

The original documents are located in Box 133, folder “May 25, 1974 - Speech, Association of American Editorial Cartoonists, Boston, MA” of the Gerald R. Ford Vice Presidential Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Pres. Payne

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN EDITORIAL CARTOONISTS
PARKER HOUSE, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1974, 8PP.M.

Telephone

I HAVE NEVER BEFORE APPEARED BEFORE A ROOMFUL OF EDITORIAL
CARTOONISTS. I DO SO TONIGHT WITHOUT MY FOOTBALL HELMET----BUT
WITH MANY FANTASIES AND FEARS.

*I want to thank the author of a
1966 cartoon for a line 2*



Telephone
Carvitt

GUERNSEY LE PELLEY, THE EDITORIAL CARTOONIST FOR THE
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, DISCUSSED THIS MEETING WITH MY STAFF LAST
WEEK. MR. LE PELLEY SAID THAT THE EDITORIAL CARTOONISTS OF AMERICA
WANT TO GET A FIRSTHAND IMPRESSION OF ME AS AN INDIVIDUAL SO THAT YOU
CAN PERCEIVE MY TRUE IDENTITY. SO, WHEN I WAS INTRODUCED JUST NOW I
WAS WONDERING IF YOU WERE IMAGINING A CARTOON DEPICTING A NUMBER OF
IDENTICAL JERRY FORDS SEATED BEHIND DESKS WITH THE CAPTION: "WILL
please
THE REAL JERRY FORD STAND UP?"



I AM HERE TONIGHT TO TELL YOU I CONCEDE THAT THE PEN IS
MIGHTIER THAN THE POLITICIAN. IT TAKES ONLY SEVEN SECONDS TO READ
AND DIGEST A CARTOON. THAT IS WHY CARTOONISTS HAVE SUCH A BIG
ADVANTAGE OVER POLITICIANS. IT SOMETIMES TAKES US SEVEN UNLUCKY YEARS
BEFORE THE PUBLIC FORGETS A CARTOON THAT HITS THE TARGET.



YOU HAVE HONORED ME BY THIS INVITATION AND I WISH TO GREET
YOUR PRESIDENT, EUGENE PAYNE, WITH ALL THE RESPECT THAT IS DUE THE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY. I AM ALSO PLEASED TO BE WITH THE
DISTINGUISHED EDITOR OF THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, JOHN HUGHES,
distinguished
AND THE OTHER PERSONALITIES WITH US TONIGHT.
a



THE ANTEROOM OF THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE IN THE EXECUTIVE
OFFICE BUILDING ADJOINING THE WHITE HOUSE IS CALLED "THE CARTOON
ROOM." THIS IS BECAUSE IT IS HUNG FROM FLOOR TO CEILING WITH
CARTOONS COVERING RICHARD NIXON'S POLITICAL CAREER. SOMETIMES THE
PRESIDENT MAY WISH HE HAD SOME OF THE CARTOONISTS HANGING THERE
INSTEAD OF THEIR CARTOONS. BUT IN A MORE SERIOUS VEIN, IT CERTAINLY IS
A GREAT COMMENTARY ON THE IMPACT OF YOUR WORK.



A CARTOON HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS AN EDITORIAL IN THE FORM
OF A PICTURE. IT IS BASICALLY AN ATTACK WEAPON. BUT I HEAR THAT
2 have + They are all framed.
POLITICIANS SOMETIMES WRITE TO YOU AND ASK FOR THE ORIGINAL. I

IMAGINE THAT'S WHEN THE CARTOONIST REALIZES HE HAS MADE A MISTAKE.

THEY TELL ME THAT A CARTOONIST PLEASES ONLY ABOUT HALF
HIS READERS ON ANY GIVEN DAY. SO WHEN A WEEK COMES ALONG AND ALL
YOUR MAIL IS FAVORABLE, YOU GET FIRED.



as I write,
A

A CARTOONIST IS A COLUMNIST WHO DRAWS PICTURES. THEY ARE
USUALLY A HUMOROUS OVERSIMPLIFICATION AND ARE MUCH MORE WIDELY
SCANNED THAN THE PONDEROUS EDITORIALS. A CARTOON SAYS, IN EFFECT, THAT
THIS COMPLEX SITUATION IS REALLY SIMPLE. AN EDITORIAL SAYS: THIS
SITUATION WHICH SEEMS SO SIMPLE IS REALLY VERY COMPLICATED AND PROCEEDS
WITH THE RAMIFICATIONS.



NOT MANY POLITICIANS HAVE BEEN ASKING FOR CARTOONS RECENTLY.
THIS INDICATES THAT YOU ARE DOING YOUR JOB. IT ALSO INDICATES THE
DEGREE OF RISK I AM EXPOSING MYSELF TO / BY APPEARING BEFORE SO MANY
CARTOONISTS ON YOUR OWN TURF.

