is a copy of the September issue of the Saturday Evening Post containing a handsome article and photo layout on Mrs. Ford, written by Nick Thimmesch.

I thought you and your family might like to see it.

I have written a letter to Thimmesch on your behalf, thanking him for the article and for sending the magazine.

Attachment

RN:ct



Some items in this folder were not digitized because it contains copyrighted materials. Please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library for access to these materials.

"TEN-FOUR, FIRST MAMA"

Betty Ford's CB "handle" on the White House shows her to be a lady in touch with the rest of America.

By Nick Thimmesch

Photography by David Hume Kennerly

Betty Ford is certainly Eleanor Roosevelt. In a casual manner joining Mrs. Ford has captivated the nation. After all, for once she is not only by a relatively young man, but also by a paigner, and was not only a big attention.

She might have come as any First Lady could, which the press, and about two years ago, ratings than her husband, a full year before they popped up reading.

The quick explanation that Mrs. Ford spoke on CBS-TV "Sixty Minutes" "be surprised" if her husband have an affair, allow might lower the divorce her children had tried.

Never had a First Lady there such a reaction at the White House. The fact that Ford's political opponents who believed in a raged with Betty Ford, hoping her

August 4, 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

NOTE FOR: Mr President

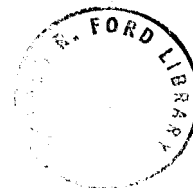
FROM : RON NESSEN

May I have your approval for this statement on the death of Rep Litton, so we can meet requests from Missouri newspapers in time for their deadlines.

RHN.

The attached statement was dictated by Ron; approved by the President and given to the press as a Statement by the President press release.

Ct



August 4, 1976

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I was shocked and saddened to learn of the tragic death of Representative Jerry Litton, his wife and their two children.

During the time that I knew Jerry Litton, I considered him to be a valued colleague and an effective Representative of his constituents.

Mrs. Ford joins me in expressing profound sympathy to Jerry Litton's relatives and friends.

APPROVED

RF

DISAPPROVED



August 12, 1976

MEMO FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

RON NESSEN

Here are a few additional Q & A's which you might want to read before your interview on Friday with the Washington Post reporters.

Also, attached is a transcript from a recent briefing by Alan Greenspan which he asked me to bring to your attention as an up-to-date and complete reiteration of your economic policies, accomplishments, and goals.

Before the interview, I also suggest that you might want to leaf through the briefing book prepared for your interview with U.S. News and World Report.

Attachments

RN:ct



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INTERVIEW WITH THE WASHINGTON POST

11:30 - 12:00 p.m.

Friday, August 13, 1976

The Oval Office

From: Ron Nessen *RAN*

I. PURPOSE

To be interviewed by a group of reporters from the Washington Post.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, PRESS PLAN

A. Background

This is the second of a very limited number of interviews you will be doing in the week before the Convention. These interviews have been carefully selected to maximize positive treatment in wide-circulation publications under the most favorable circumstances.

The interview will be published in the Washington Post on Saturday or Sunday.

Because of the three reporters participating for the Post, the questioning will be in several separate areas: politics, the Convention, the Vice Presidential choice, and the Fall campaign; foreign policy; and economics.

The interview will be published not only in the Washington Post, but in many of the 200 newspapers which subscribe to the Washington Post News Service.

B. Participants

The President
Ron Nessen

Ed Walsh - White House Correspondent
Murray Marder - Diplomatic
Correspondent

White House Photographer

Hobart Rowan - Economic Correspondent

Washington Post Photographer

C. Press Plan

A Washington Post photographer will be present during the first few minutes of the interview. White House photographs will also be taken, to be autographed and presented to the participants later as mementos of the occasion.

III. TALKING POINTS

A briefing book has been prepared for this interview, including material on foreign policy and economics in anticipation of questions from Marder and Rowan in these areas.



August 30, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here is an autographed picture from John Chancellor of NBC showing you making your way across the Convention floor immediately after your acceptance speech.

John points out that Cassie Mackin, John Hart and other NBC floor reporters are gaining on you in their efforts to interview you!

I have written John Chancellor a thank-you letter on your behalf.

Attachment:

Autographed photo from John Chancellor



RN/jb

September 7, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Attached is the latest issue of U.S. News & World Report containing the interview the magazine did with you and a similar interview with Carter.

