### The original documents are located in Box 131, folder "Mar. 28, 1974 - Speech, Mobile Homes Manufacturers Association, Washington, DC" of the Gerald R. Ford Vice Presidential Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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# THE RADIO-TV CORRESPONDENTS DINNER, WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL, 8:00 P.M., MARCH 28, 1974

PRESIDENT JORDAN, VICE PRESIDENT MCLAUGHLIN, OTHER OFFICERS, AND MEMBERS AND GUESTS OF THE RADIO TELEVISION CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL DINNER. AS I LOOK ABOUT ME TONIGHT,
IT IS COMFORTING -- AT A TIME WHEN THE FUNDS
FOR OUR DEFENSE BUDGET MAY BE CUT -- TO SEE
SO MANY OF THE BIG GUNS IN YOUR INDUSTRY
ARE STILL GETTING LOADED.

UNPREPARED TONIGHT, YOU SEE, I DIDN'T SLEEP
WELL LAST NIGHT. I KEPT HAVING THIS
TERRIFYING NIGHTMARE. I DREAMED I WAS
STUCK IN A STALLED ELEVATOR WITH PRESIDENT
NIXON - AND DAN RATHER.

- 3 - survey

I WISH TO TALK, TONIGHT ABOUT THE PROBLEMS OF RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWSCASTERS.

THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM THAT I SEE CONFRONTING YOU AT THE MOMENT---HOW TO SHOW STREAKERS ON THE EVENING NEWS.

THE ANSWER - USE A REAR PROJECTION.



STREAKING IS A VERY BIG THING THESE
DAYS, BUT SOMETIMES IT GETS CONFUSING. LAST
NIGHT I SAW A FELLOW RUNNING PAST OUR HOME
IN ALEXANDRIA ABOUT 1:00 A.M. -- STARK NAKED.
WELL, I GOT CURIOUS. SO I ASKED HIM:
STREAKER? -- OUT LATE? HE SAID: NO -HUSBAND -- HOME EARLY.

I TRUST WE ALL GET HOME EARLY TONIGHT.

I UNDERSTAND THE LAST VICE PRESIDENT TO

ADDRESS YOUR GROUP GOT ON SO LATE JOHNNY

CARSON DEMANDED EQUAL TIME.

BUT THIS IS MY FIRST APPEARANCE AT YOUR DINNER AS VICE PRESIDENT, AND I WANT TO MAKE THE BEST IMPRESSION POSSIBLE. SO YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW I HAVE THROWN AWAY ALL THE JOKES I GOT FROM THE WHITE HOUSE SPEECHWRITERS.

THEY'D ALL BEEN USED IN HOUSTON,

ANYWAY.

THAT'S TRUE OF MOST VICE PRESIDENTS -ALL WE GET ARE LEFTOVERS. IN FACT I WAS
TALKING WITH HUBERT HUMPHREY THE OTHER DAY
ABOUT ORGANIZING A UNION FOR VICE PRESIDENTS.
BUT, IT DIDN'T WORK OUT. WE COULDN'T AGREE
ON WHO SHOULD BE PRESIDENT.



HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED HOW POLITICIANS AND RADIO-TV CORRESPONDENTS HAVE A LOT IN COMMON? WE BOTH LEAD LIVES FILLED WITH UNCERTAINTY. FOR INSTANCE, AT THE GRIDIRON DINNERS YOU ALWAYS SEE THE SAME FACES YEAR AFTER YEAR. BUT AT YOUR DINNERS, YOU NEVER KNOW WHO'LL BE HERE. HAS ANY ONE SEEN SALLY QUINN?

MAYBE THAT'S WHY A RADIO-TV

CORRESPONDENT HAS BEEN DEFINED AS SOMEONE
WITH HIS FEET ON THE GROUND, HIS EYE ON THE
BALL, HIS NOSE IN THE NEWS, AND HIS RESUME
IN THE MAIL.



