

The original documents are located in Box 43, folder “President - Assassination Attempts Fromme, Lynette (4)” of the Philip Buchen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 1

The President's deposition in the Fromme case was taken at 10 a.m. in Room 345 of the Old Executive Office Building. Present were Thomas J. MacBride, United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California; John Virga, attorney for the defendant; Dwayne Keyes, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California, and Richard Thornburgh, Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, who represent the prosecution; and Richard Fong, a court reporter. The deposition was taken on videotape and turned over to the court.



October 31, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President's deposition will be taken at 10:00 AM Saturday in Room 345 of the Executive Office Building. Present at the meeting will be U.S. District Judge Thomas J. MacBride of the Eastern District of California; John Virga, Attorney for the defendant; Dwayne Keyes, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California, and Richard Thornburg, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, who represent the prosecution, and Richard Fong, a court reporter.

The Navy Photo Center will provide the videotaping equipment and technicians to operate it. The videotape will be turned over to the court and will be shown only during the trial. Defense and prosecution attorneys will receive a written transcript of the deposition.

Court rules preclude press coverage.

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President
Lynette Brown
USA

Mr. Richard Thornburgh called to advise that the November 1, 10:00 a.m. date is firm and what he considers appropriate arrangements have been made with respect to the custody of the video tape. There remains some nuts and bolts problems to work out which he would like to talk with you about. He can be reached at home on 338-6959 or at his office 739-2601.



*President -
Gronne
case*

Monday 11/10/75

10:00 Margaret Donohoe stopped by with the attached.
She checked with Mr. Ratchford and Jack Hushen
and they suggested she check with you on the language
to be used for inclusion of the deposition in Presidential
Documents -- to be included in the digest of announcements
at the back of the issue.

2121

Also attached is a copy of the Press Release that was issued.

Mr. B said OK



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 11, 1975

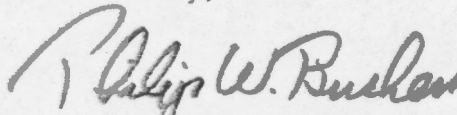
*Pres-
Court case*

Dear Mr. Salvan:

In behalf of the President, thank you for your letter of October 21, 1975, urging the President to consent to a video taped deposition in connection with United States v. Fromme.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the deposition was taken on November 1. We appreciate your concern in this matter as well as the opportunity to review your article on the use of video tape in our legal system.

Sincerely,



Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mr. Sherwood Allen Salvan
501 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10017



United States District Court
Eastern District of California
Sacramento, California 95814

Chambers of
Thomas J. MacBride
Chief Judge

November 17, 1975

Mr. Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Buchen:

I apologize for the long delay in responding to your letter to me of November 3rd and to thank you for the many courtesies that you and the President extended to me during my visit to Washington on November 1st. My delay was not unintentional. I have been waiting for Mr. Fong, my Court Reporter, to complete transcription of his stenographic notes made at the hearing so that copies of the transcript could be delivered to both the attorney for the Government and defense to the end that they could both check it for accuracy. Because he has been required to produce a "daily transcript" in the trial, it wasn't until last Thursday that he was able to furnish counsel with copies of the transcript of the November 1st hearing. Thursday afternoon I received their approval of the transcript, and in accordance with my agreement with you and Mr. Thornburgh the tape was erased in my presence Friday morning before the trial of the case was resumed.

By the time you receive this letter you will already be aware of the fact that Mr. Virga did in fact use the President as his first witness Friday afternoon.

The proceeding went quite smoothly. Four television cameras were set up in the courtroom in order that the press and spectators in the courtroom would have full view of one of the monitors. A second monitor was placed in front of the television camera, the picture from which was seen only by the defendant Fromme in her cell down in the Marshal's office. (I have been required to remove her from the trial proceedings because she insists on disrupting the trial proceedings.) The other two monitors were placed in front of the jury.

Mr. Philip W. Buchen

November 17, 1975

I have caused the videotape to be placed in a secure position from which it will not be removed until all proceedings in this matter are concluded. It is obvious that it would be improper to destroy it now for the reason that if Miss Fromme is convicted and she takes the matter up on a successful appeal, then a new trial may be required. In that event the videotape would be used again in the new trial.

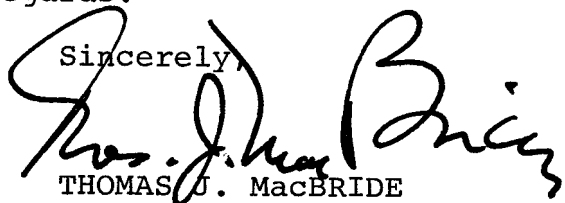
Again, I want to express my thanks to you and the President for your kindnesses. I felt very contrite in imposing upon the President in the manner that I did, however both his and your remarks to me were evidence of the fact that you appreciated my obligation as a Judge, and accordingly my conscience was eased.

I want to also thank you for sending to me the article from the 1975 University of Illinois Law Forum covering the history of Presidents and ex-Presidents as witnesses. The arrival of the article was quite timely. I have just finished conversing with a newsman, and frankly I was able to speak rather authoritatively on the subject -- but solely -- because of the Illinois Law Forum article.

I can't anticipate your coming to Sacramento, but as both a member of the United States Judicial Conference and a member of a Subcommittee of that Conference, I have occasion to be in Washington from time to time. I hope that on one of those occasions our paths will cross again.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,


THOMAS J. MacBRIDE

TJM:m

P.S. As I told you just before the President gave his testimony, I happen to be a Democrat with my partisan and political wings thoroughly clipped by reason of my judicial status. Nonetheless this does not deny me the right to say that I think your boss is a good man doing a fine job.

