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BPM

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

# The Christian Science Monitor

Washington News Bureau

February 12, 1976

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

RN

For the past twenty-four hours I have been searching for the proper words to express my gratitude to you for making my "10th" such a happy and memorable occasion.

Some wag at the table--I think it was Jim Wieghart--said I was "bowled over" by the presentation. I was.

But I find in reading the transcript that my spontaneous response to your generous comments is precisely the way I feel about it today. I said, when you presented the bowl and that handsome crystal ash tray: "This will be the memory of my working life." I really can't say it any better.

The breakfast made news. But, more than that, we all had a wonderful time. You set a mood of informality and fun in which the exchange between President and newsmen was easy and open. Your guests left with the feeling that they had spent an hour with a gentleman--and a genuinely nice and warm human being.

Let's do it again! You're invited. We would love to have you be our guest any time and any place (that State Dining Room is gorgeous and your food beats anything we ever get at the hotel). How about next week?

Please convey my thanks, too, to Ron Nessen. My daughter (who is already taken) was particularly taken by his charm.

Many, many thanks.

Sincerely,

*Beed*

Godfrey Sperling, Jr.  
Chief, Washington News  
Bureau

GS:bk

*File*

Robert Lender

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 18, 1976

MR PRESIDENT:

The attached is for your information.  
It will be handled in a routine manner  
unless you indicate otherwise.

Jim Connor

*JRC*

*Copy sent to*

*Mr. Nicholson, for info - 2/18/76*

FEB 19 1976  
CENTRAL FILES

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

BREAKFAST INTERVIEW WITH GODFREY SPERLING  
BREAKFAST GROUP

Tuesday, February 10, 1976  
8:00 a.m.  
State Dining Room

From: Ron Nessen

I. PURPOSE

To be interviewed by the Godfrey Sperling Breakfast Group on its tenth anniversary.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, PRESS PLAN

A. Background

For the past ten years Godfrey Sperling of the Christian Science Monitor has brought together a group of Washington's top journalists on a regular basis for breakfast interviews with newsworthy persons.

This interview was granted at "Budge" Sperling's request to honor Budge and his group on their tenth anniversary, and also to provide an opportunity to make news in a large number of important newspapers in the next weeks before the New Hampshire primary.

The interview will begin during breakfast and continue for a total of 60 minutes. The Sperling group normally likes to have its guests speak directly on the record. But if you want to go on background or off the record at any point, that is acceptable.

Godfrey Sperling will sit at the President's right, and Peter Lisagor of the Chicago Daily News will sit at the President's left during the breakfast. The others will arrange themselves around the table in no particular order.

Just before concluding the session, I will bring you an engraved silver bowl which the members of the breakfast group have purchased to present to Budge on the tenth anniversary.

EXECUTIVE

502

PR 4-1

PR 16

FB 6-11-1/Nessen

Ron

CONFIDENTIAL

B. Participants

See attached list of breakfast group participants.

In addition, because of the special occasion, Budge has asked his wife and family; and John Hughes, the Editor of the Christian Science Monitor; and DeWitt John, former editor and one of five members of the Board of Directors of the Christian Science Church.

C. Press Plan

The breakfast interview is already well known around Washington because of the large number of participants.

A White House photographer and Christian Science Monitor photographer will take pictures.

A transcript will be made and distributed to the participants only.

III. TALKING POINTS

A briefing book outlining what you hope to accomplish during this breakfast interview, as well as guidance on specific questions, is being delivered to you separately.

The interview is likely to dwell heavily on politics, New Hampshire, Reagan, etc., as well as major foreign policy developments, White House organization, and the economy.