SHIFTS IN TELEVISION TOO. PRESIDENT NIXON HAS GONE PUBLIC AND SENATOR ERVIN HAS GONE PRIVATE. IT HAPPENED SO FAST THAT SENATOR HOWARD BAKER ASKED ME TO MAKE THIS ANNOUNCEMENT: "ANYONE WANT TO BUY 12 BLUE SHIRTS -- CHEAP?"

ONE OF THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING
VICE PRESIDENT IS BEING PERMITTED OCCASIONAL
USE OF THE WHITE HOUSE SYSTEM THAT ALLOWS
US TO SEE A REPLAY OF ANY NEWS PROGRAM WE'D
LIKE TO SEE. SO NOW I GET A CHANCE TO SEE
MUCH MORE OF THE JOB YOU TV CORRESPONDENTS
ARE DOING -- ON ME.

AND I ALSO FIND MYSELF DOING SOME INSTANT ANALYSIS ON YOU. AFTER ALL, I HAVE THAT RIGHT SINCE I AM HISTORY'S FIRST INSTANT VICE PRESIDENT.



FRANKLY, MY ANALYSIS HAS RAISED SOME SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT YOU AND YOUR WORK.

I HOPE YOU WON'T MIND IF I BRING A FEW OF THE MOST SERIOUS TO YOUR ATTENTION.

FIRST -- WHO STYLES BOB PIERPOINT'S HAIR?

SECOND -- WHY IS JOE MCCAFFREY THE ONLY ONE WHO CARES ABOUT CONGRESS?

THIRD -- WHY DOES JOHN CHANCELLOR ALWAYS SIT SIDE-SADDLE?

FOURTH -- WHY DOESN'T PHIL JONES GET ON CAMERA MORE? (HE ASKED ME TO ASK THAT).

FIFTH -- WHO WRITES THOSE QUESTIONS FOR ROGER MUDD?

SIXTH -- AND WHO READS THEM TO HIM:

WELL, I HAVE A LOT MORE ON MY LIST, BUT IT'S LATE. PERHAPS I CAN ADD THOSE NEXT YEAR, IF I'M INVITED BACK AFTER THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOVELTY WEARS OFF.



BUT I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE TONIGHT -AND THIS IS SERIOUS -- WITHOUT EXPRESSING MY
APPRECIATION TO YOU FOR THE WAY YOU HANDLE
YOUR TREMENDOUSLY DIFFICULT TASK OF TRYING
TO CONDENSE INTO A FEW MINUTES THE DAILY
EVENTS OF A VERY TROUBLED TIME.

DAYS OF DEEP EMOTIONS AND GRAVE NATIONAL PROBLEMS.

THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT YOUR
INTERPRETATIONS OR EDITING DECISIONS ARE
ALWAYS THOSE THAT I WOULD MAKE IF I HAD YOUR
JOB. OR IF YOU HAD MINE.

BUT I RESPECT YOU AS RESPONSIBLE,
ETHICAL, PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS. AND, AS
OUR CURRENT PROBLEMS REACH THE DECISIVE
STAGES IN THE WEEKS AND MONTHS AHEAD, I HAVE
CONFIDENCE YOU WILL REPORT THOSE EVENTS WITH
THE DISPASSIONATE FAIRNESS THAT IS THE MARK
OF THE PROFESSIONAL REPORTER -- A DISPASSIONATE
FAIRNESS OUR TROUBLED NATION NEEDS AS NEVER
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THANK YOU AND GOOD NIGHT.

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THIRD -- WHY DOES JOHN CHANCELLOR ALWAYS SIT SIDE-SADDLE?

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# FOR THE RADIO-TV CORRESPONDENTS' ASSOCIATION DINNER WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL, MARCH 28, 1974

I do appreciate the honor you have accorded me here tonight. This, although I understand the last Vice President to address this group got on so late that Johnny Carson demanded equal time.

