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VICE PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS AT WASHINGTON PRESS CLUB  
CONGRESSIONAL DINNER, JANUARY 29, 1974

Thank you, "Scoop" Jackson, for that "thrilling" introduction. And thank you, ladies and gentlemen of the Washington Press Club for inviting me to appear here this evening.

I can't think of a more appropriate person than you, "Scoop," to introduce the speaker for the executive branch of the Government. After all, what better tribute could there be to our branch of government than to have a man who has been such an outstanding leader of the legislative branch still want to come over to lead the executive.

I wish you luck, Scoop, as you pursue the Presidential nomination. Not the election, mind you, just the nomination.

But just make sure you don't peak too soon. I understand that there are a lot of oil company executives who would like to see your campaign run out of gas as soon as possible.

But if the time should ever come when "Scoop" Jackson does move from one branch to the other, I trust he will be able to make a smooth adjustment. I can testify that it's an exhilarating experience -- as any good new challenge can be -- that it involves some new burdens but that it also brings new rewards. One fear I had at



first was that my departure from the Congress after 25 years would mean losing touch with some of my friends on the Hill -- but happily I have been able to stay in close touch with many of them and I hope to do even better on that score as I get settled.

I happen to think that I can keep the respect of the legislative branch without compromising my responsibilities in the executive branch.

People often ask me which branch of Government I think is most important.

Personally, I believe they are all co-equal. I have to believe that because I have too many sensitive friends in all three branches.

However, I was interested to learn what another American who served in both the legislative and executive branches of the Federal Government had to say on the subject.

Unfortunately, since the fellow I have in mind was named Harry S Truman, I can't quote everything he had to say verbatim . . .

Some of you may have read lately that back in August of 1962, President Truman decided to write a candid letter of advice



to President Kennedy. He didn't say much about the judicial branch, but he had plenty to say about ~~the executive and~~ the executive and the legislative -- and also about the unofficial fourth branch, our great and free press.

Here is what HST had to say to JFK about the fourth estate, present company excluded, I'm sure:

" . . . don't let those damned columnists and editorial writers discourage you, " he wrote.

Then he went on to discuss the Congress vis-a-vis the Presidency. "The President is just as great as the Congress,--" Harry Truman wrote, " and really greater -- when he exercises his Constitutional Prerogatives. "

Then old Harry gave JFK some advice on how to deal with the Congress:

" . . . meet 'em, cuss 'em and give 'em hell . . . "

Well, times change, and I don't pretend that I ever saw eye to eye with Harry Truman on a number of issues. But I did think his cantankerous old shade would enjoy knowing that it played a part in this evening's great debate.



As for me, I think that the greatness of the American system is based not on the way the three branches of government conflict, but on the way in which our Constitution provides for compromise, revision and moderation of those disputes that do come up.

No one branch is master of the system, any more than any one man is. We are all of us servants of the Constitution and the American people it protects.

That is the way it should be, and tonight, with due respect to Walter Cronkite, that's the way it is, January 29, 1974.

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WASHINGTON PRESS CLUB CONGRESSIONAL DINNER

Jan.29,1974



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Mr & Mrs Ronald Ziegler, White House  
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GUEST LIST

WASHINGTON PRESS CLUB CONGRESSIONAL DINNER

Jan. 29, 1974

ADDED NAMES

Ambassador & Mrs Angier Biddle Duke

Mr & Mrs Stanley Scott, Spec. Asst. to the President



WASHINGTON PRESS CLUB CONGRESSIONAL DINNER - Jan. 29, 1974 - CLUB MEMBERS ATTENDING

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Peggy Simpson, Second " " (Associated Press)  
Toni House, Third Vice Pres. (Washington Star-News)  
Dorothy Gilliam, Secretary (Washington Post)  
Jerry Edgerton, Treasurer (McGraw Hill-World News)  
Ymelda Dixon, Dinner Co-chairman (Washington Star-News)  
Prentice Childs, " " (CBS News)