I AM WILLING TO TAKE MY CHANCE BECAUSE OF THE FAIR TREATMENT
YOU HAVE ACCORDED ME. IT IS MY OPINION, FORMED BY A QUARTER CENTURY
IN PUBLIC OFFICE, THAT CANDIDATES ^{very frequently} GET ELECTED BECAUSE OF THE WAY IN
WHICH THE CARTOONIST PICTURES THEIR OPPONENTS.

if not always favorable



*even if the bite is bitter
to swallow.*

I ENJOY CARTOONS VERY MUCH. IN RECENT YEARS, HOWEVER, SOME

CARTOONS HAVE BECOME SO BITTER THAT THEY ARE NO LONGER FUNNY. I

PREFER THE DAYS WHEN CARTOONS WERE SO FUNNY THAT IT REDUCED THE STING

OF THE ATTACK. THERE APPEARS TO BE A FINE ART IN DISAGREEING WITHOUT

BEING DISAGREEABLE.

*One of the most complimentary
statements made during the consideration of
my nomination by The Congress was a
sentence by an able Democrat who said -
"Jimmy Ford in 25 years in the Congress
had many adversaries, but no enemies."*



& detour

That's what a
good broken
field runner
does on the
ground

SOME CARTOONS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT I ZIG AND ZAG, THAT MY

POSITION ON IMPORTANT ISSUES CHANGES FROM DAY TO DAY, AND THAT I DON'T

KNOW ALL THE ANSWERS. THE TRUTH IS THAT I DON'T EVEN KNOW ALL THE

QUESTIONS. I CALL THE SHOTS AS I SEE THEM. I MAY SEE THE GAME

DIFFERENTLY TODAY THAN YESTERDAY. I MIGHT SEE IT FROM A DIFFERENT

ANGLE.

You may also - but perhaps That's
why the same question is asked in the
next press conference.



IF YOU WANT ME TO BE A CONSISTENT COMPUTER, I CAN'T QUALIFY.

BUT I DO TRY VERY SINCERELY TO BE AN HONEST AND OPEN HUMAN BEING.

AND I SUSPECT THAT CARTOONISTS DO NOT EVERY DAY SEE THINGS THE SAME ---

NOT PRECISELY THE SAME --- AS THEY SAW THE SITUATION IN PAST CARTOONS.

THE OLD CHINESE PROVERB IS THAT A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND
WORDS. EVERY CARTOONIST KNOWS THIS UNTIL HE STARTS TO WRITE THE

CAPTION. SO IT IS WITH POLITICAL LIFE. WE OFTEN SEE THE SITUATION

BUT CAN'T ALWAYS PUT THE PRECISE CAPTION ON IT.



AS OUR FIRST "INSTANT VICE PRESIDENT", I AM TRYING TO
CONTINUE THE SAME OPEN, HONEST, AND I MAY SAY, PLEASANT RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE PRESS THAT I HAVE ENJOYED THROUGHOUT 25 YEARS IN CONGRESS.
I DON'T BELIEVE I AM DOING THINGS VERY DIFFERENTLY THAN PREVIOUSLY,
EXCEPT THAT A LOT MORE OF YOU SEEM TO BE A LOT MORE INTERESTED IN ME
AND IN WHAT I DO AND SAY. *Sometimes I wish They*
did not.



I NOT ONLY BELIEVE IN THE FIRST AMENDMENT AND ALL THE REST
OF THE CONSTITUTION I AM SWORN TO UPHOLD, BUT I BELIEVE A CLIMATE OF
TRUST AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE IS
ESSENTIAL IF OUR SYSTEM IS TO WORK. YOU HAVE MUCH TO DO WITH THAT
CLIMATE AND, OF COURSE, SO DO THOSE OF US WHO TEMPORARILY HOLD HIGH
OFFICE.



PERSONALLY, I DO NOT PUT AS MUCH EMPHASIS ON PUBLIC
RELATIONS AS I DO ON FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RELATIONS. I DO NOT LIKE
TO CATEGORIZE "THE CARTOONISTS" OR "THE PRESS" AS IF YOU WERE SOMEHOW
A DIFFERENT SPECIES THAN OTHER PEOPLE. I LIKE TO CONSIDER EVERY
PERSON I KNOW ON HIS OR HER MERITS AND TO TREAT HIM OR HER AS I
WOULD HOPE TO BE TREATED IF OUR JOBS WERE REVERSED.



I AM HERE TONIGHT BECAUSE I HOPE AND BELIEVE THAT EVENINGS
OF GOOD HUMOR AND FELLOWSHIP SUCH AS THESE PULL THE STING OF SELF-
RIGHTEOUSNESS AND SELF-IMPORTANCE OUT OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ---
AND MAYBE OUT OF THOSE WHO SATIRIZE THEM IN CARTOONS AS WELL. IT
SHOWS THE HEALTH AND STRENGTH OF OUR UNIQUELY AMERICAN SYSTEM WHEN
WE CAN LAUGH AT OUR OWN EXPENSE AND AT EACH OTHER'S EXPENSE.

