

**The original documents are located in Box 134, folder “Theis, Paul (2)” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 1, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:                   RON NESSEN

FROM:                               PAUL THEIS *PA*

Attached are proposed drop-by remarks for the President to use at the White House Correspondents Dinner on May 3rd.

May I have your comments, as well as your initials on the attached clearance form, by the close of business today?

Many thanks.

Attachment



CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

*Paul Theis  
office change*

TO: THE PRESIDENT  
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN  
FROM: PAUL A. THEIS  
SUBJECT: President's remarks at the White House  
Correspondent's Dinner

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRESIDENTIAL USE: \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday, May, 3, 1975, 7:30 p.m., Washington-Hilton Hotel

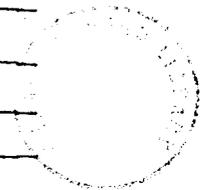
SPEECHWRITER: Robert Orben

EDITED BY: Paul Theis

BASIC RESEARCH/SPEECH MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY:  
Scheduling, Advance, WH Correspondents' Assoc.

CLEARED BY (Please initial):

- (X) OPERATIONS (Rumsfeld) \_\_\_\_\_
- (X) CONGRESSIONAL/PUBLIC LIAISON (Marsh) \_\_\_\_\_
- (X) PRESS (Nessen) *PHUC (see one change P. 2)* \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) LEGAL (Buchen) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) ECONOMIC POLICY BOARD (Seidman) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (Lynn) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) DOMESTIC COUNCIL (Cannon) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (Scowcroft) \_\_\_\_\_
- (X) RESEARCH (Waldron) \_\_\_\_\_
- (X) JERRY WARREN (FYI) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) ENERGY RESOURCES COUNCIL (Zarb) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) \_\_\_\_\_



(Orben) PT

May 1, 1975

DROP-BY -- WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS DINNER, WASHINGTON  
HILTON HOTEL, SATURDAY, MAY 3, 1975

(ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS)

I do appreciate that rather kind and gentle introduction because Helen Thomas has a well-earned reputation for speaking her own mind. I can remember some years ago, when I was still a Congressman, Helen and I were walking down Pennsylvania Avenue when we passed one of those scales that gives you your weight and your fortune -- all for a penny. Helen said, "Why don't you try it? I might get a scoop." So I got on the scale, put in a penny, a card came out and it said: "You are handsome, debonair, sophisticated, a born leader of men, a silver-tongued orator, and some day you will make your mark in history." Helen leaned over, looked at the card, and said, "It has your weight wrong too!"

(more)

It is a great pleasure to be here tonight and without further delay, let me congratulate the distinguished members of the White House Correspondents' Association on your valiant, courageous, and successful struggle to achieve one of the greatest and most consequential journalistic triumphs of all time. I'm referring, of course, to your heroic efforts to keep the press plane from coverting to no-frills.

I don't know what happens on that press plane but one day we tuned into your radio by mistake. It's the first time I ever heard a flight controller say, "All clear for take-off" --- and a pilot answer, "I'll drink to that!"

Dick Growald

I knew something was going on when I saw ~~Kerry O'Rourke~~ write ten pages of notes at my Tulane speech ---- and that isn't easy with a

(more)

swizzle stick.

Then Aldo Beckman came over, said "hello", and melted my cufflinks!

Betty and I have looked forward to this evening because a White House Correspondents' Dinner is always an adventure. First there's the reception; followed by the Dinner; followed by the private parties; followed by the private private parties; followed by the nightcap after the private private parties. Through the years I've found that a White House Correspondents' Dinner is a little like one of Sarah McLendon's questions -- you never really know when it's finished.

I've been coming to these dinners for quite a few years now and I'm embarrassed to admit, I don't really know a great deal about how the White House Correspondents' Association operates. And since I'm always interested in the electoral process, I asked Jim Deakin, "Just how do you go about choosing your President and Vice

(more)



President?" Jim said, "It's rather hard to explain in a few words but the procedure does have the Seal of Approval." I said, "Of who?" He said, "Mayor Daley!"

other  
It may not seem like it, but as with any/major address, I've spent a great deal of time preparing for this one. I even went to the one person in the White House who is known above all others for his wit, his humor, and his great one-liners. I'm sure you all know who I'm talking about -- Ron Nessen.....I asked Ron where he gets all those wonderful jokes he opens the press briefings with. Ron didn't really answer. He just sat there --- breaking open fortune cookies.

Incidentally, you may be interested to know that Ron Nessen's  
a  
fame as /press secretary and his unparalleled skill at carrying out the duties of his office --- has spread far and wide. Last week at the Columbia School of Journalism in New York City, fifty graduate students were asked this question: "If you had the chance to study the art of

(more)



simple direct communication with Ron Nessen --- what would you ask for first?" Ninety-six percent answered: "Another chance!"

And another member of our staff has also achieved considerable recognition -- David Hume Kennerly. The very first day Dave Kennerly came to the White House to be my personal photographer, he shook my hand and promised to do for me exactly what he had done for his last employer. I said, 'Great!' Then I remembered who he had worked for --- LIFE!

As most of you know from the schedule, this has been a very long, busy and exhausting day at the White House. I spent the morning working on my new book: A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF JOHN HERSEY.....

We're also redecorating. I'm sure you've all noticed that the White House is getting a new coat of paint. The painter says it's leak-proof.....I sure hope so.

(more)



But I do have one favor to ask of all the White House Correspondents sitting here tonight. Every few years we have to paint the White House. It's done for reasons of maintenance, esthetics and appearance. So please -- would you just refer to this as a paint job -- not a cover-up?