Alvadee Adams - Board of Education, Prince George's County, Md.  
Millicent B. Adams (Affiliate)  
Lonelle Aikman - National Geographic Magazine  
\* Adele Allison - (Affiliate)  
Helen Anderson - San Antonio Light & Daily Northwestern  
Bonnie Angelo - Time Magazine  
Dorothea Apgar - Baltimore News American  
Edith Evans Asbury - New York Times  
Francie Barnard - Ft. Worth Star Telegram  
Alan Barth (Affiliate)  
Mary Lou Beatty - Washington Post  
Dorese Bell (Affiliate)  
Joy Billington - Washington Star News  
Anne Blair - Teleprompter Corp.  
Ruth Hagy Brod (Affiliate)  
Elizabeth Brownstein - Eastern Educational TV Network  
Jayne Brunley - Florida Times Union  
Mation Burros - Washington Star News  
Jeremy T. A. Campbell - London Evening Standard  
Liz Carpenter - Hill & Knowlton, Inc.  
Patty Cavin - Comm. of Single Taxpayers, Inc.  
Kathy Christie - Daniel J. Edelman Associates  
Roberta Clark - Dept. of Agriculture  
Carol Clawson - Newhouse News Service  
Eleanor Coakley - Dept. of Labor  
Christine Sadler Coe (Affiliate)  
Anne Corrigan - Rep. Joseph McDade's Staff  
Sylvia Costen - Richmond News Leader  
Urcel Daniel - Bur. of National Affairs, Inc.  
Margaret Davis - Veterans Adm.  
Margo Davis - Information Services, Inc.  
Kathleen Day - Natl. Assn. of Broadcasters  
Ruth Dean - Washington Star-News  
Cyrene Dear - Dear Publications & Radio, Inc.  
Grant Dillman - United Press Int.  
Ymelda Dixon - Washington Star-News  
Helen Dudman - Post Newsweek Stations  
Betty Dukert - NBC News/Meet The Press  
William J. Eaton - Chicago Daily News  
Mel Elfin - Newsweek  
Karen Elliott - Dallas Morning News  
Thomas Elliston - U.S. Information Agency  
Elizabeth M. Fielding - Natl. Credit Union Adm.  
Judy Flanders - Washington Star-News  
Blance Fuller - (Affiliate)  
Martha Furman (Affiliate)

\*Kate Alfrend - Dept. of Agriculture



Angele Gingras - Hollywood Reporter  
Vera Glaser - Knight Newspapers, Chicago Tribune, N.Y. News Syndicate  
Fannie Granton, - Johnson Publishing Co.  
Stephen Green - Washington Post  
Mary Ann Guyol - Southeastern Univ.  
Virginia Hart - Dept. of the Interior  
John Herbers - N.Y. Times  
\*Helen-Anne Hilker - Lib. of Congress  
Jeanne Whittaker Hines - Detroit Free Press (Mich)  
Allen Hoffard - U.S. Commission on Civil Rights  
Marjorie Holmes - Washington Star-News  
Ruth Holstein - (Affiliate)  
Roberta Hornig - Washington Star-News  
Marjorie Hunter - N.Y. Times  
Louise Hutchinson - Chicago Tribune  
Louise Ingalls - Baltimore News American  
Laura Jackson - Natl. Institute of Mental Health  
Frank Jordan - NBC News  
Virginia Kelly - Long Beach (Calif) Independent & Press-Telegram  
Claire Kincannon - WAGE Radio, Leesburg, Va.  
Elizabeth Shelton Knight - Washington Post  
Wauhilla La Hay - Scripps-Howard Newspapers (Washington Press Club president)  
Mary Beth Larrabee - Washington Tapes, Inc.  
Lillian Levy - NASA  
Frances Lewine - Associated Press  
Finlay Lewis - Minneapolis Tribune  
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Marianne Means - King Features Syndicate  
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Helen Hill Miller - (Affiliate)  
Hope Ridings Miller - (Affiliate)  
Gladys Montgomery - (Affiliate)  
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Ellen Oshins - (Affiliate)  
Miriam Ottenberg - Washington Star-News  
Annette Penney - American Footwear Industries Assn.  
Eleanor Pollock - free lance  
Simone Poulain - State Dept.  
Jean Powell - Washington Star-News  
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Josephine Ripley - Ripley News Service  
Edith Robins - U.S. Public Health Service  
Edith Roth - U.S. Office of Education  
Mary Patterson Routt - (Affiliate)  
\*George Herman - CBS News



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Nina Totenberg - National Star  
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Gladys Uhl - Rep. Richard Bolling's Staff  
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Gerry Van der Heuvel, State Dept.  
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Shirley Wagener - Dept. of Agriculture  
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Mary Lou Werner - Washington Star-News  
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Marion Wilhelm - Dept. of State, AID  
Joann Wilson - Los Angeles Times  
Ann Wood - N.Y. Daily News  
Marjorie W. Young - The Safety Journal, Anderson, S.C.  
\* Isabelle Shelton - Wash. Star-News  
Helen Smith - White House  
Malvina Stephenson - Chicago Tribune Syn.



(Bakshian)NK

*Speech Humor  
File*

January 28, 1974



VICE PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS AT WASHINGTON PRESS CLUB  
CONGRESSIONAL DINNER, JANUARY 29, 1974

Thank you, "Scoop". And thank you, ladies and gentlemen of the Washington Press Club, for inviting me here this evening.

I can't think of a more appropriate person than "Scoop" Jackson to introduce the speaker for the executive branch. After all, what better tribute could there be to our branch of government than to have a man who has been such an outstanding leader of the legislative branch still want to come over to lead the executive.