TJM



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 23, 1976

Dear Mrs. Gilman:

In behalf of the President, I thank you for sending him a copy of the National Shorthand Reporter which contains the interesting account by Mr. Richard Fong about the video taping of the President's testimony in the case of U. S. v. Fromme.

As one who participated in this historic event, I can testify to the authenticity of Mr. Fong's article.

You are to be commended for providing the readers of your magazine with an article which, I am sure, was of great interest to them.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Buchen

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mrs. Mary Louise Gilman
Editor
The National Shorthand Reporter
826 Main Street
Hanover, Massachusetts 02339

*Pres.
Court Case*





NATIONAL SHORTHAND REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

Suite 608 2361 South Jefferson Davis Highway Arlington, Virginia 22202 703/920-6786

Mary Louise Gilman, Editor
The National Shorthand Reporter
826 Main Street
Hanover, MA 02339
Phone 617/878-0625

January 14, 1976

PB-1

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Ford:

You will perhaps remember the young man who reported by steno-
type your videotaped testimony in Washington last November 1.

Since this was a first in American legal history--a President's giving testimony through the medium of videotape--I knew that the nation's court reporters, most of whom read *The National Shorthand Reporter*, would be most interested in a story about it. When I learned the name of the shorthand reporter, Mr. Richard J. Fong of Sacramento (Judge MacBride's regular reporter), I telephoned him. Would he be willing to write it up for us? Though he was quite busy getting out daily copy on the Fromme case, he said he would somehow find time to prepare the article.

For many years the publication I now edit has had, from time to time, articles on important cases under the general heading of *Who Reported It?* The one in our January issue, just out, titled "The President's Testimony," is perhaps the most important story in this category we have ever run. I am sending you a copy of the issue and hope you will find the article of interest.

Respectfully yours,

Mary Louise Gilman
(Mrs.) Mary Louise Gilman, Editor
The National Shorthand Reporter
826 Main Street, Hanover, Mass. 02339

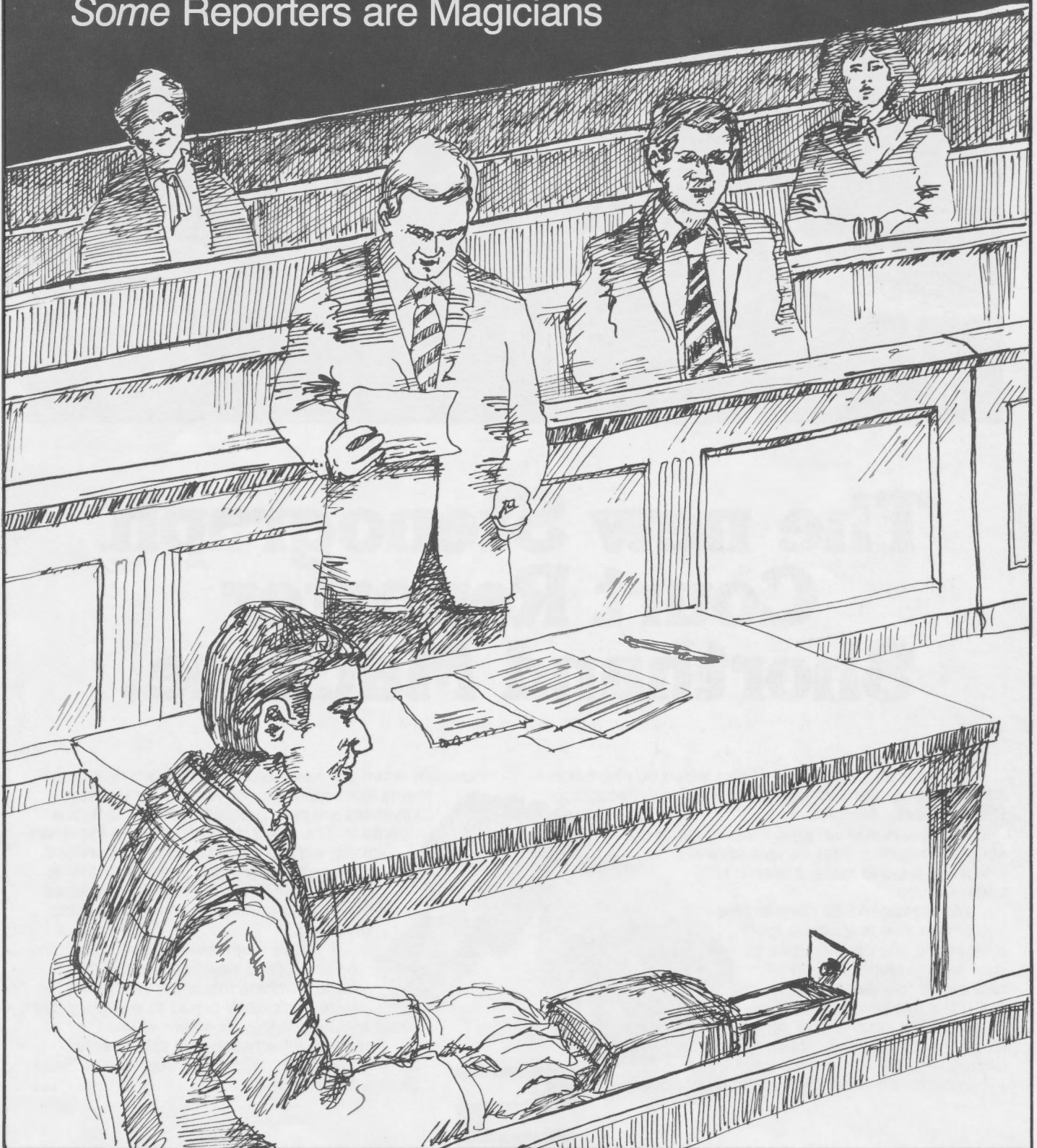


Some items in this folder were not digitized because it contains copyrighted materials. Please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library for access to these materials.