And now, before I close, I have some acknowledgements to make. I want to thank Martin Agronsky for giving Pete Lisagor the night off.....Peter, as you know, is one of Washington's foremost television personalities. It's not unusual for him to be on five or six shows a week, in addition to lectures, talks and personal appearances. And every time he appears, he gets an enormous amount of fan mail. Pete was telling me that just this morning he got a postcard saying:   
HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME. WISH YOU WERE HERE. It was from the editor of the Chicago Daily News.

(more)



This has been a wonderful evening for Betty and me, and and we thank you all for it. You know, there is a great deal written and said about the First Family. This designation usually refers to Betty, me, one daughter and three sons. But to me, it doesn't have this limited connotation.

I see the First Family as being an extended family -- one that draws in and includes all of the men and women who make the White House a living, breathing and functioning body. It encompasses a handful of Fords, completely and comfortably surrounded by staff and press alike. We are not just Jerry, Betty, Susan, Jack, Steve and Mike --- but Bob, Helen, Ron, Fran, Frank and a few hundred others as well.

We work together, we laugh together, and on occasion, we have come close to crying together. We interact. We exchange ideas, facts, speculations, and emotions. We cannot function well without each other. This is the stuff that families are made of.

And like all families, we have our disagreements. We take in and assimilate individual attitudes, concerns, interests and information. Then

(more)

we shine the spotlight of these unique perceptions on each new problem,  
each new challenge. Your spotlight is not mine --- mine is not yours.  
Sometimes we differ.

But the essence and the glory of the true family is this:

Decisions and conclusions may be questioned -- but motivation and  
commitment are not. We speak our differences in love -- and with  
trust. We accept that we are travelers heading towards the same  
destination. It is only the road that has to be determined.

This is the First Family I know we all want to be a part of.

We have shared some of these feelings here tonight. We should  
never aspire to less. Thank you and good night.

# # #



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 13, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PAUL THEIS

FROM: RON NESSEN *RAU*

I would send the Pittsburgh Press a short statement by the President based on some of his public statements about America retaining its confidence in itself, being determined to play its leadership role in the world, and being optimistic about the future of the economy.

I would NOT look back at all on Watergate, Vietnam, etc. in keeping with the President's very strong statement to this effect at his last news conference.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 12, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:                   RON NESSEN

FROM:                               PAUL THEIS *PT*

SUBJECT:                           Attached request from  
Pittsburgh Press for  
Presidential statement

The Pittsburgh Press has asked for a Presidential statement, to be published in their July Roto magazine, on the subject of "In the Wake of Watergate, Vietnam, the Mideast, recession, crime in the streets and inflation, what has America to look forward to?"

Can we have your recommendation on this? Thanks.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Date 5/9 1975 MAY

TO: Paul Hiss

FYI                      ACTION                     

OTHER:

*How do you  
wish this to  
be handled?*

Liz O'Neill  
Room 161





# The Pittsburgh Press

PITTSBURGH, PA. 15230

May 6, 1975

MAY 9 1975

RN  
Honorable Gerald S. Ford  
President of the United States  
White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The Pittsburgh Press is planning, for early July, a special Roto magazine on the subject of "In the wake of Watergate, Vietnam, the Mideast, recession, crime in the streets and inflation, what has America to look forward to?"

We plan statements from specialists in all areas: religion, education, politics, government, the arts, conservation, business and the like.

We'd dearly love to have a statement from you, however brief it might be.

While we can appreciate your schedule and the demands on your time, we feel the subject an extremely worthy one, and one that may more than interest you.

The Press is the largest newspaper in Western Pennsylvania, and also serves parts of Ohio, Maryland, West Virginia and New York. Its Sunday circulation is in the area of 700,000.

As you might have suspected, we're in a hurry (news-papers are lousy long-range planners) and need copy about May 30.

Yes or no, our best to a good man in a tough job.

Sincerely,

William Allan  
Features Editor

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 30, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO:                   RON NESSEN  
FROM:                               PAUL THEIS  
SUBJECT:                           Presidential statement for the  
                                      Pittsburgh Press

Attached is a proposed Presidential statement to be published by the Pittsburgh Press in a special Roto magazine in early July.

Could we please have your comments and initials on the cover sheet by close of business Monday? Thanks.

*Received  
in RN's office  
thru Tuesday*

*okay per  
WB  
6/4/75*

*phone'd  
Theis'  
office  
and left  
message  
6/4/75*



CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: THE PRESIDENT  
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN  
FROM: PAUL A. THEIS  
SUBJECT: Presidential statement for the  
Pittsburgh Press

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRESIDENTIAL USE: \_\_\_\_\_  
to be published in July Roto magazine

SPEECHWRITER: Bakshian

EDITED BY: Butler/Theis

BASIC RESEARCH/SPEECH MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY:  
Research Office

CLEARED BY (Please initial):

- (X) OPERATIONS (Rumsfeld) \_\_\_\_\_
- (X) CONGRESSIONAL/PUBLIC LIAISON (Marsh) \_\_\_\_\_
- (X) PRESS (Nessen) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) LEGAL (Buchen) \_\_\_\_\_
- (X) ECONOMIC POLICY BOARD (Seidman) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (Lynn) \_\_\_\_\_
- (X) DOMESTIC COUNCIL (Cannon) \_\_\_\_\_
- (X) NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (Scowcroft) \_\_\_\_\_
- (X) RESEARCH (Waldron) \_\_\_\_\_
- (X) JERRY WARREN (FYI) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) ENERGY RESOURCES COUNCIL (Zarb) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) \_\_\_\_\_



STATEMENT FOR PITTSBURGH PRESS, BY GERALD R. FORD

Balanced self-criticism is a sign of strength, not weakness. But it would be a serious mistake to judge America's future in the perspective of the problems of a single decade. For 1975 represents much more than the end of an era of international and domestic problems. It marks the beginning of America's third century.