Maggie Hunter



GOOD CARTOONISTS, I KNOW, ARE NON-CONFORMISTS. A
NON-CONFORMIST IS BETTER EQUIPPED TO POKE FUN AT OTHERS AND TO SEE
THE CONTRADICTIONS IN SITUATIONS. BY YOUR VERY NATURE, YOU TEND
TO BE UP AGAINST AUTHORITY AND TO QUESTION POPULAR OPINION. ONE
GREAT CARTOONIST, DAVID LOW, USED TO SAY THAT A CARTOONIST HAS ONLY
ONE FUNCTION IN SOCIETY --- TO THROW BRICKS.



IT IS NOT YOUR FUNCTION TO APPLAUD OR TO BE ^APROPAGANDIST
FOR ANY PARTY, FOR ANY PERSONAGE, OR FOR ANY SECTION OF THE PUBLIC.
YOU MUST GO ON EXPRESSING YOUR PERSONAL VIEWPOINT. YOU MUST BE YOUR
OWN MAN. IT WOULD BE A SAD DAY IF THE CARTOONISTS OF AMERICA WERE
TO FOLLOW A SINGLE LINE OR SCAPEGOAT A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL.

AND IT WOULD BE AN EVEN SADDER DAY IF THE PUBLISHERS AND
EDITORS DID NOT SHIELD THE CARTOONIST FROM THE WRATH OF AUTHORITY
OR PUBLIC PASSION.



I AM WILLING TO TAKE MY CHANCES AS THE TARGET OF YOUR ART

and probably more vulnerable.

AND SATIRE. IF I WERE UNWILLING, I WOULD BE A TARGET ANYWAY, ¹ SO,

I MIGHT AS WELL RELAX AND ENJOY --- IF I CAN --- THE FUN YOU POKE

AT ME. PERHAPS I CAN LEARN SOMETHING FROM YOUR INSIGHTS. AT LEAST

I CAN DEFEND YOUR RIGHT TO LAMPOON ME. *+ Others in The
political arena.*



I HAVE BEEN DELIGHTED TO HAVE HAD THIS EVENING WITH THE
EDITORIAL CARTOONISTS OF AMERICA. MOST NEWSPAPERS IN THE UNITED STATES
HAVE ABOUT A HUNDRED REPORTERS AND ONLY ONE CARTOONIST. THAT MAKES
THE ODDS ABOUT EVEN.

I HAVE SAID MY SAY AND WILL CLOSE ^{WITH} ~~THE~~ THE CAPTION: "THE REAL
JERRY FORD IS SITTING DOWN."

I THANK YOU.



####

HEAD TABLE (left to right)

Arthur Wood and Mrs. Wood

Guernsey LePelley and Mrs. LePelley

Jack Jurden and Mrs. Jurden

Gene Payne and Mrs. Payne

Robert T. Hartmann

The Vice President

James Dobbins and Mrs. Dobbins

John Hughes

Edward Germano and Mrs. Germano

Richard Hodgins and Mrs. Hodgins

8:15 Proceed to head table

8:20 Intro of head table, Gene Payne, President,
Editorial Cartoon Assn.