NATIONAL SHORTHAND REPORTER

Cy P. 26

The President's Testimony
View from the Bar
Some Reporters are Magicians



JANUARY, 1976

Who Reported It?

USA v. Lynette Fromme

The President's Testimony

By Richard J. Fong



It lasted only nineteen minutes, while President Ford was "on camera" and being reported by me, but it was the high point of my reporting career.

United States of America v. Lynette Alice Fromme, accused of attempting to assassinate the President, would of course rank as an interesting case in any reporter's book. I had taken it from the inception, the arraignments and so on, before the Honorable

which I hadn't used for months. In my excitement at participating in this historic event, I hadn't thoroughly checked out my equipment. Though I lacked the proper tools, with some improvising I made all the necessary adjustments. Everything, finally, was in order for the hearing scheduled for the next morning.

On Saturday, November 1, the two U.S. marshals picked us up at 9:15 and escorted us to the Executive Office Building. This historic Washington landmark, once headquarters of the War Department, is located across Pennsylvania Avenue from Blair House and immediately west of the White House. Security personnel there quickly cleared us after checking our briefcases and equipment.

The large room to which we were directed, which was to serve as an impromptu courtroom, had been set up in advance. Tables were arranged in a modified horseshoe fashion amidst the video equipment, from which a mass of wires and cables ran in all directions. The President, when he arrived, sat at the head of the horseshoe arrangement; Judge MacBride sat at a table to his right. At separate tables on the President's left were John Virga, defense co-counsel; Dwayne Keyes, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California; and Richard Thornburgh, Assistant Attorney General of the United States Criminal Divi-

United States District Court
Eastern District of California
Sacramento, California 95814

Chambers of
Thomas J. MacBride
Chief Judge

April 14, 1976

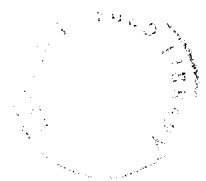
Mr. Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Buchen:

I enjoyed being able to renew our acquaintance at the Roscoe Pound Conference last week. I am sure that I gained more than I gave, which is all the more reason for my pleasure in having been able to attend. I will admit however -- that I am still attempting to untangle the speech delivered by the Director of the Hudson Institute.

During one of our conversations we discussed Governor Brown's prospects for the Democratic nomination. Upon my return home I found among the newspapers that had accumulated during my absence an article in the Sacramento Bee, which I feel is an accurate and perceptive appraisal of our Governor.

The McClatchy newspapers pretty much dominate the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley. They publish the Sacramento Bee, Fresno Bee, and Modesto Bee. In addition, the company owns a radio and television station in Sacramento, and I believe another radio and television facility in the southern portion of the valley. In any event, they are a potent force in Central California. They have supported many Republican candidates, and normally support an incumbent regardless of his party. If the incumbent is a Republican who is being contested by a Democrat of questionable qualifications, the company has been known to "take a walk" on their recommendations and editorial policy. My guess is that in the Republican primary, if they were to make an endorsement, they would probably endorse President Ford for the reason that



Mr. Philip W. Buchen

-2-

April 14, 1976

Governor Reagan was never a favorite with the McClatchys during his eight years as Governor of California. Obviously, this is pure speculation on my part. Generally speaking, the McClatchy newspapers support Democrats, public power, gun control, and stiff penalties for criminal conduct -- including the death penalty.

I am enclosing the aforementioned article. I hope it will be of some help to you in making your own appraisal of our Governor.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tom MacBride", written in a cursive style.

THOMAS J. MacBRIDE

TJM:m

Enclosure



The Sacramento Bee

Locally owned and operated for 118 years

JAMES McCLATCHY, founder, editor, 1857-1883

C. K. McCLATCHY, editor, president, 1883-1936

WALTER P. JONES, editor, 1936-1974



Published weekday afternoons
and Saturday and Sunday mornings by
McCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

ELEANOR McCLATCHY, president
C. K. McCLATCHY, editor

Vol. 236—No. 39,163
Thursday, April 8, 1976

Editor's Notebook

Candidate Brown — An Appraisal



By C. K. McClatchy, EDITOR

JERRY BROWN, California's highly popular liberal-conservative-existentialist governor, is now running for the presidency of the United States after lecturing Californians for 15 months on the virtues of leadership

government process does more good than harm. Probably very little real harm has been done to the citizens of California by this practice, at least thus far, but it does make one wonder what would happen if he implemented

leader can set a tone, can express a philosophy." He can describe a future that is possible and try to lead people to that destiny.

This thesis may miss many prac-

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 14, 1976

Dear Judge MacBride:

Lest you think I have forgotten my promise to look into the matter of a photograph taken by our White House photographer at the time of your appearance here for the deposition of the President, I do want to assure you that I have a request in for a print of an appropriate photograph.

Unfortunately, there may be some delay because those particular pictures were handled separately to avoid any risk of their being published, and the security precaution taken seems to have been excessive.