From the perspective of the total American experience, there is ample reason to be optimistic about our future. Some examples from the past tell us why:

In 1812, our young nation faced its first war -- another struggle with the British. The Capitol and the White House were burned and the city invaded. But the fledgling nation pulled itself together and survived, ~~securing~~ <sup>nailing down</sup> its independence in the process.

Fifty years later, when debate over slavery and union erupted into war, Americans fought Americans for four bloody years. But when the war ended, the cause of human dignity and equality had been immeasurably advanced.

In the 1930's, we suffered through the greatest economic and social distress in our history. But Americans pulled themselves together and kept the Nation going.

(more)



In two World Wars, Americans gave their time, talent, resources -- and many <sup>their</sup> lives -- to keep the cause of human freedom and decency alive.

In times of grave danger and distress, Americans have always summoned their inner strength and their native genius to meet great challenges. And we have always grown stronger in meeting them.

We can do this much -- and more -- today:

-- We can continue to defend our hard-won peace in the world. By keeping America strong, we can keep America at peace.

-- We can restore peace and security at home. Safe streets and swift, efficient justice for victim and lawbreaker alike can add immeasurably to the quality of American life.

-- We can pursue a far-seeing energy policy. Instead of waiting for crisis to strike again, we can begin now to make America energy-independent by adopting a responsible energy program ~~that~~ that will mean jobs and a secure economy tomorrow.

-- We can protect all Americans from the economic distress of both inflation and recession. This can be done by cutting inflationary government spending and debt; by continuing to increase our productivity; and by weighing the potential cost of new spending schemes against their alleged benefits before adding them to the taxpayer's burden.

But beyond the specific goals, there is a general theme that is perhaps even more important. Today, and in the days and months immediately

(more)



ahead, we must restore our traditional belief in America and our faith in ourselves. We have come through some pretty tough times together, but we have made it. Unlike most people in the world, we still have the resources, the institutions and the opportunities we need to successfully cope with our many real but solvable problems.

As we celebrate our Bicentennial, we must join together to make sure America's past is truly the prologue to a greater future. We can do it.

# # #



June 17, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PAUL THEIS

FROM: RON NESSEN

This seems like a worthwhile project. Could you please draft a short answer under the President's name and let me have it for mailing to the Pensacola News-Journal?

Incidentally, the Newhouse Newspapers ask me almost every week what has happened to their month-old request for the President's views on alienation in American society.

Attachment: Request from Lloyd Goodman, Pensacola News-Journal, for President's answer to question: "In your opinion, is the US still the No. 1 nation in the world?"

RN/cg



17  
RN

# Pensacola News-Journal

INCORPORATED  
A MEMBER OF THE GANNETT GROUP

June 12, 1975

101 EAST ROMANA STREET  
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA 32501  
TELEPHONE 433-0041  
AREA CODE 904

Mr. Gerald R. Ford  
President, United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Ford:

The nation's Bicentennial is here; celebrations are beginning nationwide.

The celebration is one of the spirit. But in this era of vietnam, of economic problems, of Watergate, of allegations of illegal activities by some of the nation's more prestigious agencies, many people are asking, "Is the U.S. still No. 1?"

To kick off the Bicentennial, The Pensacola News is asking you and other local, state and national leaders to answer a question: In your opinion, is the U.S. still the No. 1 nation in the world?

We would be honored if you would answer that question for us--your answer will be compiled with those of other selected prominent persons in an article to be published July 3.

I leave the length of your answer for you to decide. But we, at The News, feel the question is one of utmost importance as we face the retrospective celebration of The Bicentennial.

I hope you share this sense of importance of this project, and will take the time to answer my simple yet complex question.

Sincerely,

THE PENSACOLA NEWS

*Lloyd E. Goodman*  
Lloyd E. Goodman  
Assistant Managing Editor

LG/clw



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 17, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PAUL THEIS

FROM: RON NESSEN *RHN*

This seems like a worthwhile project. Could you please draft a short answer under the President's name and let me have it for mailing to the Pensacola News-Journal?

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Attachment: Request from Lloyd Goodman, Pensacola News-Journal, for President's answer to question: "In your opinion, is the US still the No. 1 nation in the world?"



1975 JUN 18 PM 4 01

RM-115

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

NOTE FOR: Paul Theris  
FROM : RON NESSEN

Here are some  
Thoughts on the  
NAACP speech  
from Jim Gorman  
at my office.

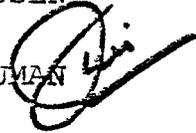
RHN

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 30, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:                   RON NESSEN

FROM:                               JIM SHUMAN 

SUBJECT:                           PRESIDENT'S NAACP SPEECH

Following are some quick thoughts, as we discussed this weekend, on the President's speech before the NAACP, scheduled for tomorrow.

1. It should be a high risk speech. Rather than cater to expectations of conventional thinking that the speech should contain promises and programs, it should state bluntly and clearly that the time for that is past. It should have as its theme: It is insulting to Blacks - and a form of discrimination - to single them out as a special group deserving treatment. It should say that the Administration is concerned about their problems, not because they are Black problems, but because they are American problems.

The speech could be constructed as follows:

Opening -- This would set the theme, the: I come before you not because you are Black Americans, but because your problems concern me; and I recognize that now, in 1975, although there is discrimination because of race, most of the deep problems of Black Americans are due not to race but to other factors.

Review -- A section which would review history and accomplishments of civil rights movement. It would be positive and supportive. It would indicate that President Ford is in favor of Black desires for political, economic and social acceptance and equality. It would lead up to:

Present Situation -- This section would note the results of the civil rights movement. It would show what has been accomplished and what still remains to be done, displaying concern



that so many Americans are still out of the mainstream of American life and prosperity.

Ford Program -- This section would say that although much remains to be done, it cannot be done by stirring passions with empty promises. It would recognize what the federal government can and can not do. Real success in achieving Black goals will require hard work, first on the part of all Americans who must look at Blacks not as a minority but as fellow human beings, and secondly, and most of all, it will require hard work on the part of Blacks, themselves, who must, as so many already have, earn respect and equality, just as everyone must.