8:25 Intro of Vice Pres, Gene Payne

8:27 Vice Presidential remarks begin

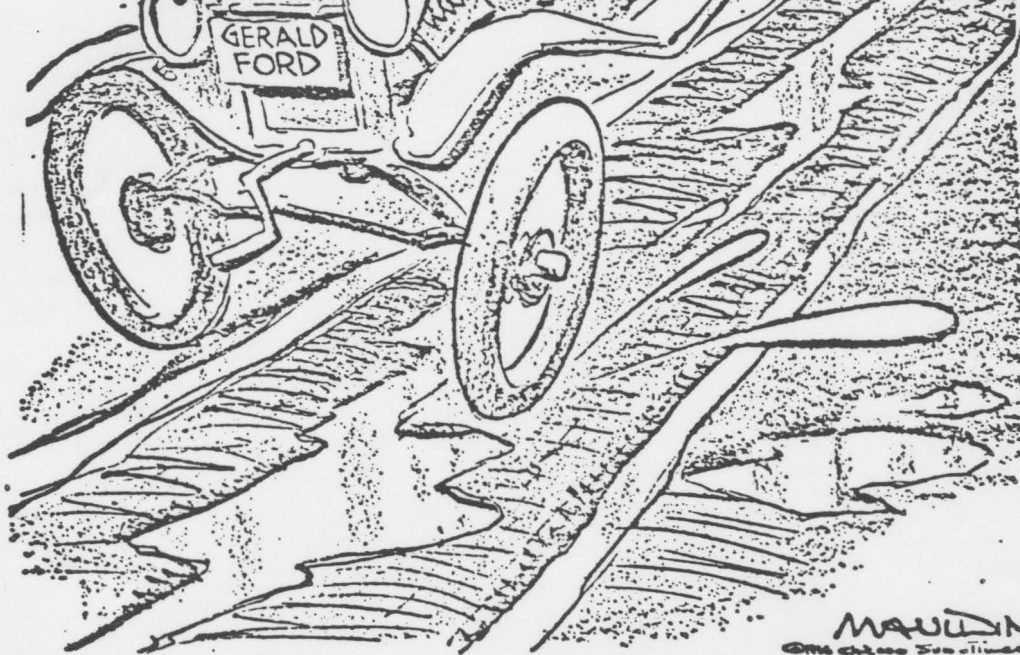
8:47 Vice Presidential remarks conclude

8:50 Depart Ballroom, enroute suite

8:52 Arrive; suite



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"IF I MAKE ENOUGH NOISE, THEY'LL THINK I'M A LINCOLN."

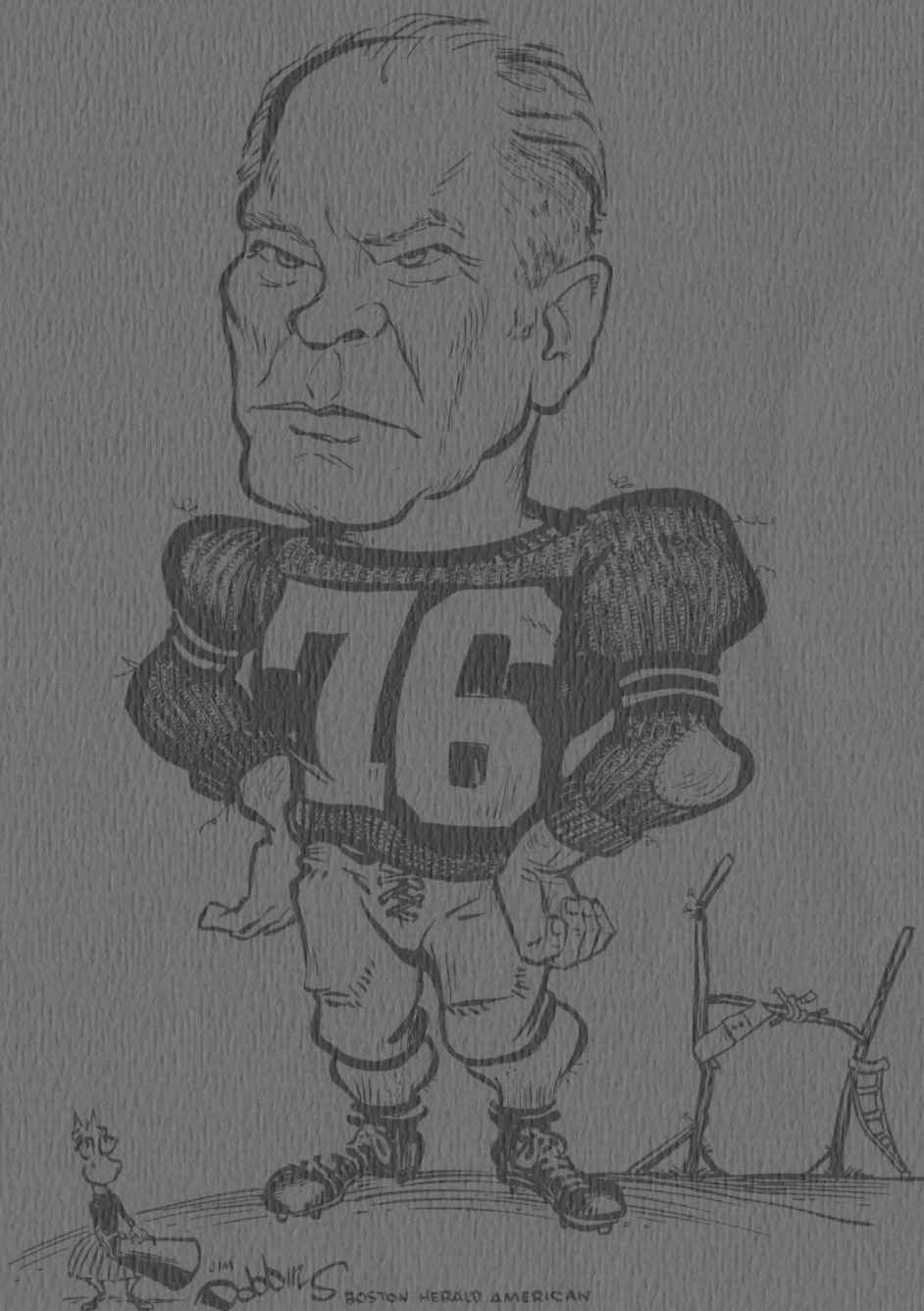
Please note date
(1966)