GODFREY SPERLING BREAKFAST

Tuesday - February 10

Members of Breakfast Group:

Godfrey Sperling Jr.	Christian Science Monitor
Allan Otten	Wall Street Journal
Roland Evans	Field Enterprises Inc.
Robert Boyd	Knight Newspapers
Jack Nelson	Los Angeles Times
Richard Dudman	St. Louis Post Dispatch
Saul Kohler	Newhouse Newspapers
Jerry terHorst	Detroit News
Jim Wiegardt	New York Daily News
Clifton Daniel	New York Times
Mel Elfin	Newsweek
Larry O'Rourke	Philadelphia Bulletin
Lucian Warren	Buffalo Evening News
Peter Lisagor	Chicago Daily News
John Steele	Time Magazine
Ernest Furgurson	Baltimore Sun
Ted Knap	Scripps-Howard
Clark Mollenhoff	Des Moines Register
David Kraslow	Cox Newspapers
James Perry	National Observer
Allan Cromley	Daily Oklahoman
Roscoe Drummond	Los Angeles Times Syndicate
William Ringle	Gannett News Service
Frank Starr	Chicago Tribune
Richard L. Strout	Christian Science Monitor
John Mashek	U. S. News and World Report
Jack Germond	Washington Star
Lou Cannon	Washington Post
Tom Littlewood	Chicago Sun Times
Jack Kole	Milwaukee Journal
Frank Wright	Minneapolis Tribune

Christian Science Monitor special guests:

John Hughes	Editor, Christian Science Monitor
DeWitt Hutton John	Member, Board of Directors, First Church of Christ Scientist

Godfrey Sperling Family Members and Guests:

Mrs. Betty Louise Feldmann Sperling	(Wife)
Mary Sperling McAuliffe	(Daughter)
John Herbert McAuliffe	(Son-in-law)
Mrs. Betty B. Kimmerling	(Assistant)

White House Staff:

Ron Nessen

BREAKFAST INTERVIEW WITH  
GODFREY SPERLING BREAKFAST GROUP

Tuesday, February 10, 1976

8:00 A. M.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . . .

MEMORANDUM

*Feb. 10  
The White House  
H.P.A.*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 5, 1975

*MFW —  
Check DATE +  
file for  
follow-up.  
Feb*

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JERRY JONES  
RON NESSEN

FROM:

DONALD RUMSFELD

Godfrey Sperling mentioned that he would like to have the President do something in connection with the 10th Anniversary of his breakfast group. I think it is probably not a bad idea. Let's keep it in mind. I believe it is sometime around February.

*Sunday, February 8, 1975*

*off → 785-4400*

*Sperling requested the President participate by letter*

*could be done anytime around Feb 8<sup>th</sup>*

*President participated as U.P. + Congressman*

*9/2 Becky Hamil says letter from Sperling is with Ron Nessen*



RECEIVED  
FEB 13 1976  
CENTRAL FILES

*Patton*

July 24, 1975

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

First, I want to thank you for granting what turned out to be such a news-making interview this week.

From a personal point of view I must also say: It felt like old times. You made us feel so very much at ease--just as you always did in the days before you were President. At times I almost--"almost" that is--forgot that I was sitting with the President of the United States.

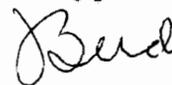
On Sunday, February 8, 1976, my breakfast group celebrates its 10th anniversary. If you could meet with us on or around that date--to mark the anniversary--I would deeply appreciate it.

Once again, I would remind you that when you met with our group last, as Vice-President, you remarked that the President should come in. Nixon did not. But we are hoping that you will.

As I have told Ron Nessen: We would love to have you drop by at our regular meeting place, the Sheraton-Carlton Hotel. But if it would be easier for you, we could meet with you at any place and at any time of the day,--breakfast, brunch, lunch, in-between lunch and dinner, dinner, in-between dinner and midnight--any time!

I'm hoping that my sending out this letter long before most invitations are issued will help you in finding a spot on your calendar for "Breakfast with Godfrey"--on or around February 8. (Actually, we will officially mark our 10th anniversary on any day you can come in, even if it has to be a few weeks in advance or after February 8.)

Sincerely,



Godfrey Sperling, Jr.  
Chief, Washington News  
Bureau

GS:bk  
CC: Ron Nessen ✓

*Answered*