The original documents are located in Box 6, folder "4/3/76 - Gridiron Dinner" of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

62ND ANNUAL WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION DINNER

The Washington Hilton Hotel

Saturday-May 1, 1976

Departure: 7:30 P.M.

Attire: Black Tie

From: Terry O'Donnell



BACKGROUND

The 62nd annual dinner of the White House Correspondents Association will present journalistic prizes, install new officers, and provide an evening of socializing for its members and guests. Outgoing president, Helen Thomas of UPI, will install Lawrence O'Rourke of the Philadelphia Bulletin as the Association's new President. Entertainment will be provided by Tennessee Ernie Ford and Nashville's Opryland, USA. (Head Table List Attached TAB A).

Other invited guests include the Vice President and Mrs. Rockefeller, Secretary Simon, Attorney General Levi, Secretary Richardson, Secretary Mathews, Secretary Rumsfeld, Secretary Kleppe, Secretary Coleman, and Ron Nessen.

SEQUENCE

7:30 p.m. You and Mrs. Ford board motorcade on

South Grounds and depart en route Washington

Hilton Hotel.

7:37 p.m. Motorcade arrives Washington Hilton Hotel.

PRESS POOL COVERAGE

You will be met by:

Helen Thomas, UPI Retiring President of the White House Correspondents Association

Lawrence O'Rourke, Philadelphia Bulletin
Incoming President of the White
House Correspondents Association

PRESS POOL COVERAGE

7:40 p.m. You and Mrs. Ford arrive Cabinet Room.

OFFICIAL PHOTO COVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 38

7:50 p.m. You and Mrs. Ford, escorted by Ms. Thomas and Mr. O'Rourke, depart Cabinet Room en route holding room.

Head Table guests depart Cabinet Room and proceed to head table.

You and Mrs. Ford arrive holding room.

You and Mrs. Ford, escorted by Ms. Thomas and Mr. O'Rourke, depart holding room en route off-stage announcement area.

You and Mrs. Ford arrive off-stage announcement area and pause for announcement.

"Ruffles and Flourishes"
Announcement of the Vice
President and Mrs. Rockefeller

"Ruffles and Flourishes"
Announcement of you and Mrs. Ford
"Hail to the Chief"

7:50 p.m.

7:51 p.m.

7:53 p.m.

7:54 p.m.

7:56 p.m.

7:54 p.m.

7:56 p.m.

You and Mrs. Ford, escorted by Ms. Thomas and Mr. O'Rourke, enter International Ballroom and proceed to Head Table.

> PRESS POOL COVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 1,400

You and Mrs. Ford arrive Head Table and remain standing.

National Anthem. 7:58 p.m.

Dinner begins.

Ms. Thomas will present the Merriman Smith Memorial Award to Aldo Beckman of the Chicago Tribune; the Worth Bingham Memorial Award and the Raymond Clapper Memorial Award (1st prize) to James V. Riser of the Des Moines Register & Tribune; and the Raymond Clapper Memorial Award (2nd prize) to Albert R. Hunt of the

Ms. Thomas will propose a toast to you and the Vice President.

NOTE: No response is expected.

Dinner concludes.

Ms. Thomas presents a silver desk set to you and Mrs. Ford.

Wall Street Journal.

NOTE: A brief thank-you by you is appropriate.

7:57 p.m.

8:00 p.m.

8:30 p.m.

8:40 p.m.

9:10 p.m.

9:11 p.m.

*	9:13 p.m.	Ms. Thomas thanks the orchestra.
	9:14 p.m.	Ms. Thomas introduces Mr. O'Rourke as the new President of the Association.
	9:15 p.m.	Remarks by Mr. O'Rourke, concluding in the introduction of the new officers.
	9:20 p.m.	Mr. O'Rourke introduces the evening's entertainment.
	9:22 p.m.	Tennessee Ernie Ford & Nashville's Opryland USA show begins.
	9:55 p.m.	Show concludes.
9:56 p.m.		Introduction of you by Mr. O'Rourke.
9:57 p.m.		PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS.
		PRESS POOL COVERAGE
10:10 p.m.		Remarks conclude. You remain at the podium while Mr. O'Rourke thanks you.
10:12 p.m.		You and Mrs. Ford, escorted by Mr. O'Rourke and Ms. Thomas, depart Cabinet Room en route motorcade for boarding.
10:25 p.m.		Motorcade departs Washington Hilton Hotel en route South Grounds.
10:32 p.m.		Arrive South Grounds.
		# # # #

HEAD TABLE

HELEN THOMAS, UPI PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

On Miss Thomas' right

THE PRESIDENT

Mr. O'Rourke, Lawrence M. Philadelphia Bulletin

Mrs. Ford

Mr. Poe, Edgar A. New Orleans Times-Picayune

The Secretary of the Treasury

Mr. Pierpoint, Robert CBS News

The Attorney General

Mr. Deakin, James St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The Secretary of Commerce

Mr. Sutherland, John P. U.S. News & World Report

The Secretary of Health, Education & Welfare

Mr. Davis, B. Dale Philadelphia Bulletin

Mr. Nessen, Ronald

Mr. Fuller, Keith, AP Vice President, N.Y.