Marvin Stone, the Editor of U.S. News & World Report, sent a supply of the magazines to the White House. I have thanked him on your behalf.

ATTACHMENT:

U.S. News & World Report - September 13, 1976

RN/jb



September 8, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here's a copy of Jim Wieghart's column from today's New York Daily News, complaining at length about Jimmy Carter's failure to be specific on the issues.

I thought you would like to see it in case you missed it in the morning paper.

I have sent a short note to Jim Wieghart saying how much we enjoyed seeing him direct his usual toughness and fairness toward Carter!

Attachment:

New York Daily News article

RN/jb



September 10, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Attached is a sample press kit for the Gerald R. Ford mural at the Grand Rapids airport.

Tom Lee put together the press kit. He says the information will not be released until such time as the mural is completed and dedicated.

I suspect that part of his purpose in sending this press kit to the White House was to nudge us into setting a date for the dedication! I have written to Tom Lee, thanking him for the press kit but making no commitment on a dedication date.

Attachment:

Press Kit - The Gerald R. Ford Mural

RN/jb



September 13, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here are some questions and suggested answers for your Today Show interview in the morning.

I understand from Dick Cheney that we will be meeting with you about 45 minutes before the interview for a final discussion of what points you will want to make on the program and any last-minute news developments.

Attachment:

Briefing Book

RN/jb



September 14, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Your communications strategy group recommends that Vice President Rockefeller, after his meeting with you today, come out to the West Wing driveway and talk to reporters. He would use this opportunity to announce that he and Senator Dole are beginning a campaign swing through New York State on Thursday. He would state that you would expect to win New York State and are going all out to win.

Dick Cheney feels that if you agree with this strategy, you should ask the Vice President to do it at your meeting with him today.

If you agree, the Vice President could stop in my office after his meeting with you, and I would work out the arrangements.

*Yes - VP
did it*

cc: Dick Cheney



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 14, 1976

Done.
Returned
by U.P.

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

RAN

Your communications strategy group recommends that Vice President Rockefeller, after his meeting with you today, come out to the West Wing driveway and talk to reporters. He would use this opportunity to announce that he and Senator Dole are beginning a campaign swing through New York State on Thursday. He would state that you would expect to win New York State and are going all out to win.

Dick Cheney feels that if you agree with this strategy, you should ask the Vice President to do it at your meeting with him today.

If you agree, the Vice President could stop in my office after his meeting with you, and I would work out the arrangements.

Ruff

cc: Dick Cheney

September 20, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here is a preview copy of the Reader's Digest article, to be released in the next few days, containing the interview the magazine did with you and Jimmy Carter.

I have written a letter of thanks on your behalf to the Editor-in-Chief.

Attachment:

Reader's Digest Article

RN/jb



NOT FOR CIRCULATION

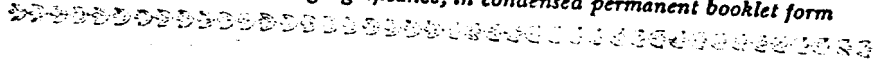
The 8/310

55TH YEAR

Reader's Digest

OCTOBER 1976

An article a day of enduring significance, in condensed permanent booklet form



Conversation With the Candidates

Recently, on successive days, editors of The Reader's Digest interviewed the two Presidential candidates: Democratic nominee Jimmy Carter, in his home in Plains, Georgia; and then the Republican nominee, President Gerald Ford, in the Oval Office of the White House. Each man was asked the same questions, in the same sequence. The questions were selected to probe those areas, both domestic and international, which most directly concern U.S. voters. On the pages that follow, the responses of the two candidates may be readily compared. Through this comprehensive debate-in-print, each reader will be able to evaluate the positions of the two nominees on a wide variety of issues, a process that should help in making an informed choice in the voting booth on November 2.

Q There is today in the American people a certain distrust of government. What would you do, concretely, to try to restore that trust?

Governor Carter: I would do everything I could to open up the government to the people. I would hold frequent cross-examination-type press conferences. I would

minimize the "palace guard" orientation of the White House staff. As we evolve major policy decisions, I would do everything I could to involve Congress and the public in a bipartisan way. I would also make all appointments on the basis of merit and not as a political payoff.

President Ford: I think there has been a tremendous improvement in

September 30, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Attached is a new special report from Time Magazine containing portraits and biographies of all the Presidents from George Washington to you.

It was sent to you by the officials of Time Magazine and I have written them a thank you note in your behalf.