There are, however, things the government can do, and which the President could pledge the government will do:

To take three major areas:

Welfare and Unemployment -- We should pledge ourselves to examine and improve present programs so that they deliver the services they promise, and to review the programs to see if ways can be found to make them unnecessary, to help people get off welfare into productive jobs so that they can establish their own sense of self-worth and dignity. (Studies have shown this is the goal of most welfare recipients.)

Jobs -- The key to this, of course, is providing jobs, and this administration is dedicated to building an economy strong enough to employ everyone who wants to work.

Education -- Although education is traditionally a local function, supervised by the various states, this administration is dedicated to guaranteeing that all Americans get the best education available so that they can function productively in today's complex economy and can thus get jobs.

Discrimination -- There are plenty of laws prohibiting discrimination on the books. This administration is dedicated to seeing that they are enforced, that no American is discriminated against on the basis of race, sex, or any other factor.



Conclusion - The administration's desire is to build a nation worthy of the goals of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, in which the right of every man to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are guaranteed. The problems Blacks have in achieving those goals concerns us all, and the administration pledges to help Blacks - and all Americans - work to reach those goals.

NOTE: The above is rough and off the top of my head. It is submitted only as the starting point for further discussion.



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 17, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PAUL THEIS ✓  
DICK CHENEY  
FRANK ZARB

FROM: RON NESSEN *RAN*

Attached find a copy of a letter I recently received from a friend at Gulf Oil. It outlines the enormous amount of money Gulf spent for drilling on the off-shore rig "New Era" which the President visited. As you see, that huge expense produced no oil.

Perhaps this experience of large expenditure and no result could be worked into a Presidential energy speech sometime as an example of how much it costs the oil companies to search for new sources of energy and how often that search is futile.

3+6

# Gulf Oil Corporation

Robert Goralski  
DIRECTOR-PUBLIC RELATIONS  
WASHINGTON OFFICE

1025 Connecticut Ave., N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20036

July 14, 1975

Mr. Ron Nessen  
Press Secretary  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ron:

This is not the least of your worries, but you might be interested in one of the most serious of ours. The exploratory rig which President Ford visited off the Gulf of Mexico in late April turned out to be a bummer. After nearly three months of digging at that site, it turned out dry.

Because of Mr. Ford's visit to the rig, you might like to know that rig -- which cost \$28,000,000 -- still has not uncovered any oil. While it was on the location visited by Mr. Ford, Gulf spent \$36,000 a day to keep that rig going.

That's the bad news. The good news is that Gulf has moved the "New Era" rig to another area in the Gulf of Mexico. We will again dig down to more than two miles in the hope that oil is indeed there. So much for obscene profits.

Thanks for the autographed pictures of the President on "New Era."

Cordially,



Robert Goralski



**July 18, 1975**

**MEMORANDUM FOR: PAUL THEIS**

**FROM: RON NESSIN**

**I have been sending periodic memos to you since February asking for help in fulfilling a request from the Newhouse Newspapers for a short statement of the President's views on the problem of alienation in American society, based on previous public Presidential statements.**

**The Newhouse Newspapers, which we ought to treat courteously, is justifiably upset by our failure to fulfill this relatively simple request.**

**Can you give me any idea when you might be able to prepare this short statement of the President's views?**

**cc: Don Rumsfeld**



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

7/19/75

TO: RON NESSEN

FROM: PAUL THEIS *PT*

Re your note on the Newhouse request, the draft of this was sent to Bob Hartmann several months ago...and apparently was mislaid someplace along the line.

In any event, attached is a copy of that draft which is okay to send to the Newhouse people. Sorry about the delay on it...but thank you for your reminder (and your patience).

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT FOR NEWHOUSE NEWSPAPERS

No one should attempt to minimize the serious problems we face.

But I reject absolutely the cynic's view that this country cannot meet its challenges.

We have survived as a nation because Americans have always ignored the doubters and inspired one another to overcome national problems. I have faith in the tremendous reservoir of good sense, hard work, and determination of the American people.

Solving some of our current problems will not be easy -- far from it -- but by working together, we will succeed together. Our action will bring new unity and a new era of national self-confidence and self-esteem.

# # #



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 8, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO:

RON NESSEN

FROM:

PAUL THEIS *PT*

FYI: Attached is a letter which the President has approved for transmittal to members of the White House staff on the anniversary of his first year in office.



Dear (First Name) :

Although I much prefer looking forward to looking back, I do want you to know on this first anniversary of assuming the Presidential office that whatever I have been able to accomplish for our country has been due in large measure to your loyalty and untiring help.

Time races by without adequate opportunity for me to say personal "thanks" to all who work here. But I do want you to know that I am mindful and deeply appreciate of ~~that~~ your cooperation and your commitment, and for the tolerance shown by your family and friends at the over-long hours you put in -- not just for me, but for the big job we are all trying to do together.

I can't promise any shorter hours in the future but I am looking forward eagerly to more challenges and more achievements -- with your assistance and your continued support. Mrs. Ford joins me in warm good wishes to you and yours.

Sincerely,



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

8/8/75

TO: Ron Nessen

FROM: PAUL THEIS *PT*

FYI

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 8, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: ROBERT T. HARTMANN

FROM: PAUL THEIS *PT*

SUBJECT: The President's words since  
August 9, 1974

Since he came into office one year ago, the President has either delivered in person or issued on paper close to one million words. All of these were either drafted by or edited by or approved by the Editorial Office. If you include correspondence sent out over the President's name, this count jumps to well over 10 million words.