Gary Ford





ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN EDITORIAL CARTOONISTS



PARKER HOUSE • BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

MAY 25, 1974



New England Clam Chowder

ROAST TOP SIRLOIN

Broccoli Hollandaise

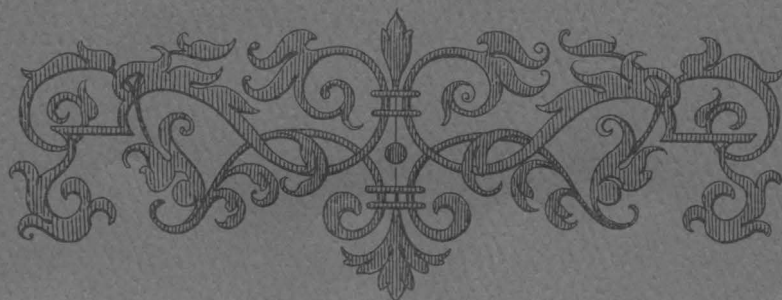
Rissolee Potatoes

Tossed Green Salad

Peach Melba

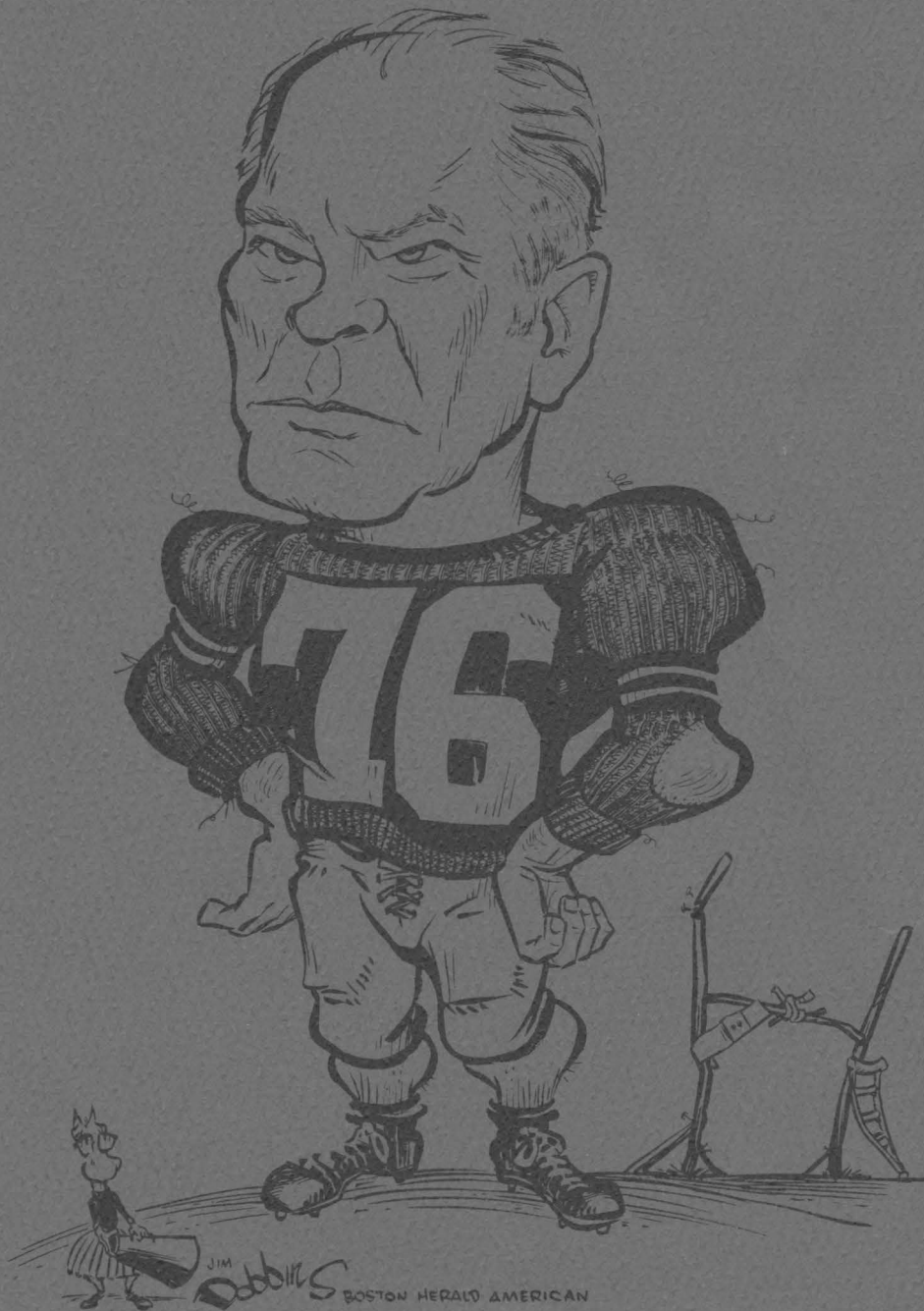
Coffee — Tea — Milk

Served with Famed Parker House Rolls





ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN EDITORIAL CARTOONISTS



PARKER HOUSE • BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

MAY 25, 1974



New England Clam Chowder

ROAST TOP SIRLOIN

Broccoli Hollandaise

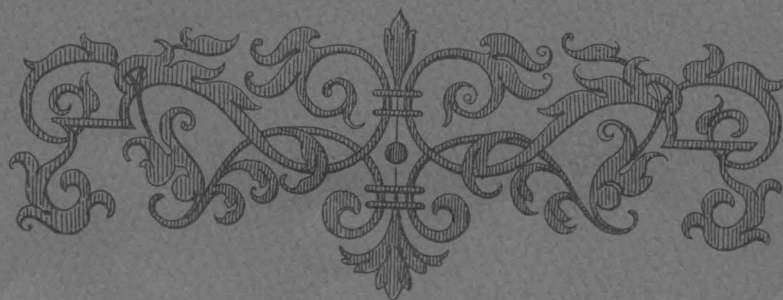
Risssolee Potatoes

Tossed Green Salad

Peach Melba

Coffee — Tea — Milk

Served with Famed Parker House Rolls



REMARKS ^{By} ~~OF~~ VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN EDITORIAL CARTOONISTS
PARKER HOUSE , BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS



~~At~~ 8 P.M., SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1974

FOR RELEASE IN SUNDAY A.M.'S.

I have never before appeared before a roomful of editorial cartoonists, ~~and~~ I do so tonight without my football helmet--- but with many fantasies and fears .

Guernsey Le Pelley, the editorial cartoonist for the Christian Science Monitor, discussed this meeting with my staff last week . Mr. Le Pelley said that the editorial cartoonists of America want to get a firsthand impression of me as an individual so that you can perceive my true identity . So, when I was introduced just now I was wondering if you were imagining a cartoon depicting a number of identical Jerry Fords seated behind desks with the caption : " Will the real Jerry Ford stand up ? "

I am here tonight to tell you I concede that the pen is mightier than the politician . It takes only seven seconds to read and digest a cartoon. That is why cartoonists have such a big advantage over politicians . It sometimes takes us seven unlucky years before the public forgets a cartoon that hits the target .

You have honored me by this invitation and I wish to greet your President, Eugene Payne , with all the respect that is due the Office of the Presidency . I am also pleased to be with the distinguished editor of the Christian Science Monitor , John Hughes, and the other personalities with us tonight .



The anteroom of the President's Office in the Executive Office Building adjoining the White House is called "the cartoon room". This is because it is hung from floor to ceiling with cartoons covering Richard Nixon's political career . Sometimes the President may wish he had some of the cartoonists hanging there instead of their cartoons but in a more serious vein , it certainly is a great commentary on the impact of your work .