I found this to be a fascinating publication. The section on you is well written and fair. I think you will share my enthusiasm.

Attachment:

Time Magazine - The American Presidents



RN/jb

September 30, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

These pictures were taken and sent to you by Tom Shine, an Assistant Producer for ABC News. He took them during your recent interview with Harry Reasoner.

I have sent him a thank you note in your behalf.

Attachment:

Pictures of the President



October 5, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Mr. President, the publisher of the Indian River Life sent you this edition featuring a picture layout on your niece, Emily Ford.

You better not tell Kennerly you have a niece that looks like this!

Attachment

RN/mcb



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 17, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DICK CHENEY

FROM: RON NESSEN *RAN*

SUBJECT: Press and Related Interview Requests Before
You Leave Office

As I promised yesterday, I am sending you a list of the major requests I have received for press interviews and related appearances by you between now and January 20th. If you will indicate which, if any, of these invitations you wish to accept I will work out the schedule arrangements and other details.

1. THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB. The National Press Club invites you to deliver your farewell speech and answer some questions at a lunch sometime shortly before January 20th. Club officials claim that this is a tradition followed by many, but not all, Presidents going back to William Howard Taft. My recommendation is to decline this invitation and give your farewell speech on national television in the evening from the Oval Office.

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

2. CBS' BICENTENNIAL MINUTE. For the past year CBS has been broadcasting each evening at 8:30 or 9:00 p.m. a one-minute statement by various public personalities on a particular phase of the bicentennial celebration. Mrs. Ford did one, as did other members of your Administration. The final bicentennial minute will be broadcast on December 31st and CBS invites you to deliver the final bicentennial minute. Your comments would consist of a brief overall statement on

what the bicentennial celebration has meant to the nation. I recommend that you do this one.

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

3. SAUL PETT OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS. If you recall, Saul Pett, the very well-known and talented feature writer for the Associated Press was granted the very first interview with you shortly after you became President. Now, he is asking to conduct one of the final interviews with you before you leave the Presidency. He asked me to have you read personally his request for this interview which I have attached. It speaks for itself.

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

4. DICK GROWALD OF THE UPI. Dick Growald has now left the White House beat to become a roving national reporter for the UPI but he has had pending for some time a request to follow you around all day long to do a story entitled, "A Day in the Life of the President." Growald is a sympathetic and very likable reporter and, since we owe the UPI an exclusive interview to offset a previous exclusive interview given to the AP, I recommend that if you do any wire service interview before leaving office that you grant an interview to Growald rather than Saul Pett.

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

5. ISSUES AND ANSWERS. You have participated in NBC's Meet the Press and CBS' Face the Nation but have never appeared on the third Sunday interview show, ABC's Issues and Answers. The program would like very much for you to do so before you leave office. I recommend that you do this.

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

6. JOHN OSBORNE. Osborne is doing another book, this time on the history of the Ford Administration. The book is to be published in May

or June of 1977. He would like about one hour of your time to discuss your own memories of the past two and a half years.

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

7. NEW YORK TIMES. The New York Times has had an interview request pending for over a year. The paper has recently refined that request to a joint interview with Jim Naughton and Phil Shabecoff. Shabecoff will be writing the newspaper's definitive article about your Administration as it draws to a close. Naughton will be writing a long and colorful account of your entire life.

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

8. OTHER REQUESTS.

--THE BALTIMORE SUN, for a relaxed review of your Administration.

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

--JOHN MASHEK OF U. S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, for a look back at your Administration, and some questions about your future plans.

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

--HAYNES JOHNSON OF THE WASHINGTON POST, who wants to do an interview on what he describes as your human reactions to being President in a difficult time and to losing in a very close election.

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

--JERRY TER HORST, for an interview.

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

--GOOD MORNING AMERICA ON ABC TV, for an interview with you and Mrs. Ford with Steve Bell and David Hartman on the human side of the Presidency.

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

--MARTIN AGRONSKY, for an interview on his new PBS TV show.

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

--A 3 OR 4 MINUTE FILMED INTERVIEW WITH JOHNNY GRANT OF KTLA-TV, LOS ANGELES, on what Christmas means to you and your family. This would be used by Grant on television to help promote his "toys for tots" program of collecting Christmas toys for poor children. Bob Hope and others have taped similar segments to help Johnny Grant with this project. You will recall that Grant was helpful in your campaign in California. I, Terry O'Donnell and others recommend that you do this if you have the time.