Mr. Marks, Leonard Washington Attorney

Mr. Folliard, Edward T. Washington Post, Ret.

Mr. Cornell, Douglas AP, Ret.

Mr. Humphries, Harrison B.
AP & Chairman, Standing
Committee of Correspondents,
Congressional Galleries

On Miss Thomas' left

Mr. Healy, Paul New York Daily News

The Vice President

Mr. Beckman, Aldo B. Chicago Tribune

Mrs. Rockefeller

Mr. Harris, Ralph Reuters

The Secretary of Defense

Mr. Kohler, Saul Newhouse News Service

The Secretary of the Interior

Miss Lewine, Frances
Associated Press

The Secretary of Transportation

Mr. Roth, Robert
Philadelphia Bulletin

Mr. Lisagor, Peter Chicago Daily News

Mr. Cohen, Ronald
UPI Washington Editor

Mr. Hefferman, John W. (Pat) Ret. Reuters Bureau Chief

Mr. Kilpatrick, Carroll Washington Post, Ret.

Mr. Adams, Stanley President of ASCAP

Mr. Horner, Garnett D. Washington Star, Ret.

Mr. Tomei, A.A. - Philadelphia AFM Executive Officer

Mr. Knighton, William H.Y., Jr. Baltimore Sun, Ret.

"Fugue for Pundits"

To tune of "Fugue for Tinhorns" from Guys and Dolls

For Jerry Ford I'll fight, I hear his head's all right, Of course, it all depends if there's a wall in sight. Can do, can do. This poll says the guy can do.
If Reagan up the flue,
Can do, can do.

I see a Carter win, He's got that Chiclet grin And on the real big issues he's hard to pin. Try Jim, Try Jim. The South's really proud of him George Wallace was just a whim Try Jim, Try Jim.

I've got the choice this fall, The man is Mo Udall Among the lib-ral leaders he sure stands tall Can do, can do. The left knows what's right for you As they proved in sev'nty-two.

Scoop Jackson rings the bell, With friends of Is-ray-el
And with the union bosses he does damn well Try Scoop, Try Scoop. His eyelids no longer droop And he's not your Commie dupe

George Wallace is my pick Because his finger-lickin' chicken-picken' just might click Right on, Right on. The Wallace phenomenor Is big with the Pentagon Right on, Right on.

Ron Reagan is no bum But lately he's so glum Singing: "California, here I come Can't do, can't do. His primary votes were few Unless Ford gets Asian flu

Though Hubert's acting coy To resurrect his old campaign of joy Can't wait, can't wait. For Humphrey, the man of fate It can't ever be too late Can't wait, can't wait.

He's saying no-sireee But, after all, he's the last of the dynasty Should Shriver have all the fun? Might run, might run

The numbers are first rate, Of course, they could be losers whose polls look great. Can do, can do. These polls say the guys can do.
Though some now have dropped from view

Can do, can do.

We've got the word -

Like Hell!

"Nixon Song"

To tune of "I Only Cry at Weddings" from Sweet Charity

It's tough for a gentle soul like me Who's never been wedded to the truth That I get my kicks in a polling booth And now it's time for me to tell you why

I've always loved elections, they are just like resurrections I walk into a polling place and face the name I love to face

To purchase votes I found the way: they're always airlines who can pay

My enemies were listed, for their sordid souls were twisted, But my feelings for them now are quite refined.
I've always loved elections, perfection is elections, Just as long as they were mine

I've always loved the White House knew for me it was the right house It's all baloney that my Sony only played 'Hail to the chief My oval office wiring was perfect for conspiring.
I'd still be there, right on the job, if it weren't for Carl and Bob

That I'd like to reapper now,
It was all a big mistake that I resigned.
Just one more election, a landslide's my projection,

"First Woman" To tune of "I Am Woman"

I'm First Woman, hear me speak I've got more to do than smile and shake your hand I've got E-R-A to pass Tho my kids are smoking grass While I lobby for abortion on demand

Yes, I am brave — of the press I have no fear Jerry may be running, but it's me they're gonna hear If you ask me, I will say anything
I am free, I am quotable, I'm first woman.