A cartoon has been described as an editorial in the form of a picture . It is basically an attack weapon. But I hear that politicians sometimes write to you and ask for the original . I imagine that's when the cartoonist realizes he has made a mistake .

They tell me that a cartoonist pleases only about half his readers on any given day. So when a week comes along and all your mail is favorable , you get fired .

A cartoonist is a columnist who draws pictures. They are usually a humorous oversimplification and are much more widely ^{read than} ~~read than~~ the ponderous editorials . A cartoon says, in effect, that this complex situation is really simple . An editorial says: this situation which seems so simple is really very complicated and proceeds with the ramifications .

Not many politicians have been asking for cartoons recently . This indicates that you are doing your job . It also indicates the degree of risk I am exposing myself to by appearing before so many cartoonists on your own turf .



I am willing to take my chances because of the fair treatment you have accorded me . It is my opinion , formed by a quarter century in public office , that candidates get elected because of the way in which the cartoonist pictures their opponents .

I enjoy cartoons very much . In recent years, however, some cartoons have become so bitter that they are no longer funny . I prefer the days when cartoons were so funny that it reduced the sting of the attack . There appears to be a fine art in disagreeing without being disagreeable .

Some cartoons have suggested that I zig and zag, that my position on important issues changes^s/from day to day , and that I don't know all the answers . The truth is that I don't even know all the questions . I call the shots as I see them . I may see the game differently today than yesterday . I might see it from a different angle .

If you want me to be a consistent computer, I can't qualify . But I do try very sincerely to be an honest and open human being . And I suspect that cartoonists do not everyday^{often} see things the same --- ~~the~~^{not} precisely the same --- as they saw the situation in past cartoons .

The old Chinese proverb is that a picture is worth a thousand words . Every cartoonist knows this until he starts to write the caption . So it is with political life . We^{often} see the situation but can't always put the precise caption on it .



As our first "instant Vice President", I am trying to continue the same open, honest, and I may say , pleasant relationship with the press that I have enjoyed throughout 25 years in Congress . I don't believe I am doing things very differently than previously , except that a lot more of you seem to be a lot more interested in me and in what I do and say .