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

--TIME MAGAZINE, Hugh Sidey and Strobe Talbott want an interview on "the Presidency, the political process, and your own career."

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 18, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

RON NESSEN

RNA

SUBJECT:

Press Coverage of Carter Visit

Terry O'Donnell, Mike Duval and I recommend the following press plan for the visit of President-Elect and Mrs. Carter to the White House next Monday:

The Carters would arrive by auto on the South Grounds at the walkway leading to the Oval Office.

They would be greeted there by you and Mrs. Ford.

There would be no press coverage of this initial greeting.

You and Carter would go into the Oval Office. Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Carter would go into the Residence.

There would be a press photo in the Oval Office, with you seated behind the desk and Carter beside the desk.

There would be a separate press photo of Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Carter in one of the state rooms, preferably the Blue Room.

At the conclusion of the meetings you and Mrs. Ford would escort President-Elect and Mrs. Carter down the walkway from the Oval Office to their car on the South Driveway.

There would be press coverage of this departure.

There would be an optional microphone in case you and President-Elect Carter care to say anything to the assembled press.

November 30, 1976

Dear Hy:

I want you to know how deeply appreciative I and my family are for your very, very meaningful editorial cartoon with its complimentary caption about our years here in the White House.

It was doubly thoughtful of you to respond so promptly to my request for the original of this cartoon. I can assure you that it will have a treasured place among my mementos of my time as President of the United States.

Of course, I am disappointed by the outcome of the election. But that disappointment is eased by the knowledge that you and so many others do understand what I have tried to do in the past two and a half years.

Betty and the children join me in sending you our thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely,

**Mr. Hy Rosen
Times Union
Albany, New York 12201**

RN:jb



December 1, 1976

Dear Mrs. Folliard:

Betty and I were deeply saddened to learn of Eddie's death. He was truly a legend among Washington journalists. He created that legend by his fairness, his tireless pursuit of the facts, and his total dedication to the highest principles of the free press.

Journalism, and indeed all of us who have been privileged to know Eddie over the years, are diminished by his passing.

Mrs. Ford and I extend to you and your two children our very deep sympathy in this time of grief.

Sincerely,

**Mrs. Helen Folliard
3200 44th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.**

RN/jb



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

INTERVIEW WITH JOHNNY GRANT

December 1, 1976

11:30 a. m. (15 min.)

Map Room

From: Ron Nessen

RAW

I. PURPOSE

To be interviewed by Johnny Grant of Los Angeles station, KTLA, for broadcast as part of his annual "Toys For Tots" campaign.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, PRESS PLAN

A. Background

Johnny Grant has been a friend and supporter of yours.

In conjunction with the United States Marine Corps Reserve, he is using his broadcasts on KTLA in Los Angeles to collect toys to distribute to needy children at Christmas as part of the Toys For Tots program.

He will interview you, on film, for approximately 5 to 10 minutes about your memories of pleasant or particularly outstanding Christmases and what Christmas means to your family.

The interview will be broadcast in Los Angeles on Saturday sometime between 1 and 4 p. m., local time. Grant is the Southern California Co-chairman of the Toys For Tots campaign, which is now in its 29th year.

A number of other celebrities are filming similar interviews with Grant for use on his program in promoting the Toys For Tots campaign.

Two Marines, representing the co-sponsoring organization will be present at the filming. Grant will bring along a few toys to demonstrate, on the air, the kind of contributions which are being solicited for the needy children.

B. Participants

The President
Johnny Grant
Ron Hansen
Helen Collins
Film Crews

C. Press Plan

The interview will not be announced. White House photos will be taken, autographed by the President and sent to Johnny Grant later as a memento of the occasion.

III. TALKING POINTS

No briefing papers will be prepared since all questions will be about your personal recollection of the experiences of past Christmases. Obviously, at some point in the interview, you will want to congratulate Johnny Grant for his leadership in the Toys For Tots campaign and wish him good luck with this year's worthy project.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INTERVIEW WITH BARBARA WALTERS
December 4, 1976
2:30 p.m. (1 hr.)
Family Floor of the White House

From: Ron Nessen

RAW

I. PURPOSE

To take part in the video taping by Barbara Walters of her one hour special television program on the White House and the life of you and Mrs. Ford in the White House.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, PRESS PLAN

A. Background

You and Mrs. Ford agreed to do this interview several months ago.