Could that have been the real reason for the famed

Des Moines speech? Regardless, since this is my first appearance
as Vice President at your annual Dinner, I want to make the best
impression possible. So I have thrown away all the jokes the

White House speechwriters gave me. They'd all been used in Houston,
anyway. You know how it is, a Vice President is always being upstaged.

In fact, I have been talking with Hubert Humphrey over the last few weeks about organizing a club for Vice Presidents. But we can't agree on who should be President.

But, if all those stories about network Vice Presidents:

I hear are true--we should have plenty of potential members here tonight.

Including that new network Senior Vice President Bill Small. We're all happy about Bill's promotion. In fact, every political figure I've talked with has seemed pleased. The farther Bill gets away from Washington, the happier most politicians feel.

Incidentally, does anyone know if Bill ever found the key to the men's room?

It's easy to see tonight he  $\underline{\text{did}}$  locate the key to the liquor cabinet.

Page 2

A ther network change has me a little worried. I mean that move of Don Meridith from ABC to NBC.

I hear NBC is grooming him for guest appearances on talk shows. That means dangerous competition for every man in political life--but dangerous with a big D for me. After all, Don's football stories are much more recent than mine.

And the quarterback--even in my day--always told the center what to do. But--if necessary-- I'll put on my helmet and meet Dandy Don head to head. It's getting so a politician has to watch the tube all the time. He's got eompetition coming from every direction. I assume yoy've all heard Howard Cosell talking about running for the Senate. Imagine Howard as a Senator.

In one of my favorite day dreams, I'm presiding as Senator Howard Cosell makes his maiden speech. To an emphy chamber of course. He solves the energy crisis, stops inflation, balances the budget, dismisses the Supreme Court, and writes the Arab-Israeli peace treaty. And then I rule him out of order. Well--it's only a day dream.

And while we're talking about TV personalities.in politics—what IS Dan Rather campaigning for?

I mention this because I am watching television news much more these days. And enjoying it less and less. Particularly since Atlantic City.

But as Vice President I have discovered I can order any TV program played back at any time I want it. So, now I get a chance to see much more of the work you TV correspondents are doing. And I find myself undertaking some Instant Analysis.

You know--it's a lot of fun. I can see why so many of you do it.

Anyway--this Instant Analysis of the delay replay has stirred some serious questions in my mind. I hope I won't offend you if I mention a few of the most serious tonight. I don't expect answers, mind you--I just hope you would consider them as you go about your job.

First----Who styles Bob Pierpoint's hair?

Second---Would anything make Ron Nessen smile?

Third----Would Howard K. SMith be interested in joining the White House speechwriters?

Fourth---Why does John Chancellor sit side-saddle so much?

Fifth----Why doesn't Phil Jones get on camera more often?

(He told me to ask that)

Sixth----Who writes those questions for Roger Mudd? Well--I could go on--but it is getting late.

However, I don't want to leave without—and this <u>is</u> serious—without expressing my appreciation to you for the way you handle the tremendously difficult task of trying to condense into a few minutes the daily events of a very troubled time.

A task even more difficult in these days of deep emotion and grave governmental problems.

I respect you for the part you play in helping to make our democracy work better, for the help you give to the preservation of our freedoms.

I don't pretend that I always like your interpretations, or your editing decisions.

But I respect you as responsible, ethical, professional journalists. And, as our current problems reach the decisive stages in the weeks and months ahead, I have confidence you will report those events with the dispassionate fairness of professional journalists. A dispassionate fairness our troubled nation needs as never before. It is a heavy responsibility you bear.

And I wish you well.

Thank you and good night.

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DRAFT OF REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT

GERALD R. FORD FOR THE RADIO-TV

CORRESPONDENTS: ASSOCIATION DINNER

WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL MARCH 28, 1974



I do appreciate the honor you have accorded me here tonight. This, although I understand the last Vice President to address this group got on so late that Johnny

Carson demanded equal time.
Could that have been

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Regardless:

I want to make the best impression possible.

So I have thrown away all the jokes the White House speechwriters gave me.

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But we can't agree on who should be President.