Broken down, these fall into these categories:

- 450 speeches or remarks (totaling 270,000 spoken words alone)
- 75 proclamations
- 36 veto messages
- 59 bill signing statements
- 76 executive orders
- 134 written statements on various subjects
- 170 official communications to Congress, including messages on legislation, protocols, conventions, transmittal of reports, letters to the Speaker.
- 10 news conference statements
- 22 memos to heads of Federal departments and agencies
- 300 messages to heads of state
- 1,567 messages or greetings to organizations or groups in convention or meeting
- 19 magazine articles



Raw  
FYI

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 8, 1975

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FROM: PAUL THEIS *PT*

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- 300 messages to heads of state
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 13, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR PAUL THEIS

FROM: RON NESSEN *RHN*

I have indicated on the speech draft several minor changes I propose.

The only other thing about the speech that bothers me is that it seems to begin rather abruptly. Couldn't there be a few paragraphs at the beginning of general background on why we have the energy problem, what course the President has chosen to follow to solve the problem, and what goals his program is designed to reach? Then you could go into the heart of the speech, beginning with the part about coal.

Also, I think the audience for this speech needs a little more explanation of what changes the President wants to make concerning environmental controls over coal burning, and needs a further explanation of why the President vetoed two strip mining bills. I think the President needs to explain to them the necessity to balance environmental needs against energy needs, and his commitment to pursue both of these objectives simultaneously.



REMARKS FOR THE PRESIDENT TO USE AT THE VAIL SYMPOSIUM,  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1975

I'm very pleased to meet today with a group considering how to deal with the energy problem -- instead of debating its existence.

Our energy problem is like a giant puzzle. Solving this puzzle requires the piecing together of many complex, interlocking parts.

Our national coal reserves contain greater energy than the Middle East's reserves of oil. Coal is vital to energy independence. This resource will be developed with a commitment to balancing energy needs with environmental concerns.

With almost half of the Nation's coal reserves in the West, you in this region are justifiably concerned about the quality of development.

I understand and appreciate this concern.

But let me emphasize this: We are capable of tapping our national energy resources without sacrificing the environment. We will be able to do so, however, only in an atmosphere of realism -- not antagonism.



As I told the coal industry last March, this Administration is committed to seeing that improved mining technology insures safe and environmentally sound production of coal. We also need the technology to burn coal directly without producing environmental damage. And the Nation's capacity to convert coal into clean, gaseous and liquid fuel must be increased.

Even if our reliance on imported oil for 38 percent of our current use did not make us vulnerable to economic and political disruption, we would still have to utilize our coal reserves.

The fact is -- we are an energy dependent society. With the world's reserves of oil and natural gas being consumed, we must utilize existing energy sources and develop new ones.

But our dependence on imported oil at an average cost of \$70 million per day last year makes critical decisions necessary. To help reduce dependence on imports and stem the outflow of American dollars and jobs,



I will veto the six-month extension of price controls on domestic oil which the Congress sent to me just before recessing.

For six months, this Administration tried to work with the Congress to find a compromise on decontrol. The Congress twice rejected reasonable Administration compromises.

Approval of this extension would mean only more months of delay without the critically needed incentives to promote conservation and spur new domestic oil production. An extension would continue price uncertainty

for consumers and producers, and continue our dependence on foreign oil sources.

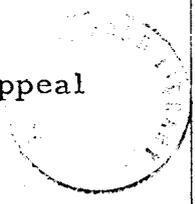
To cushion the impact of sudden decontrol, I will lift the special import fees on crude oil and petroleum products. These fees were imposed to begin energy conservation and to prod Congress into action.

If price controls are continued by the Congress over my veto, the fees will be reinstated. I am also directing the Justice Department to appeal

~~and to take action in~~  
the recent adverse ruling by the U. S. Court of Appeals of the District

of Columbia concerning a President's authority in this area.

*Is this the decision the Pres. made?*



The net affect of immediate decontrol and removal of the fees will mean an increase of approximately three cents per gallon in the price of petroleum products. Lifting these fees will reduce by one-half the total price impact of immediate decontrol.

Painful as they are, higher prices do help promote conservation. For example, gasoline consumption has remained about the same for the past two years. In fact, without higher prices and recessionary influences, we would now be consuming approximately a half million more barrels of gasoline daily.

Reduced consumption helps reduce dependence. But this alone will not solve the problem. A dramatic increase in American production is also required. Decontrol will stimulate domestic production by removing the restrictive \$5.25 per barrel price ceiling on so-called "old oil" which accounts for 60 percent of all domestic production. This ceiling arbitrarily discourages the use of new and more expensive production technology. By establishing an artificially low price, it encourages indiscriminate and wasteful use of our limited domestic resources.

A circular stamp is located on the right side of the page, partially overlapping the text. The text within the stamp is mostly illegible but appears to contain the words "RECEIVED" and "MAY 1964".

*my two proposals for*

If the Congress also enacts ~~the Administration-proposed~~ energy

rebates to consumers and ~~the~~ "windfall profits" tax on oil companies.

*Then*

the impact of decontrol, cushioned by the removal of the fees, will not

hinder *our* economic recovery.

Swift action on these taxes must be accompanied by Congressional action on other segments of my comprehensive energy package.

The piecemeal on-again-off-again Congressional approach to energy during the past six months is dangerous, expensive and needless. Every day we delay means greater dependence on unreliable *overseas* supplies of oil, pushes back development of more efficient use of available energy and retards the search for new energy sources *here at home.*

We are running out of time -- time we can use to help balance our environmental concerns with our energy needs. *( ? )* The longer we talk, the shorter our time to act.

I urge you to help us obtain Congressional action on a comprehensive energy program. Failure to make tough decisions today drastically increases

the vulnerability of our economy to disruption and reduces our options

on how to meet the energy needs of the future.

*I want you to know the hard truth* ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

We must pay the price-in dollars ~~and~~ Decisions are needed now to give

⊗

us command of our own economic and energy destiny.