I wish you luck, Scoop, as you pursue the Presidential nomination. Not the election, mind you, just the nomination.

Just make sure you don't peak too soon.

I understand that there are a lot of oil company executives who would like to see your campaign run out of gas as soon as possible.

I am grateful for Scoop's efforts to resolve the energy crisis, however, When I was in the Congress, it didn't matter where we set our thermostats -- there was always enough hot air circulating to see us through the coldest winters. Now that I'm downtown, I have to shiver along with everyone else.



And we owe Scoop a vote of thanks for the warm weather he has provided this winter. I am especially conscious of that contribution, as I find myself in the middle of the winter, sitting on a branch -- the executive branch -- that has just been defoliated.

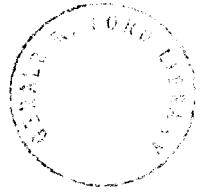
I did some studying about the executive branch before I went down there. As you know the literature on the Vice-Presidency is not encyclopaedic. So I studied the Presidents instead.

I learned that George Washington was the first President to have false teeth. That didn't strike me as very remarkable, since he was also the first President to give an Inaugural address, ride a horse, cut down a tree, and so forth. But we take our firsts where we find them, so we'll give George his false teeth.

Thomas Jefferson was the first President to have false humility.

Abraham Lincoln -- according to written descriptions from the pre-recording era -- was the first President to have a falsetto.

And if women continue to make the gains they have been making -- as I'm sure you will -- we may soon have the first President to wear false eyelashes. (pause) I knew someone would change that to eyelashes.



I am proud, as a Republican, that a Republican woman was the first woman of a major party to have her name placed in nomination for the Presidency. (Margaret Chase Smith)

In other areas, of course, the Democrats are ahead. Democratic Presidents have given more to the country in many important areas.

Take wars for example -- World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam. That's four to nothing in their favor.

On the other hand, we Republicans have chalked up some important records in this century, too.

William Howard Taft was the most rotund man ever to serve in the White House, and the only one ever to get stuck in his own bathtub. Calvin Coolidge slept more in the White House than any other President. (And Warren Harding apparently slept around more.)

You know, when someone broke the news to Dorothy Parker that Calvin Coolidge had died, her first question was "How could they tell?"

I'll bet Mrs. Longworth wishes she'd said that.

Republican or Democrat, being President can be fun.

When you want a little quiet background music before retiring at the end of the hard day, you've got the Marine Band, ready to blare out "Hail to the Chief" at the drop of a hat.





When you want a little excitement, they'll fire off a few 21-gun salutes for you.

When you're bored, you just read the Congressional Record -- and you realize you weren't all that bored.

And when you retire, people still listen to what you have to say. And they write books about things you really didn't have to say, but said anyway.

Like Harry Truman.

Unfortunately, I can't quote everything he had to say . . . at least not in front of a mixed audience.

Some of you may have read lately that back in August of 1962, President Truman decided to write a candid letter of advice to President Kennedy. He didn't say much about the judicial branch, but he had plenty to say about the executive and the legislative -- and also about our unofficial fourth branch, the press.

Here is what HST had to say to JFK about the fourth estate, with absolutely no reference to present company, I'm sure:

"...don't let those damned columnists and editorial writers discourage you," he wrote.

I'm glad Truman said that, and not me.

Then he went on to discuss the Congress vis-a-vis the Presidency. "The President is just as great as the Congress, --" Harry Truman wrote, "and really greater -- when he exercises his Constitutional Prerogatives."

Then old Harry gave JFK a simple three-part formula for dealing with the Congress:

"...meet 'em, cus 'em, and give 'em hell..." If that sounds redundant, at least it shows you where his heart was.

Again, I'm glad I didn't say that. In fact, President Truman didn't say it either until he had been out of office for 10 years.

You might call it a case of retroactive candor -- which is a fairly common condition in politics.

Well, times change, and I don't pretend that I ever saw eye to eye with Harry Truman on any great number of issues. But I do think he would enjoy knowing, if he could, that his wisdom played a part in this evening's great debate.

As for me, I think that the greatness of the American system is based not on the way the three branches of Government conflict, but on the way in which our Constitution provides for compromise, revision and moderation of those disputes that do come up.



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# # #



HEAD TABLE GUESTS OTHER THAN CLUB MEMBERS (LISTED WITH CLUB MEMBERS)

Speakers: Vice President Gerald Ford (and Mrs. Ford)

~~Speaker~~ Carl Albert (and Mrs. Albert)

Justice Potter Stewart (and Mrs. Stewart)

INTroducers:

Sen. Henry Jackson introducing Vice President Ford

Sen. George McGovern " Justice Stewart

Gov. Nelson Rockefeller " ~~Speaker~~ Albert

Also seated at head table:

Rep. John McFall

Rep. Leslie Arends