I'm First Woman, not a mouse Not a prisoner in this House I wanna keep this job - I want to do much more I'll get a woman on the court And I will, with your support, Put women where they've never been before

Yes, I am brave. Of the press I have no fear I am Betty Ford — I'm the woman of the year If I want to, I will do anything — I am free I'm unimpeachable I'm First Woman.

"Kissinger song"

To tune of "I want to teach the world to live in perfect harmony."

I'd like to see Arabs and Jews So if I make a secret deal I'm sure you'll understand.

He's an unreal thing Making diplomats flip But we keep sending Henry on His world-wide ego trip

Tnever mind a leak or two If they make me look wise I'll blame two other guys

Demanding that I leave So I may grab the nearest shuttle Back to Tel Aviv

"Carter Song"

To tune of "Put on a Happy Face."

Clum fellows in the race I've got a different gimmick Put on a happy face

Flash it at ev'ry guy and doll you see

Fuzz up the busing case What if my platform's tissue?

If the party gives me second place I'll still wear my happy face

"Yankee Doodle Closer" To tune of Yankee Doodle

To keep the press unfettered

First Amendment, talk it up Our free press is dandy! Damn the Congress and the courts

Or the press will go to jail

It's 'Wow' for NOW and E-R-A On editor'l pages But women's numbers still are low

Rest of us must be content

Does he talk or does he not? We're down to nitty gritty.

Publishers ring freedom's bell Their vigor's not surprising Free news suits them very well But not free advertising.

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

D

TO: Mrs. Ford

FROM: Sheila

RE: Gridiron Club

Lyrics to "Once in Love

With Amy"





BUFFALO EVENING NEWS

WASHINGTON BUREAU

SUITE 1286 NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING

LUCIAN C. WARREN Bureau Chief WASHINGTON, D. C. 20004

March 16, 1976

Mrs. Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld Secretary to Mrs. Ford The White House Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Sheila:

Enclosed the lyrics to the music we talked about. We are certainly looking forward to the possibility of Mrs. Ford's participation in this Gridiron number and we most appreciate your help and her interest.

Call us when convenient as to any further desired arrangements, and in the meantime we will get a cassette tape ready of the song as it will be sung, and will see that it gets to you for a possible private rehearsal at the White House at Mrs. Ford's convenience.

Sincerely

Lucian C. Warren

Encl.



Republicans: Once in Love with Betty

Politicians slay me, Always depress, dismay me; Over and Over, disillusioned by em, We can't justify em-no way:

Ron and Rock and Gerry
Don't ever make us merryBore us with pledges, promises and hedges,
Set our teeth on edges--all day.

(But) There's one who won't equivocate and waver, Who always shoots straight, Who's candider and cheerfuller and braver-Our candidate:

(So) Start the draft for Betty,
We'll all go daft for Betty;
Go tell the party we all want the dancer,
She's the perfect answer--and how!
Let Betty have her equal rights right now!

(Oh) Once in love with Betty,
Always in love with Betty;
Go tell the party we all want the dancer,
She's the perfect answer--you'll see,
And Betty can have equal rights with me.

Choung:

BUFFALO EVENING NEWS

WASHINGTON BUREAU

SUITE 1286 NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING

Mar. 16, 1976

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20004

Dear Sheila,

Attached is the dialogue in our Republican skit leading up to the singing of the song, Once in Love With Betty, also enclosed.

It will be sung by Ernie Sult, one of our limited members (the name for our soloists and other non-newspaperman talent). He works in the personnel department of the Bureau of International Commerce in the Commerce Department and is active in the Alexandria Little Theater.

The plan is for Ernie to do a little sbft-shoe routine dance after he sings the part just before the last chorus.

Then the Gridiron chorus will sing the last chorus and it is our fond hope that Mrs. Ford would join in a simple dance with Ernie Sult on stage as those final lines are sung.

We hope to have soon a tape of how Ernie and the Gridiron Chorus will be performing this, and of course we would be happy to arrange a private rehearsal on this if Mrs. Ford so desires.

We like to think Mrs. Ford would enjoy the fun and we are sure our audience would love it.

Sincerely.

Helen Thomas

Republican skit -11-

(enter ordinary voter, dressed in Ray Bolger seedy costume)

Ordinary Voter: If you ask me, I think we need some non-political

politicians back on planet earth.

Morton: Who are you?

Ordinary voter: I'm an ordinary voter and I've come to speak

for the silent majority

(sings Once In Love with Betty and does soft-shoe

routine as chorus sings last four lines)