But, if all those stories about network 1 hear are true--we should have

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We're all happy about Bill's promotion. In fact, every political figure Investment with has seem pleased.

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Incidentally, does anyone know if Bill ever found the key to the men's room?

It's easy to see tonight that he did locate the key to the liquor cabinet.

Another network change has me a little worried. I mean that move of Don Meridith from APC to NBC.

I hear NBC is groowming him for guest appearances on talk shows. That means dangerous competition for every man in political life---but dangerous with a big D for me. After all, Don's football stories are much more recent than mine.

And quarterback even in my day-always told the center what to do.

But---if necessary---I'll put on my helmet and meet Dandy Don head to head.

It's getting so a politician has to watch the tube all the time. He's got competition coming from every direction. I assume you've all heard Howard Cosell talking about running for the Senate.

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Fourth---Why does John Chancellor sit side-saddle so much?

Fifth---Whyd doesn't Phil Jones get on camera more often ? (He told me to ask that)

Sixth---Who writes these questions for Roger Mudd?
Well--I could go on---but it is getting late.

However, I don't want to leave without---and this is serious---without expressing my appreciation to you for the way you handle the tremendously difficult task of tryi g to condense into a few minutes the daily events of a very troubled time.

A task even more difficult in these days of deep emotion and grave governmental profilems.

I respect you for the part you play in helping to make our democracy work better, \*\*
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I don't pretend that I always like your interpretations, or your editing decisions.

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And, as our current problems reach the decisive stages in the weeks and months ahead,

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And I wish you well.

Thank you and good night.

# REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD FOR THE RADIO-TV CORRESPONDENTS DINNER WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 1974



President Jordan, Vice President McLaughlin, other officers, and members and guests of the Radio Television Correspondents
Association.

I thank you for inviting me to your annual Dinner. As I look about it is comforting -- at a time when the funds for our strategic weapons may be cut -- to see so many of the big guns of your industry still getting loaded.

I want to apologize if I seem a little unprepared tonight.

You see, I didn't sleep well last night. I kept having this terrifying nightmare. I dreamed I was stuck in a stalled elevator with President Nixon -- and Dan Rather.

I want to talk tonight about the problems of Radio and Television newscasters.

The most serious problem that I see confronting you at the moment is -- how to show streakers on the evening news.

The answer -- Only if you use a rear projection.

Streaking is too big a thing these days. It gets confusing.

Last night I saw a fellow running past the White House about 1 AM -
stark naked. Well, I got curious. So I asked him: Streaker? -- Out

late? He said: No.-- Husband -- home early.

I trust we all get home early tonight. I understand the last Vice President to address your group got on so late Johnny Carson demanded equal time.

But this is my first appearance at your Dinner as Vice

President, and I want to make the best impression possible. So I

have thrown away all the jokes I got from the White House speechwriters.

They'd all been used in Houston, anyway.

That's true of most vice Presidents -- all we get are leftovers. In fact I got to talking with Hubert Humphrey the other day
about organizing a union for Vice Presidents. But, it hasn't worked
out. We can't agree on who should be President.

I could do some organizing here tonight. With all the network Vice Presidents we could get a silent majority right here.

Including, of course, one of the newest -- Senior Vice

President Bill Small. Every political figure I've talked with has

expressed pleasure at Bill's promotion. Most politicians feel happier

the farther Bill gets from Washington.

But basically, politicians and Radio-TV Correspondents have a lot in common. We lead lives filled with uncertainty. At the Gridiron Dinners you always see the same faces year after year. But at your dinners, you never know who'll be here. Has any one seen Sally Quinn?

Maybe that's why a Radio-TV correspondent has been defined as someone with his feet on the ground, his eye on the ball, his nose in the news, and his resume in the mail.

And we have our sudden <u>political</u> shifts in television too.

President Nixon has gone public and Senator Ervin has gone private. It's happened so fast that Senator Howard Baker asked me to make this announcement: "Anyone want to buy 12 blue shirts -- cheap?"