It was good seeing you again at the St. Paul conference.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Buchen

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

The Honorable Thomas J. MacBride
Chief Judge
U. S. District Court
Sacramento, California

*MacBride,
Thom. J.
(Judge)*



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 27, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: DAVID KENNERLY
FROM: PHILIP W. BUCHEN

Judge Thomas MacBride, the presiding Judge during the time the President gave his deposition in the Fromme case, would like a photograph taken of the the President and the Judge during that time. The meeting took place on November 1, 1975, in the Executive Office Building -- Room 460.

Would you kindly provide my office with such a photograph.

Thanks very much.

Sorry, but we can find no such picture taken on that date. Could it have been another date?

Thanks.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 19, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

ANNE KAMSTRA

FROM:

SHIRLEY KEY *SK*

Mr. Buchen has attached a suggested inscription for the President's use in signing this picture.

He is the Judge who presided over the Fromme deposition given by the President.

The picture should be sent back to Counsel's Office for transmittal.

Thanks.

Attachment

maifor



MacBRIDE, Thomas F. (The Honorable)
Chief Judge
United States District Court
Sacramento, California 95814

Counsel's Office 8/19/76

Inscription: To Judge MacBride,
In remembrance of an
historical deposition.

With my best wishes.

Requested by: Philip W. Buchen



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 14, 1976

*MacBride,
Thomas J.
(July)*

Dear Judge MacBride:

At last we have located the negatives of photographs taken when you were present for the deposition of the President. At the time I had advised the photographers to take precautions that these photographs not be made public, and apparently they were careful to the point of forgetting themselves where the negatives could be located.

Now we have had a print made, which has been signed by the President, and I am happy to send it on to you.

Very best regards,

Sincerely,

Philip W. Buchen

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

The Honorable Thomas J. MacBride
Chief Judge
United States District Court
United States Court House
650 Capital Mall
Sacramento, California 95814





*To Judge MacBride
In remembrance of an historical deposition
With best wishes,*

Gerald R. Ford



NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
Presidential Libraries Transfer/Disposal Sheet

ITEM ID 00056

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM MOVED . . Nine (9) 8x10 BW photographs of
President Ford giving his deposition in
the Fromme case on November 1, 1975.
Can not determine if these are White
House photographs.

COLLECTION/SERIES/FOLDER ID . 001900459

COLLECTION TITLE Philip W. Buchen Files

BOX NUMBER 43

FOLDER TITLE President - Assassination Attempts:
Fromme, Lynette (1)-(4)