I not only believe in the First Amendment and all the rest of the Constitution I am sworn to uphold, but I believe ~~in~~ a climate of trust and understanding between the government and the people is essential if our system is to work . You have much to do with that climate and, of course, so do those of us who temporarily hold high office .

Personally , I do not put as much emphasis on public relations as I do on fundamental human relations . I do not like to categorize "the cartoonists " or "the press " as if you were somehow a different species than other people . I like to consider every person I know on his or her merits and to treat ~~them~~ ^{him or her} as I would hope to be treated if our jobs were reversed .

I am here tonight because I hope and believe that evenings of good humor and fellowship such as these pull the sting of self-righteousness and self-importance out of Government officials --- and maybe out of those who satirize them in cartoons as well . It shows the health and strength of our uniquely American system when we can laugh at our own expense and at each other's expense .



Good cartoonists, I know, are non-conformists . A non-conformist is better equipped to poke fun at ~~others~~ others and to see the contradictions in situation's . By your very nature, you tend to be up against authority and to question popular opinion . One great cartoonist, David Low, used to say that a cartoonist has only one function in society --- to throw bricks .

It is not your function to applaud ~~or~~ or to be a propagandist for any party, for any personage, or for any section of the public . You must go on expressing your personal viewpoint . You must be your own man . It would ~~be a sad day if~~ ^{were to} ~~the cartoonists of America follow~~ a single line or scapegoat a single individual .

And it would be an even sadder day if the publishers and editors ^{did} ~~do~~ not shield the cartoonist from the wrath of authority or public passion .

I am willing to take my chances ~~as the~~ as the target of your art and satire . If I were unwilling, I would be ~~be~~ a target anyway . So, I might as well relax and enjoy --- if I can --- the fun you poke at me . Perhaps I can learn something from your insights . At least I can defend your right to lampoon me .

I have been delighted to ^{had} ~~have~~ this evening with the editorial cartoonists of America . Most newspapers in the United States have about a hundred reporters and only one cartoonist . That makes the odds about even .

I have said my say and will close with the caption : "The real Jerry Ford is sitting down" .
I thank you .

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ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN EDITORIAL CARTOONISTS

PARKER HOUSE, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1974, 8 P.M.



I have never before appeared before a roomful of editorial cartoonists. I do so tonight without my football helmet -- but with many fantasies and fears.

Guernsey Le Pelley, the Editorial Cartoonist for the Christian Science Monitor, discussed this meeting with my staff last week. Mr. Le Pelley said that the Editorial Cartoonists of America want to get a firsthand impression of me as an individual so that you can perceive my true identity. So, when I was introduced just now I was wondering if you were imagining a cartoon depicting a number of identical Jerry Fords seated behind desks with the caption: "Will the real Jerry Ford please stand up?"

I am here tonight to tell you I concede that the pen is mightier than the politician. It takes only seven seconds to read and digest a cartoon. That is why cartoonists have such a big advantage over politicians. It sometimes takes us seven unlucky years before the public forgets a cartoon that hits the target.

You have honored me by this invitation and I wish to greet your President, Eugene Payne, with all the respect that is due the Office of the Presidency. I am also pleased to be with the distinguished editor of the Christian Science Monitor, John Hughes, and the other distinguished personalities with us tonight.

The anteroom of the President's Office in the Executive Office Building adjoining the White House is called "the cartoon room." This is because it is hung from floor to ceiling with cartoons covering Richard Nixon's political career. Sometimes the President may wish he had some of the cartoonists hanging there instead of their cartoons. But in a more serious vein, it certainly is a great commentary on the impact of your work.

A cartoon has been described as an editorial in the form of a picture. It is basically an attack weapon. But I hear that politicians sometimes write to you and ask for the original. I have and they are all framed. I imagine that's when the cartoonist realizes he has made a mistake.

They tell me that a cartoonist pleases only about half his readers on any given day. So when a week comes along and all your mail is favorable, you get fired.

As I see it, a cartoonist is a columnist who draws pictures. They are usually a humorous oversimplification and are much more widely scanned than the

(over)

ponderous editorials. A cartoon says, in effect, that this complex situation is really simple. An editorial says: This situation which seems so simple is really very complicated and proceeds with the ramifications.

Not many politicians have been asking for cartoons recently. This indicates that you are doing your job. It also indicates the degree of risk I am exposing myself to be appearing before so many cartoonists on your own turf.

I am willing to take my chance because of the fair, if not always favorable, treatment you have accorded me. It is my opinion, formed by a quarter century in public office, that candidates very frequently get elected because of the way in which the cartoonist pictures their opponents.

I enjoy cartoons very much even if the bite is bitter to swallow. In recent years, however, some cartoons have become so bitter that they are no longer funny. I prefer the days when cartoons were so funny that it reduced the sting of the attack. There appears to be a fine art in disagreeing without being disagreeable. One of the most complementary statements made during the consideration of my nomination by the Congress was a sentence by an able Democrat who said: "Jerry Ford is 25 years in the Congress had many adversaries, but no enemies."