• Now, let's get down to some of those tough questions you've

been saving up.

# # #



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

8/14/75

No  
need  
to send  
back

TO: Ron Nessen

FROM: Paul Thisis *PT*

Attached is a revised copy of ~~proposed~~ Presidential remarks for use at the Vail Symposium on Friday. The options indicated on this copy will be discussed with the President at a meeting later today.

Please give me a call if you have any comments or suggestions on this.

Thanks.

Attachment

Already  
approved  
by G. F.

10/14/75

CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: THE PRESIDENT  
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN  
FROM: PAULA A. THEIS  
SUBJECT: President's remarks at the Vail  
Symposium

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRESIDENTIAL USE: \_\_\_\_\_

10 a.m., Friday, August 15, 1975, Vail, Colorado

SPEECHWRITER: Pullen

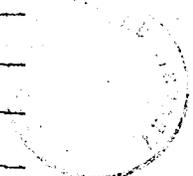
EDITED BY: Rousek/Friedman

BASIC RESEARCH/SPEECH MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY:

Research, FEA

CLEARED BY (Please initial):

- (X) OPERATIONS (Rumsfeld) \_\_\_\_\_
- (X) CONGRESSIONAL/PUBLIC LIAISON (Marsh) \_\_\_\_\_
- (X) PRESS (Nessen) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) LEGAL (Buchen) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) ECONOMIC POLICY BOARD (Seidman) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (Lynn) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) DOMESTIC COUNCIL (Cannon) \_\_\_\_\_
- (X) NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (Scowcroft) \_\_\_\_\_
- (X) RESEARCH (Waldron) *JP* \_\_\_\_\_
- (X) MARGITA WHITE (FYI) \_\_\_\_\_
- (X) ENERGY RESOURCES COUNCIL (Zarb) *Zausner* \_\_\_\_\_
- (X) COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS (Greenspan) *M. Russell* \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON (Baroody) \_\_\_\_\_
- (X) JERRY JONES (FYI) \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) ROD HILLS \_\_\_\_\_



August 14, 1975  
THIRD DRAFT

REMARKS FOR THE PRESIDENT TO USE AT THE VAIL SYMPOSIUM,  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1975

I'm very pleased to meet today with a group considering how to deal with the energy problem -- instead of debating its existence.

Our energy problem is like a giant puzzle. Solving this puzzle requires the piecing together of many complex, interlocking parts.

OPTIONAL PARAGRAPH ADDED:

When the parts are properly fitted, we will have a program that decreases energy consumption, increases domestic fuel supplies and stimulates new energy technology. Our immediate goal is to increase production of domestic oil and gas while decreasing our wasteful consumption. In meeting this objective, however, we must establish the framework for the inevitable transition to an energy economy that does not rely on depletable resources. For within the next 25-50 years, oil and gas -- which constitutes two-thirds of the fuel we now burn -- may be too costly to use at any price.

END OF OPTION

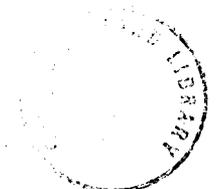


As one important piece of our energy puzzle, our national coal reserves contain greater energy potential than the Middle East's reserves of oil. Increased use of coal is vital to energy independence. This resource will be developed and consumed with a commitment to balancing energy needs with environmental concerns.

With almost half of the Nation's coal reserves in the West, you in this region are justifiably concerned about the quality of development. As one who has visited here many times, I share this concern.

But let me emphasize this: We are capable of tapping our national energy resources without despoiling the environment. We will be able to do so, however, only in an atmosphere of realism -- not antagonism.

This Administration is committed to seeing that improved mining technology insures safe and environmentally sound production of coal. We also need the improved technology to burn coal directly without producing environmental damage. The Nation's capacity to convert coal into clean, gaseous and liquid fuel can and must be developed.



Even if our reliance on imported oil for 38 percent of our current use did not make us vulnerable to economic and political disruption, we would still have to utilize our coal reserves. For coal will eventually become our principal source of fossil fuel.

The fact is -- we are an energy dependent society. With our Nation's reserves of oil and natural gas being consumed, and with the uncertainty of foreign supplies, we must utilize existing energy sources, and develop new ones.

Our dependence on imported oil at an average cost of \$70 million per day last year makes critical decisions necessary. To help reduce dependence on imports and stem the outflow of American dollars and jobs, I will veto the six-month extension of price controls on domestic oil which the Congress sent to me just before recessing.

For more than six months, this Administration tried to work with the Congress to find a compromise on decontrol. The Congress twice rejected reasonable Administration compromises. I went more than half way with the Congress on the issue.



Approval of this extension would mean only more months of delay without the critically needed incentives to promote conservation and spur new domestic oil production. An extension would continue price uncertainty for consumers and producers alike and maintain dependence on foreign oil sources.

To cushion the impact of sudden decontrol, if the Congress sustains my veto, I will lift the special import fees on crude oil and petroleum products. These fees were imposed in the first place to induce conservation and reduce consumption and our reliance on foreign oil -- which is vital to our national security interests.

Unless we decontrol so-called "old oil" and implement the other elements of my energy program, an increasing share of our oil supply will be coming from high-priced and unreliable foreign sources. Hence, gasoline and other petroleum product prices will continue to rise and our vulnerability to future embargoes will become intolerable.



The net effect of immediate decontrol and removal of the import fees will mean an increase of approximately three cents per gallon in the price of petroleum products -- contrary to what others have predicted.

This is a small price to pay to reduce our vulnerability to embargoes and exorbitant price increases imposed by foreign producers.

OPTIONAL PARAGRAPH:

If the Congress refuses to sustain my veto and continues price controls, I will have no other choice than to reinstate import fees. Meantime, I am directing the Department of Justice to appeal the ruling by the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia that the President does not have the authority to impose fees on imported petroleum products.