ACCESSION NUMBER 70-NLF-108

MOVEMENT DATE 08/24/1988

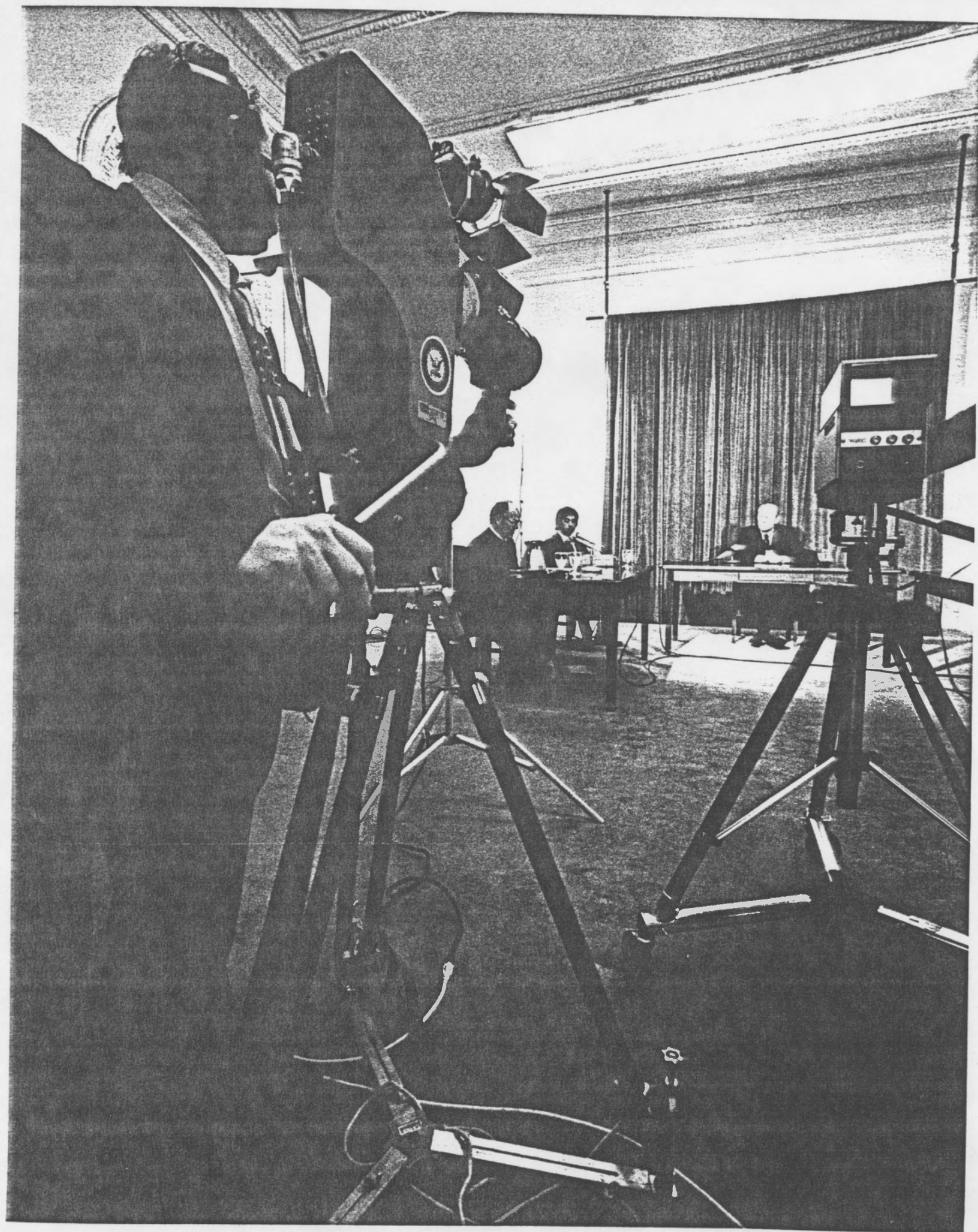
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