Originally, you and Mrs. Ford were scheduled to be interviewed on half of Barbara Walters' new ABC-TV interview program going on the air December 14. (Barbara Streisand was to be on the second half.) However, after the election, Barbara Walters decided to substitute an interview with Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter for her first program. She invited you and Mrs. Ford to take part instead in a one hour special of your own to be broadcast on ABC-TV on Sunday, January 2, from 7 to 8 p.m. You and Mrs. Ford agreed to this revised plan.

The program will consist of a 1/2 hour interview & 1/2 hr. tour of a number of rooms in the White House conducted by Mrs. Ford. (The taping of this portion of the program will take place from noon to 1:30 p.m. with Mrs. Ford and Barbara Walters. You will not be involved.)

After giving Mrs. Ford a chance to rest, the actual interview will be conducted by Barbara Walters from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. You and Mrs. Ford will be interviewed at the same time.

Because the program will not be broadcast for almost a month, no hard news questions are expected. Rather, Barbara will want to ask you about your memories of the White House years (she calls this a mellow retrospective) and will ask you to look ahead and discuss some of your plans for the years ahead. Some specific questions to be asked by Barbara are listed under talking points.

B. Participants

The President
Mrs. Ford
Barbara Walters
Tom Capra, the producer (he is the son of Frank Capra, the
movie producer and your friend in Palm Springs)
Ron Nessen
Helen Collins
Television film crew

C. Press Plan

The interview will not be announced, although some reporters already know about it. ABC-TV will begin advertising the one hour special program shortly. White House photos will be taken, autographed by the President and Mrs. Ford, and sent to Barbara and the other participants as a memento of the occasion.

III. TALKING POINTS

Barbara already has indicated some of the questions she intends to ask you. Sheila Weidenfeld and I are having breakfast with her on Saturday to learn in more detail what she will be asking, and I will pass this information on to you and Mrs. Ford before the interview begins.

The questions Barbara intends to ask almost all require a personal answer based on your own memories or feelings, and therefore I have not attempted to suggest answers to the following anticipated questions:

What offers of jobs have you had?

Do you know now what you are going to do or where you are going to live after leaving the White House?

Some people have called the White House a prison, a very lonely place. Is that the way it seemed to you?

Is the responsibility of being President a crushing burden?

What will you miss most about the White House?

Can you recall the most special night or day you spent in the White House?

What do you think is the future of the Republican party? Do you think the Republican party is dead or dying? What role will you play in the future of the Republican party?

Can you give us a personal view of the world leaders you have met? Brezhnev? Sadat? Schmidt? Giscard?

As you turn the White House over to Jimmy Carter, what is your greatest concern for the future? What do you see as the greatest danger facing the United States in the years immediately ahead?

How do you think Watergate will be treated by those who write history in the years ahead?

Do you think Watergate had any effect on the outcome of the Presidential election?

What do you remember most about your childhood? Do you think the fact that you were adopted after your mother divorced your real father had any effect on the formulation of your character?

You seem to have a very close, warm, and lasting marriage at a time when many marriages seem to fall apart. What is the secret of your marriage?

This program is going to be broadcast the day after New Years. Do you have any special words at this New Years season to address to your fellow Americans as you leave the White House?



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INTERVIEW WITH DICK GROWALD

December 8, 1976

10:30 a. m. (30 minutes)

Oval Office

From: Ron Nessen



I. PURPOSE

To be interviewed by Dick Growald of United Press International.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, PRESS PLAN

A. Background

Among the limited number of press interviews you have indicated you wish to conduct before January 20th, this interview with Dick Growald of UPI will be the first to be published.

UPI plans to run various stories and at least a partial text of the interview on its wire for publication in Sunday morning papers all over the United States.

Dick Growald has been one of UPI's White House correspondents (along with Helen Thomas) for the last year or so. This interview will conclude his service at the White House and he will move to New York to become a roving national reporter for UPI.

Growald has been an understanding reporter in his coverage of the White House, almost always producing fuller and fairer stories than many other reporters covering the White House. In addition, he is a worldly, intelligent and amusing man who has become personal friends with many members of your White House Press Office and White House staff.