Some cartoons and editorials have suggested that I zig and zag, that's what a good broken field runner does on the gridiron, that my position on important issues changes from day to day, and that I don't know all the answers. The truth is that I don't even know all the questions. I call the shots as I see them. I may see the game differently today than yesterday. I might see it from a different angle. You may also -- but perhaps that's why the same question is asked in the next press conference.

If you want me to be a consistent computer, I can't qualify. But I do try very sincerely to be an honest and open human being. And I suspect that cartoonists do not every day see things the same -- not precisely the same -- as they saw the situation in past cartoons.

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I not only believe in the First Amendment and all the rest of the Constitution I am sworn to uphold, but I believe a climate of trust and understanding between the

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It is not your function to applaud or to be a propagandist for any party, for any personage, or for any section of the public. You must go on expressing your personal viewpoint. You must be your own man. It would be a sad day if the cartoonists of America were to follow a single line or scapegoat a single individual.

And it would be an even sadder day if the publishers and editors did not shield the cartoonist from the wrath of authority or public passion.

I am willing to take my chances as the target of your art and satire. If I were unwilling, I would be a target anyway, and probably more vulnerable. So, I might as well relax and enjoy -- if I can -- the fun you poke at me. Perhaps I can learn something from your insights. At least I can defend your right to lampoon me and others in the political arena.

I have been delighted to have had this evening with the editorial cartoonists of America. Most newspapers in the United States have about a hundred reporters and only one cartoonist. That makes the odds about even.

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ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN EDITORIAL CARTOONISTS

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I enjoy cartoons very much . In recent years, however, some cartoons have become so bitter that they are no longer funny . I prefer the days when cartoons were so funny that it reduced the sting of the attack . There appears to be a fine art in disagreeing without being disagreeable .

Some cartoons have suggested that I zig and zag, that my position on important issues changes^s/from day to day , and that I don't know all the answers . The truth is that I don't even know all the questions . I call the shots as I see them . I may see the game differently today than yesterday . I might see it from a different angle .

If you want me to be a consistent computer, I can't qualify . But I do try very sincerely to be an honest and open human being . And I suspect that cartoonists do not everyday see things the same --- ~~not~~ precisely the same --- as they saw the situation in past cartoons .

The old Chinese proverb is that a picture is worth a thousand words . Every cartoonist knows this until he starts to write the caption . So it is with political life . We ^{often} see the situation but can't always put the precise caption on it .

As our first "instant Vice President", I am trying to continue the same open, honest, and I may say, pleasant relationship with the press that I have enjoyed throughout 25 years in Congress. I don't believe I am doing things very differently than previously, except that a lot more of you seem to be a lot more interested in me and in what I do and say.



I not only believe in the First Amendment and all the rest of the Constitution I am sworn to uphold, but I believe ~~in~~ a climate of trust and understanding between the government and the people is essential if our system is to work. You have much to do with that climate and, of course, so do those of us who temporarily hold high office.

Personally, I do not put as much emphasis on public relations as I do on fundamental human relations. I do not like to categorize "the cartoonists" or "the press" as if you were somehow a different species than other people. I like to consider every person I know on his or her merits and to treat ~~them~~ ^{him or her} as I would hope to be treated if our jobs were reversed.

I am here tonight because I hope and believe that evenings of good humor and fellowship such as these pull the sting of self-righteousness and self-importance out of Government officials --- and maybe out of those who satirize them in cartoons as well. It shows the health and strength of our uniquely American system when we can laugh at our own expense and at each other's expense.

Good cartoonists, I know, are non-conformists . A non-conformist is better equipped to poke fun at ~~others~~ others and to see the contradictions in situation's . By your very nature, you tend to be up against authority and to question popular opinion . One great cartoonist, DAVID LOW, used to say that a cartoonist has only one function in society --- to throw bricks .

It is not your function to applaud ~~or~~ or to be a propagandist for any party, for any personage, or for any section of the public . You must go on expressing your personal viewpoint . You must be your own man . It would ~~be~~ be a sad day if ~~the cartoonists of America~~ ^{were to} follow a single line or scapegoat a single individual .

And it would be an even sadder day if the publishers and editors ^{did} ~~do~~ not shield the cartoonist from the wrath of authority or public passion .

I am willing to take my chances ~~as the~~ as the target of your art and satire . If I were unwilling, I would be ~~be~~ a target anyway . So, I might as well relax and enjoy --- if I can --- the fun you poke at me . Perhaps I can learn something from your insights . At least I can defend your right to lampoon me .

I have been delighted to ^{had} have this evening with the editorial cartoonists of America . Most newspapers in the United States have about a hundred reporters and only one cartoonist . That makes the odds about even .

I have said my say and will close with the caption : "The real Jerry Ford is sitting down" .
I thank you .



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