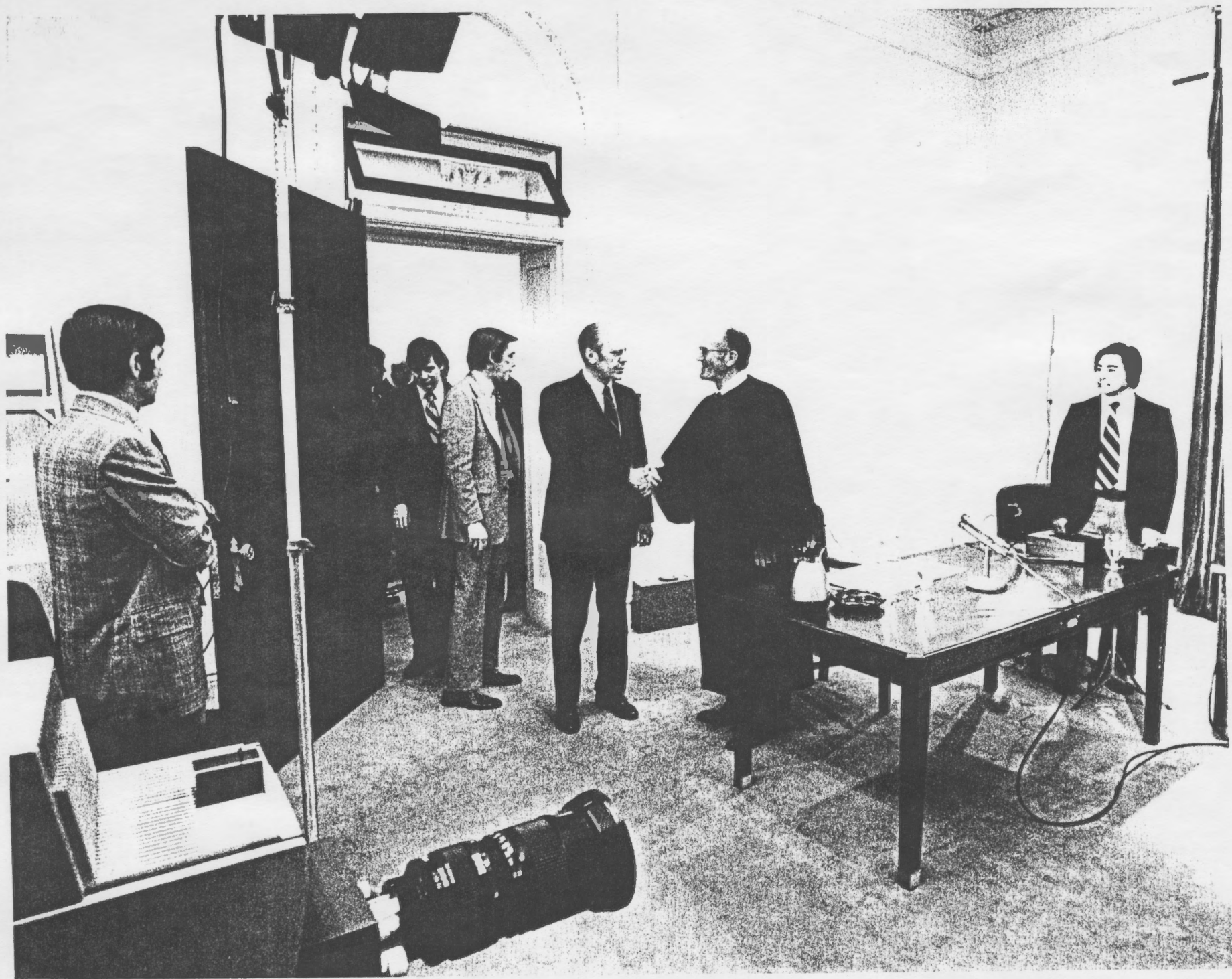
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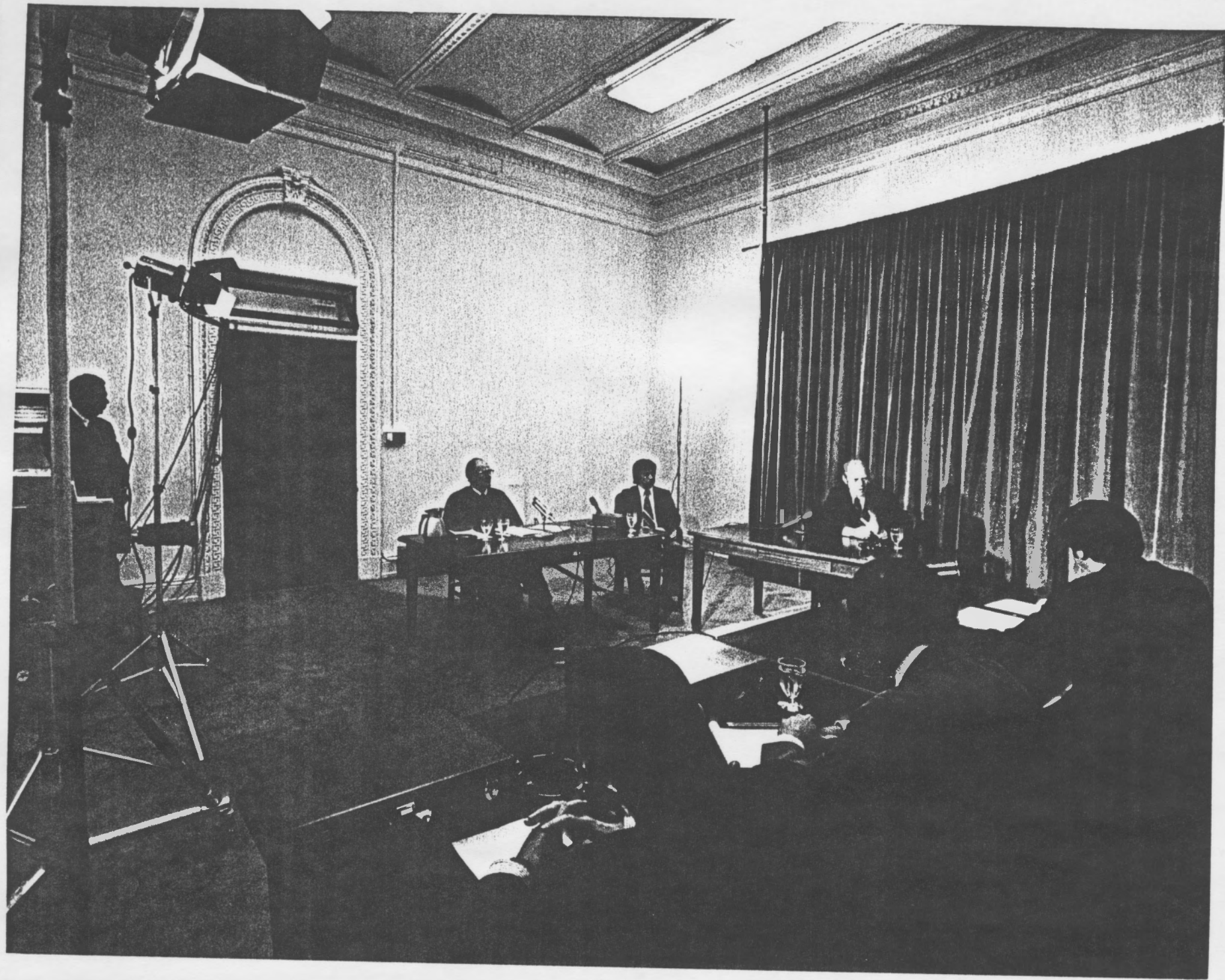
ARCHIVIST'S Leesa E. Tobin