END OF OPTION

(more)

OPTIONAL INSERT:

Painful as they are, higher prices do promote conservation. And just as importantly, they promote increased efficiency in the use of petroleum products.

Cheap energy encourages waste and preserves inefficient energy technology. When the price of energy reflects its value, as determined by the marketplace, there will be incentives to stop squandering our resources and develop new technologies.

END OF INSERT

Reduced consumption helps reduce dependence. But this alone will not solve the problem. A dramatic increase in American production is also required. Decontrol will stimulate domestic production by removing the restrictive \$5.25 per barrel price ceiling on so-called "old oil" which accounts for 60 percent of all domestic production. This ceiling arbitrarily

discourages the use of new and more expensive production technology. By establishing an artificially low price, it encourages indiscriminate and wasteful use of our limited domestic resources.

OPTIONAL PARAGRAPH:

While we must solve our immediate need for oil, we must also develop new sources of energy, such as solar power.

END OF OPTION

If the Congress also enacts my two proposals for energy rebates to consumers and a "windfall profits" tax on oil companies, then the impact of decontrol, cushioned by the removal of the import fees, will not hinder economic recovery.

Swift action on these taxes must be accompanied by Congressional action on other segments of my comprehensive energy package.

The piecemeal on-again-off-again Congressional approach to energy during the past six months is dangerous, expensive and needless. Every day we delay means greater dependence on unreliable supplies of foreign oil,

pushes back development of more efficient use of available energy and retards the search for new energy sources here at home.

We are running out of time -- time we can use to help balance our environmental concerns with our energy needs. The longer we talk, the shorter our time to act responsibly. In times of crises, such as the 1973 oil embargo, we can no longer act. We can only react.

I urge you to help us obtain Congressional action on a comprehensive energy program. Failure to make tough decisions today drastically increases the vulnerability of our economy to disruption and reduces our options to meet the energy needs of the future.

Economists and environmentalists have been telling us that there is no free lunch in this world. And they are right. The price for command of our economic and energy destiny is small in dollars, but high in reward -- if we make the tough decisions that are demanded of us.

Now, let's get down to those tough questions you've been saving up.

August 21, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR PAUL THEIS

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here is a memo to the President concerning the reduction of Federal employees, which we discussed at the speech-writing session yesterday.

The President indicated that he wanted to include something like this in the hardware speech.

Attachment: Memo to the President from Paul O'Neill re meeting the 40,000 employment reduction





EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

*Nease*

AUG 13 1975

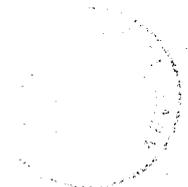
MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: PAUL H. O'NEILL *O'Neill*  
SUBJECT: Meeting the 40,000 Employment  
Reduction

It is my pleasure to bring you good news--for a change. Not only has the Federal Government met your employment reduction goal of 40,000 for FY 75 but we actually ended the year 12,400 employees below the ceiling you set.

Last August you announced a 40,000 employment reduction from levels planned in the 1975 Budget. This was aimed at holding civilian Federal employment in the Executive Branch in full-time permanent positions (excluding the Postal Service) at or below 1,928,100 on June 30, 1975.

The Civil Service Commission informs us that full-time permanent employment as of June 30, 1975 stood at 1,915,700 or 12,400 below the goal you set last August.

*Congratulations  
Bill Ron N. make  
an announcement.*



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OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
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*Neenan*

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*Congratulations  
Harold Ron N. make  
an announcement.*



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

8/28/75

TO: Ron Nessen

---

FROM: PAUL THEIS

*PT*

You may be able to do something  
with this...if you want to. See  
Senator Curtis' letter first.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 28, 1975

Dear Mr. Ickes:

It was with more than a little dismay that I learned from Senator Carl Curtis -- who is acquainted with your son-in-law, Mr. Lee Terry of Omaha -- that you and I are arch political rivals. Namely, that we both claim title to the position of Honorary Mayor and Justice of the Peace of Fulford, Colorado.

Lately, it seems that whenever I assume a new office, I am put in the spot of having to defend my right to hold it. This is certainly true of my present job in which a goodly number of well-meaning gentlemen have expressed a definite interest. I have not been overly concerned with this threat, however, as I was comfortable in the notion that I could retire to relative security as Honorary Mayor of Fulford.

Now, even this is being challenged and it has been suggested that the way to amicably settle our dispute is to hold a run-off election. However, I understand that the population of Fulford consists of one citizen, yourself. Thus, after reviewing the findings of a private pole conducted in my behalf, I am forced to concede that while the election would be a close one, I could lose by as much as one vote. Also, I suspect that any recount by the incumbent Fulford Justice of the Peace would not materially advance my candidacy.



Therefore, with a wisdom forged in the crucible of nearly thirty years on the Washington political scene, (called horsensense in Colorado) I will yield to the gentleman from Fulford all claims to any Honorary titles in your fair city. Moreover, I think I'm going to have my hands full hanging on to my current job.

With warmest good wishes,

Mr. Harvey Ickes

Fulford, Colorado



## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

August 5, 1975

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I understand that in addition to the high office of President of the United States you hold the distinguished titles of Honorary Mayor and Justice of the Peace of the town of Fulford, Colorado.

You may or may not be aware that a problem has developed with regard to the latter two positions. I am writing with the hope that I might help you resolve it short of any liabilities it could cause your Presidential re-election efforts next year.

You see, Mr. President, there is another Honorary Mayor and Justice of the Peace of Fulford. His name is Harvey Ickes. He is the only full-time resident of Fulford, which I understand has been a ghost town since about 1913. I am advised that Mayor Ickes was out of town the day that Mr. Joseph Hartt of Englewood, Colorado, conferred the titles of Mayor and Justice of the Peace of Fulford upon you. I am further advised that Mayor Ickes uttered a ghostly groan upon learning, on his return, that another person, namely Your Honor, had been named Mayor and Justice of the Peace.