I guess I'm talking about TV personalities so much this evening because I am watching television news more these days.

One of the advantages of being a Vice President is being permitted occasional use of a White House system that allows me to see a replay of any news program I'd like to see. So now I get a chance to see much more of the job you TV correspondents are doing -- on me.

I find myself doing some Instant Analysis on you. After all, I have some right to that since becoming history's first Instant Vice President.

Frankly, my analysis has raised some serious questions about you and your work. I hope you won't mind if I bring a few of the most serious to your attention. Not for answers, mind you. I just hope you'll ponder the questions as you go about your job.

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(He asked me to ask that).

Fifth -- Who writes those questions for Roger Mudd?

And who reads them to him?

Well, I have a lot more on my list, but it's late. Perhaps I can add those next year, assuming you'd invite me back after the Vice Presidential novelty wears off.

But I don't want to leave tonight -- and this is serious -- without expressing my appreciation to you for the way you handle your tremendously difficult task of trying to condense into a few minutes the daily events of a very troubled time.

A task even more difficult in these days of deep emotions and grave governmental problems.

This is not to say that your interpretations or editing decisions are always those that I would make if I had your job. Or if you had mine.

But I respect you as responsible, ethical, professional journalists. And, as our current problems reach the decisive stages in the weeks and months ahead, I have confidence you will report those events with the dispassionate fairness that is the mark of the professional reporter -- a dispassionate fairness our troubled nation needs as never before.

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REMAPKS BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD FOR THE RADIO\*TV CORRESPONDENTS DINNER WASHINGTON\*HILTON HOTEL, MARCH 28, 1974



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I thank you for inviting me to your annual Dinner.

See such that the line of the line of your annual Dinner.

I look about me to see so many of the big guns of your industry are still getting loaded.

I want to apologize if I seem a little unprepared tonight. You see, I didn't sleep well last night. I kept having this terrifying nightmare. I dreamed I wwas stuck in a stalled elevator with President Nixon----and Dan Rather.

But, I'm only joking. Dan List talented, agressive newsman. And there is absolutely no truth to the rumor that the White House pronounces Dan with an \* "M".

But that is White House problem. I want to talk tonight about and the problems of Radio/File Television news.

The most serious problem that I see confronting you at the moment is--how to show streakers on the evening news?

The arswer--Only if you use a rear projection.

Last night I saw a fellow running past the White House about 1 AM--stark naked.

Well, I got curious. So I asked him Streaker?---Out late?

He said: No. Husband----home early.

I trust you'll get home early tonight. I understand the last, Vice President to address your group got on so late Johnny Carson demanded equal time.

But this is my first appearance at your Dinner as Vice President, and want to make the best impression possible. So I have thrown away all the jokes I got from the White House speech writers.



They'd all been used in Houston, anyway.

But that's true of most Vice Presidents --- all we get are left-owers.

In fact I got to talking with Hubert Humphrey the the other day about organizing a union for Vice Presidents. But we can't agree on who should be Fresident.

I could do some organizing here tonight. With all the network Vice Presidents we could get a silent majority right here.

Including, of course, one of the newest---Senior Vice President Bill Small. Every political figure I've talked with has expressed pleasure at Bill's promotion.

Most politicians feel happier the farther Bill gets from Washington.

But basically, politicians and Radio-TV Corres ordents have at lot in common. We lead we have at lot in common. We lead we have at lot in common. We see the same faces year after year. But at these Dinners, you never know who'll be here.

Maybe that's why a Radio-TV correspondent has been defined as someone with his feet on the ground, his eye on the ball, his nose in the news, and his resume in the mail.

And we have our sudden political shifts in Television too. President Nixon has gone public and Senator Ervin has gone private.

It's happened so fast that Senator Howard Baker asked me to make this announcement: "Anyone want to buy 12 blue shirts---cheaps?

I guess I'm talking about TV personalities so much this evening because I am watching television news more these days. And enjoying it less.