B. Participants

The President
Dick Growald
Ron Nessen

C. Press Plan

UPI has already announced to its client newspapers that Growald has been granted the interview and that the stories will begin to move on the UPI wire on Wednesday for publication in Sunday papers. We will make a transcript of the interview and have it available for other reporters to look at following the UPI publication. White House and UPI photos will be taken during the interview.

III. TALKING POINTS

Growald will concentrate primarily on your recollections of the White House years, including the election campaign. He will also explore with you your plans for the future to the degree that you have made them. The questions both about the past and about the future will be similar to those asked by Barbara Walters last Saturday. There are no current major public issues about which Growald is likely to inquire. Therefore, since your answers will be drawn almost entirely from your own personal recollections and plans for the future, no Q & A briefing book has been prepared for this interview.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TAPE BICENTENNIAL MINUTE

Friday, December 10, 1976

1:30 p.m. (15 minutes)

The Oval Office

From: Ron Nessen *R.N.*

I. PURPOSE

To tape a brief statement on the Bicentennial to be broadcast as the final Bicentennial Minute on CBS, December 31, 1976.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, PRESS PLAN

A. Background

For the past two years CBS has broadcast at 8:30 or 9:00 each night a one minute statement by a well-known public figure on some aspect of the Bicentennial celebration.

These brief recollections of some historic aspect of the Bicentennial have been widely praised. Among those who have appeared on these broadcasts are Mrs. Ford, members of your White House staff and Administration, and many other highly respected public figures.

The taping will be done in the Oval Office under the supervision of a specially selected and highly talented CBS video tape production team.

The statement you are to read will be on teleprompter. It is a composite of drafts suggested by CBS, Bob Hartmann, Jack Marsh and Dave Gergen.

Don Penny will be available in the hours before the taping to work with you on the delivery if you wish.

B. Participants

The President
Ron Nessen
Helen Collins
Don Penny
CBS Video Tape Crew

C. Press Plan

Your participation will be acknowledge to the press. CBS may devote some publicity to your spot. White House photographs will be taken and sent to the participants later as a memento of the occasion.

III. TALKING POINTS

Attached is a text of your bicentennial minute.

Attachment:

Text

CBS - BICENTENNIAL MINUTE

Good evening.

More than two years ago, we began our Bicentennial celebration.

It was a time to take a fresh look at our past, and a time to move forward together into our future.

These Bicentennial Minutes have focused attention on all aspects of the birth of our Nation -- the hopes, the determination and the common sense that were summoned to establish American freedom and to keep its promise alive.

The Bicentennial year and the Bicentennial Minutes end tonight. But as our first resolution of the New Year, let us pledge to keep the Spirit of '76 alive and burning brightly.

Thank you, and a happy New Year to you all.

#

December 11, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

Ron Nessen

The publisher of Palm Springs Life magazine, Milton Jones, heard that you and Mrs. Ford are likely to settle in Palm Springs after leaving the White House, and thought you might enjoy leafing through these magazines to learn more about your future home (and its golf courses!).

I am drafting a thank you note in your name.

Attachments--2

RN:ct



December 11, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

Ron Nessen

SUBJECT:

Phyllis George Interview

The interview you taped with Phyllis George yesterday will be broadcast on CBS on Sunday.

The plan is to play all or most of the interview during the pre-game show between 12:30 and 1 p. m.

In case the entire interview is not broadcast at that time, CBS will run the rest of it during the half-time of the Redskins-Dallas game, which begins at 4 p. m.

WHCA will record the interview as broadcast, so if you or any member of your family are not able to watch it at the time of broadcast, you will be able to have it played back later.

Just as a reminder, Phyllis George indicated that she would be in Vail at least part of the time you are there. You may want to invite her to ski with you or participate in some other activity there.

RN:ct



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 10, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

RON NESSEN
TERRY O'DONNELL

FROM:

HELEN COLLINS 

SUBJECT:

PHYLLIS GEORGE INTERVIEW

CBS plans to air the Phyllis George interview with the President this Sunday during the 12:30-1:00 pm pre-game show. As the piece may not air in its entirety, it may be concluded during half-time of the Redskins game which begins at 4:00 pm. WHCA will plan to record it in the event the President or a member of the First Family is not able to view it during the broadcast times.

December 10, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

Ron Nessen

Here is the National Geographic article, photographed and written by Fred Ward on his recent trip to Cuba, which he mentioned to you in the office the other day.

As you can see, it is a truly extraordinary portrayal in photographs and written form of the situation in Cuba today.

