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The Christian Science Monitor

Washington News Bureau

February 12, 1976

BIN
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

JL

Robert Lander

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

MR

Copy sent to
H.W. Richardson, Farago - 2/18/76
FEB 19 1976
CENTRAL FILES

6

EXECUTIVE
SO2
PR4-1
PR16
FEB 11/1/Nessen
Ron

THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN....

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

BREAKFAST INTERVIEW WITH GODFREY SPERLING
BREAKFAST GROUP
X

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.

CE

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 Wieghardt	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 Scientests

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

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.

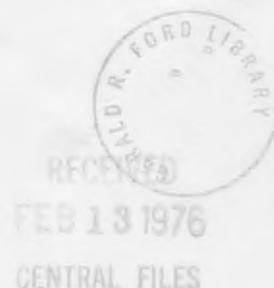
Sunday, February 10

off → 785-4400

*Sperling requested the
President participate by letter
could be done anytime
around Feb 8th*

*President participated
as U.P. + Congressman*

*#2 Bevly Hemil says letter from
Sperling is with Ron Nessen*



Potter
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,

Bud

Godfrey Sperling, Jr.
Chief, Washington News
Bureau

GS:bk
CC: Ron Nessen ✓