I've discovered that one of the advantages of being a Vice President is being permitted occasional use of a White House system that allows me to see a replay of any news program I'd like to see. So now I get a charce to see much more of the job you TV correspondents are doing----on me.

After all, I have some right to the some Instant Analysis on you.

After all, I have some right to the some instant Analysis on you.



Frankly, my analysis has raised some serious questions about you and your work. I hope you won't mind if I bring a few of the most serious to your attention. Not for answers, mind you. I just hope you'll ponder the questions as you go about your job.

First -- Who styles Bob Pierpoint's hair?

Second --- Would Howard K. Smith be interested in a job as White House speechwriter?

Third --- Why does John Chancellor aways sit side-saddle?

Fourth---Why doesn't Phil Jones get on camera more? (He asked me to asked that).

Fifth---Who writes those questions for Roger Mudd?

And who reads them to him?

Sixth---How does Joe McCeffrey find the time to meet all those members?

Well, I have a lot more on my list, but it's late. Perhaps I can add those next year, assuming you'd invite me back after the Vice Presidential novelty wears off.

But I don't want to leave tonight---and this is serious--without expressing my appreciation to you for the way you handle your tremendously difficult task of trying to condense into a few minutes the daily events of a very trouble time.

A task even more difficult in these days of deep emotions and grave governmental problems.

This is not to say that your interpretations or editing decisions are always those that I would make If I had your job. Or if you had mine.

But I respect you as responsible, ethical, professional journalists.

And, as our current problems reach the decisive stages in the weeks and months ahead, I have confidence you will report those events with the dispassionate fairness that is the mark of the professional reperter.——a dispassionate fairness our troubled nation needs as never before.

I wish you well.

Thank you and good night.



# EXCERPTS FROM VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD SPEECH BEFORE THE RADIO-TV CORRESPONDENTS THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 1974

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I wish you well.

Thank you and good night.



## Thirtieth Annual Dinner

Radio and Television

Correspondents Association

Thursday, March 28, 1974 The Washington Hilton Washington, D. C.

The Vice President

# Executive Committee of the Radio and Television Correspondents Association 1973-1974

President: FRANK J. JORDAN, NBC News

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Vice President: MARYA McLAUGHLIN, CBS News

Secretary: WILLIAM GREENWOOD, Mutual Broadcasting System

Treasurer: ROBERT FOSTER, WGN, Continental Broadcasting Company

Member at Large: SAM A. DONALDSON, ABC News

Member at Large: RICHARD BRASIE, Westinghouse Broadcasting Company

Member at Large: JOHN BESSOR, CBS News

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\*

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#### Program

GUEST OF HONOR

THE VICE PRESIDENT

**ENTERTAINMENT** 

DISCUSSION OF THE ENERGY CRISIS

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FILM REVIEW OF THE YEAR

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United States Marine Band

MENU

CREAM OF ALMOND SOUP

BURGUNDY

Broiled Prime Filet Mignon
Sauce Periogourdine

Spears of Asparagus
Sauce Hollandaise

POTATO BOULANGERE

SPINACH AND MUSHROOM SALAD

RASPBERRY SOUFFLE Strawberry Sauce

Coffee

THE Radio and Television Correspondents Association represents the radio and television news fraternity in Washington and through its membership virtually every radio and television station in the United States. It has grown from a charter membership of twentysix in 1939 to its present active roll of more than 500 members for the radio and television networks, independent stations, and the radio news and television film services.

THE Association is two organizations in one. First, it is an administrative body. Its Executive Committee, under Congressional authorization, directs the operation of the Radio and Television Correspondents Galleries of the Congress. It acts from time to time as a national accrediting agency for radio and television, as during a political convention or presidential inauguration. The Association operates in the international field also, having had accredited correspondents during the organization of the United Nations in 1945. Secondly, the Association is a professional body. As its Constitution states, the Association "strives to protect the rights and privileges" of its members and aims "in every way possible to maintain high standards of reporting news" by radio and television.