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DRAFT: M.D. 3/31/76

GRIDIRON SPEECH ("ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN" MATERIAL)

I understand that Ronald Reagan was asked to play the Washington Post Publisher in "All the President's Men"... but Katie Graham objected.

Don Rickles would have played Ben Bradlee, but Don was worried about acquiring an abrasive image.

I'm told that it's quite a film -- especially the scene where I do some calisthenics at the '72 convention. Of course, that makes it a political film, so we will be asking for equal time. At tomorrow's Kennedy Center premier the audience will be required to sit through two and a half hours of Humphrey acceptance speeches.

I was going to invite Woodward and Bernstein to dinner at the White House after the premier, but I found out that the Secret Service is still under orders to shoot on sight.

Susan wanted me to invite Robert Redford over but, frankly, I've had my fill with actors trying to break into Washington politics.