I am drafting a thank you letter in your name which I will send in for your signature when completed.

Attachment

RN:ct



December 18, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

Ron Nessen

Malcolm Forbes sent in the attached January issue of his magazine and a letter which he thought you might enjoy.

Attachment



December 18, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

Ron Nessen

Dick Wright, the **editorial** cartoonist for the Journal Bulletin, at your request, sent you a framed original of his editorial cartoon on restoring the White House.

I have drafted the attached **thank you note** for your signature. Wright also requested that you write a short inscription and autograph the enclosed copy of the editorial cartoon.

Attachments

RN:ct



December 30, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Attached is a copy of a national ski directory sent to you by the publishers.

It does not guarantee that all the ski areas will have good snow!

I have sent a thank you letter in your behalf.

Attachment

RN/mcb



January 8, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

Ron Nessen

Here is a copy of the local society magazine, The Washington Dossier, containing the special cover story on you and Mrs. Ford.

As you see, it consists of a very attractive photo layout and then a series of comments and tributes to you by many of your friends.

I have a number of additional copies of this magazine if you want them.

Attachment

RN:ct



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 5, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

Ron Nessen

RNA

Here is a copy of the local society magazine, The Washington Dossier, containing the special cover story on you and Mrs. Ford.

As you see, it consists of a very attractive photo layout and then a series of comments and tributes to you by many of your friends.

I have a number of additional copies of this magazine if you want them.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1/10/77

Mr. Nessen:

The President wants to know if he could get four more copies of this magazine.

If you are able to obtain four more, will you please send them directly to me.

Thanks for your help.

Dorothy Downton

Sent 1/11/77

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 7, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN *RHN*

Mr. President, a television station in Grand Rapids phoned this morning with the news that a friend of yours, Don Treu, a pilot who sometimes flew you on private trips, was killed in a crash in Flint today.

Dorothy Downton knows about this and is preparing the necessary letter of condolence.

1/7/77
2:00

Ron,

The President dictated the following statement which he said you could release to the press:

"I am saddened by the death of a very close friend who was not only a wonderful person but a superb pilot."

Dorothy

*Read over phone
by me 1/7/77
3:45 p.m.*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 13, 1977

Dear Mr. President:

It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your Press Secretary these past two and a half years.

History will record that you restored to the White House the integrity, the honesty, the openness and the common-sense approach which the American people expect and deserve from their President.

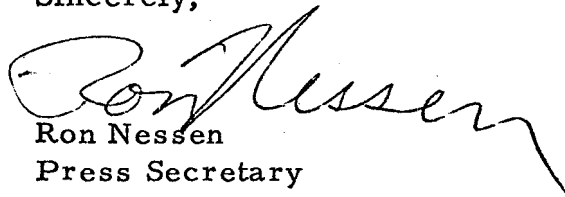
It has been my privilege to be chosen to help you revive the healthy relationship between the press and the White House, which is essential in a democracy.

Now that others have been selected to carry on the work you have begun so well, I hereby submit my resignation, effective at noon on January 20, 1977.

I'm delighted that you intend to remain active in the affairs of our nation. I stand ready to provide you with any assistance you may need at any time in the future.

May God bless you with continued happiness, good health, esteem and peace, which you have earned.

Sincerely,



Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INTERVIEW WITH SAUL PETT

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Monday, January 17, 1977

2:00 p.m. (45 minutes)

The Oval Office

From: Ron Nessen *RHN*

I. PURPOSE

To be interviewed by Saul Pett, the Associated Press, as your term comes to an end.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, PRESS PLAN

A. Background

Saul Pett of the Associated Press is one of the best known and most skillful feature writers in the country. Because of his reputation, it was decided to grant Saul Pett the very first exclusive interview after you became President in the summer of 1974.

Saul asked for, and you approved, the idea of his coming to see you during these last days in the White House to do one of the final interviews.

His article on the interview, and at least a partial transcript, will be transmitted by the Associated Press to hundreds of newspapers for publication on or around Inauguration Day.

B. Participants

The President
Saul Pett
Ron Nessen
Associated Press Photographer



C. Press Plan

The interview will not be announced in advanced but will be acknowledged. A transcript will be made and available to other White House correspondents after publication.

III. TALKING POINTS

The questions Saul Pett will ask will be similar to those in other recent farewell interviews and therefore no special Q & A briefing book has been prepared.