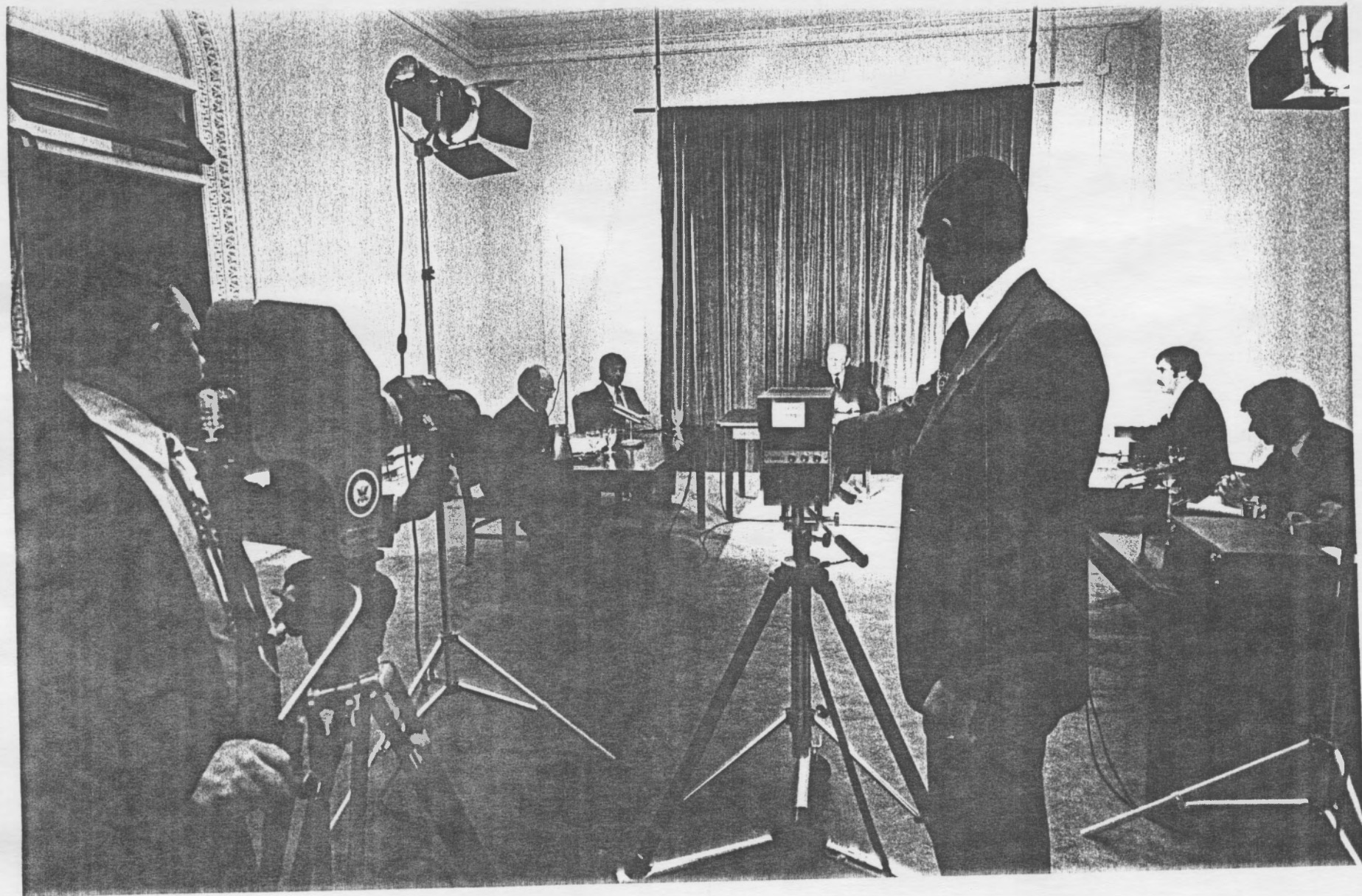


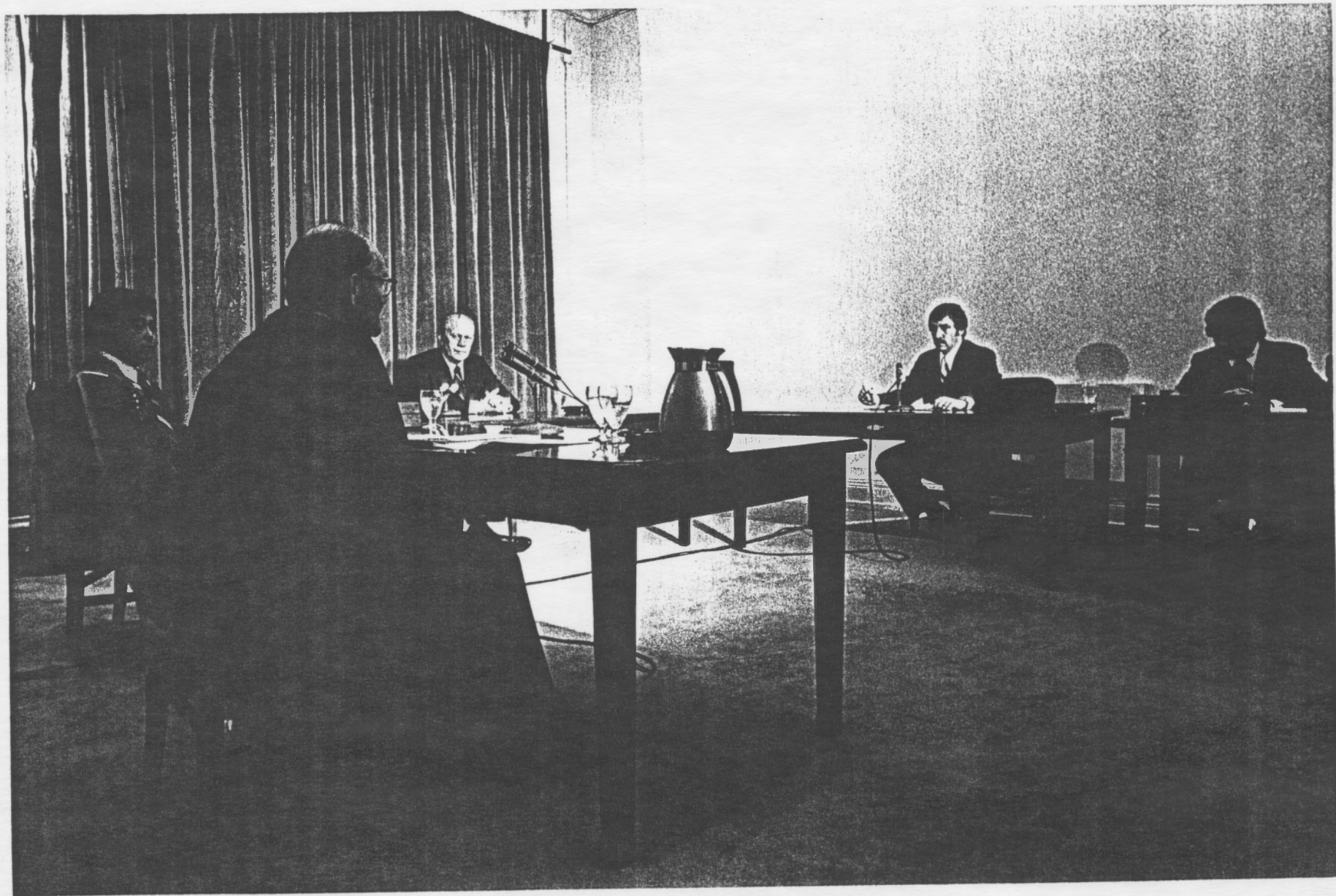


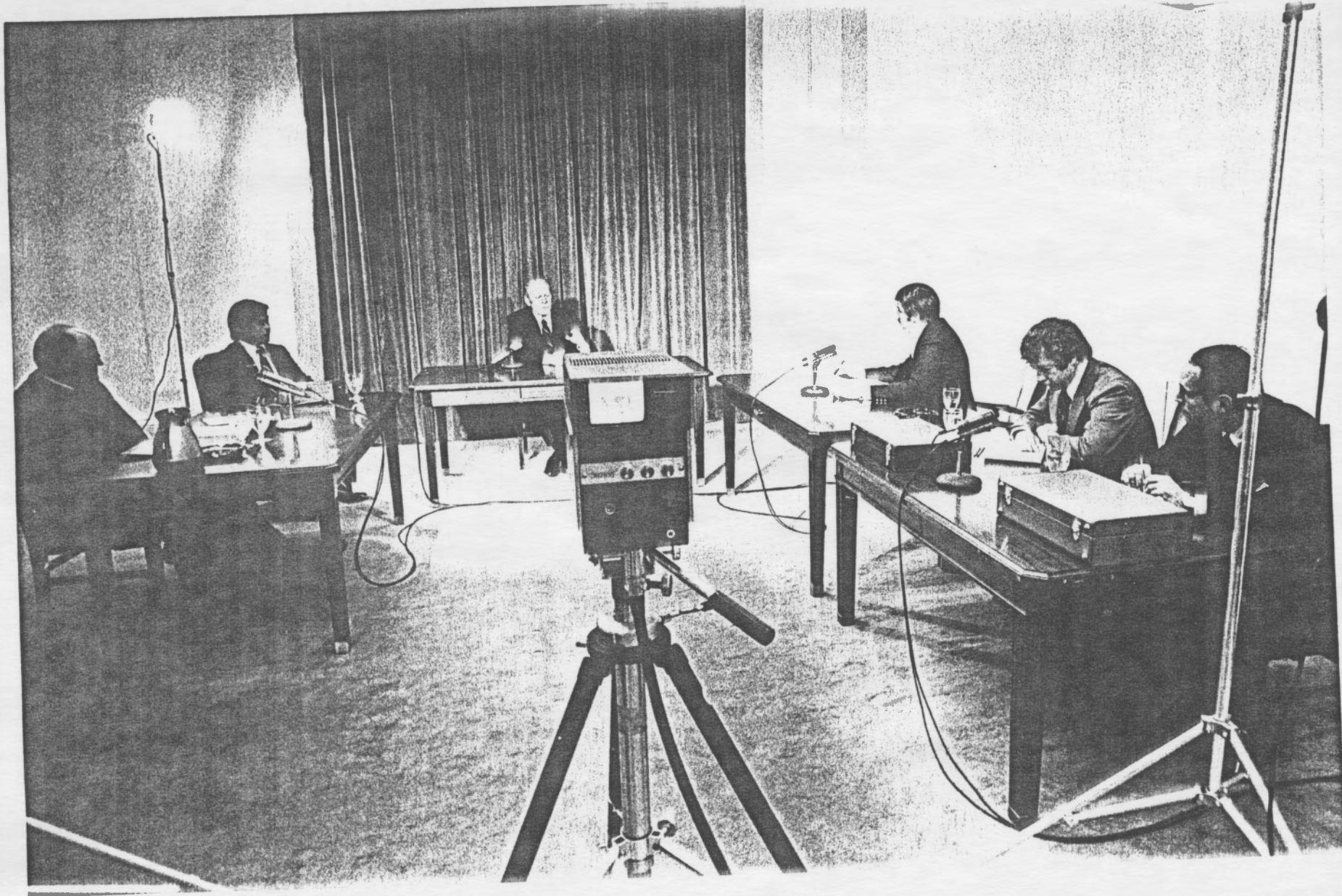














THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 7, 1977

Ricardo brought these up
yesterday. Says they are
extras.



Wednesday 1/12/77

6:00 Dawn brought over the tape of
the President's statement concerning
the attempted assassinations -----
the sealed tape is in the top drawer
of our safe, along with Ken's file.

*This should
go with documents
for library. But
you had better
consult Rudy as
to manner of identification and
delivery. T.*



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 17, 1977

*Fromme
case*

MEMORANDUM FOR: TRUDY FRY

FROM: PHILIP BUCHEN

P.W.B.

I am transmitting to you the color video-cassette in the case of U.S.A. v. Fromme, U.S.D.C., Eastern District of California, S-75451. The cassette was sealed by Judge T. J. MacBride and it is not to be released to anyone except on order of the Court. It is now being turned over to you for inclusion in the sensitive materials of the President to be transmitted to the Archivist of the United States as part of the President's historical materials.



Attendance confirmed by
Terry O'Donnell.
All present as indicated.

ATTENDEES DURING THE PRESIDENT'S SWORN DEPOSITION

Room 345 Old Executive Office Building
November 1, 1975

Persons present in the room during the President's deposition:

Thomas J. McBride, U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District
of California

D. Dwayne Keyes, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California

John Virga, Attorney for the defendant, Lynette Alice Fromme

Richard L. Thornburgh, Assistant Attorney General

Richard Fong, Court Reporter

Robert Mead, Television Adviser to the President

David H. Kennerly, Personal Photographer to the President

Jack Merchant, U.S. Secret Service Agent

Technicians present in the room during the President's deposition
or in the adjoining monitoring room:

Wayne Miller, Cameraman, Department of the Navy

Gary Craddock, Technician, Department of the Navy

John Kelly, Television Supervisor, Department of the Navy

Robert McCormick, White House Communications Agency

Richard L. Sowala, Jr., Cameraman, White House Communications Agency

Derrill W. Ballenger, Audio Technician, White House Communications Agency

Staff watching from the adjoining monitoring room: (This portion of the list may
not be complete.)

Philip W. Buchen, Counsel to the President

Ronald H. Nessen, Press Secretary

Donald H. Rumsfeld, Assistant

Terrence O'Donnell, Aide