Now that you are about to embark on a vacation trip to the Fulford area, I have given the matter a great deal of thought and I believe you have a much-needed opportunity to settle this controversial titular dispute.

First, let me recommend very strongly against any contest that would place before the Senate of the United States the task of determining the validity of your certificate of appointment as opposed to any certificates that might be held by Harvey Ickes. The Senate has demonstrated conclusively in the New Hampshire Senate contest that it is not competent to settle matters of this type without unbridled confusion and disruption.

Secondly, I likewise advise very strongly against any sort of runoff election. (The Senate likely would try to effect a runoff election in this case if it got its hands on it.) My reasoning is thus: I wouldn't want you to lose, and I hate to think how the election would come out in a ghost town where the only votes cast beyond those of your opponent and his immediate family would have to come from the local graveyard. I know that in your long elective career you have never had

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
August 8, 1975  
Page 2

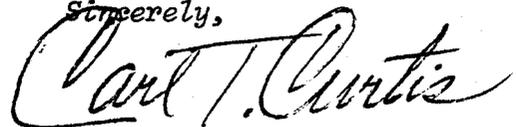
any experience garnering votes from citizens who have departed this world. I do not know Mr. Ickes' talents in this regard, but I do know your history of electoral integrity.

My considered proposal, Mr. President, is that you attempt to settle this problem by negotiation and compromise. I am personally acquainted with Mayor Ickes' son-in-law, Mr. Lee Terry of Omaha, Nebraska. Mr. Terry is the News Director of KETV Television Station in Omaha. He is very fair-minded, and he is currently vacationing with his family in Fulford. I am confident that he would make his services available as mediator. I believe Mr. Terry could get a favorable response from Mayor Ickes if you would withdraw any claim you might have to the title of Mayor in return for an agreement by Mr. Ickes that he will recognize you as the uncontested holder of the title of Justice of the Peace of Fulford.

Mayor Ickes will welcome your participation in the administration of justice in the Community, I feel sure. He already has his hands full. During his ten-year term as Mayor, he has served the needs of his constituency day and night. In addition to Mayor and Justice of the Peace, he has performed the duties of Police Chief, Fireman, garbage collector and city engineer. He is the only chief executive I know who has had 100% support consistently from his constituency. In fact, it would seem most helpful to have him on your side. It would assure you of 100% of the votes in Fulford in 1976.

Hopefully yours, I am

Sincerely,



CARL T. CURTIS, USS

CTC:srf



February 18, 1975

Dear Mr. Hartt:

Thank you very much for the certificate making me the Honorary Justice of the Peace and Mayor of Fulford, Eagle County, Colorado. I am delighted to have the color photograph showing Fulford in the Autumn, and you were most kind to frame the picture and the certificate in wood from one of the town's old mines.

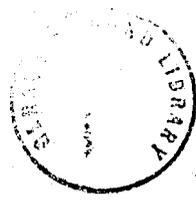
With warmest best wishes.

Sincerely,

**JERRY FORD**

Mr. Joseph R. Hartt  
6352 South Poplar Court  
Englewood, Colorado 80110

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RECEIVED  
FEB 23 1975  
LIBRARY

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*certificate*

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

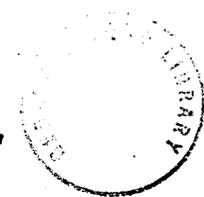
8/28/75

TO: Ron Nessen

FROM: PAUL THEIS

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WASHINGTON

August 28, 1975

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With warmest good wishes,

Mr. Harvey Ickes

Fulford, Colorado

CARL T. CURTIS  
NEBRASKA

8-8

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY  
FINANCE  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL REVENUE  
TAXATION  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND  
CONDUCT  
CHAIRMAN OF REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

August 8, 1975

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The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

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The Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
August 8, 1975  
Page 2

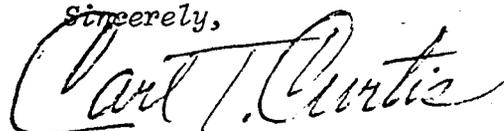
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CTC:srf



EXECUTIVE  
TR16  
C12

February 18, 1975

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6352 South Poplar Court  
Englewood, Colorado 80110

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FEB 23 1975  
FBI - DENVER

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**August 27, 1975**

**MEMORANDUM FOR: JERRY JONES**

**FROM: RON NESSEN**

**I propose that over the next month or so the President agree to a handful of remaining interview requests from major newspapers which cover the White House regularly. There is considerable grumbling from these major newspapers which have not had their turn, and if we get rid of them soon, it will clear the decks to concentrate on our various out-of-town interviews and media events.**

**The outstanding interview requests I recommend the President accept are:**

**Chicago Sun Times  
Scripps Howard  
Cox Newspapers  
Peter Lisagor  
Newhouse Newspapers**



August 27, 1975

**MEMORANDUM FOR: JERRY JONES**

**FROM: RON NESSEN**

I wish to propose that the President agree to appear on "Meet the Press" on NBC at noon, Sunday, November 9 for a half-hour interview.

This is Lawrence Spivak's farewell program. He is retiring after running "Meet the Press" on television for 28 years and on radio for 30 years. As you know, Spivak is one of the most respected and beloved television personalities. His long affiliation with "Meet the Press" has made him truly an institution. It would be a fitting tribute at the conclusion of his career for the President to appear on Spivak's farewell program.

If the President agrees to appear, it would be a standard "Meet the Press" format with Spivak as moderator and a panel of four journalists asking the questions. The program could be done either at the NBC studios in Washington or at the White House.

I strongly recommend that the President accept this invitation. I would appreciate a decision at the earliest possible moment so that the show can give the President's appearance wide publicity and pick an especially distinguished panel of questioners.

