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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 10, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

DICK KAISER

FROM:

JIM CONNOR 

The attached was returned in the President's outbox with the following notation:

"Show to Dick Kaiser. Give news articles to Dorothy Downton."

After<sup>3</sup> you have reviewed, please return news articles to this office for forwarding to Dorothy.

cc: Dick Cheney

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Show To Dick Kavir.

Give news articles for  
Dorothy Downton.

14  
SILVIO O. CONTE  
FIRST DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

WASHINGTON ADDRESS:  
239 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
PHONE: 202-225-5335

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
SUITE 305  
100 NORTH STREET  
PITTSFIELD, MASS. 01201  
PHONE: 413-442-0946

ROOM 205  
POST OFFICE BUILDING  
650 DWIGHT STREET  
HOLYOKE, MASS. 01040  
PHONE: 413-532-7010

*10-29*

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

October 28, 1975

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
TRANSPORTATION  
LABOR-HEW  
FOREIGN OPERATIONS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
SMALL BUSINESS  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
EX OFFICIO MEMBER OF  
ALL SUBCOMMITTEES

MIGRATORY BIRD  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

*MF*  
The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

*Copy*  
Dear Mr. President:

At the outset, let me say how much I regret the accident involving your motorcade in Hartford. Shortly after that unfortunate incident, The Berkshire Eagle ran the enclosed article about an earlier presidential traffic mishap involving President Theodore Roosevelt in my hometown of Pittsfield, Massachusetts. I thought you might be interested in knowing that your accident did, in fact, have historic precedence.

As always, with deepest respect and warm personal regards, I am

Cordially yours,

*S.O.C.*  
Silvio O. Conte  
Member of Congress

SOC:mmg  
enclosure

Low (yesterday)	44	Sun will set	6:02
Low this morning	41	New moon	Nov. 3
Range year ago	31-20	Full moon	Nov. 18
Precipitation	.07	Day of year	294
Precipitation — month	4.52	Degree days	18
Precipitation — year	51.32	Degree days — season	541



**BEFORE THE ACCIDENT**, President Roosevelt is seen here in 1902, holding his hat to spectators as he rides through Pittsfield. Seated next to him in the carriage is Gov. W. Murray Crane of Dalton.

## An earlier presidential crash

Close call in Pittsfield has faded from official memories

By Edward J. Farrell

Spokesman for the Secret Service was quoted in a syndicated news story in The Eagle last week as saying the service does not recall any previous presidential accident in which a President was a passenger. The incident came as an aftermath of a collision between President Theodore Roosevelt's car and a second car in Hartford, Conn., a year ago.

What do these young Secret Service snappers in the Secret Service know? There was a presidential accident, and it was a "close call" in the President's Connecticut. The collision happened in Pittsfield on the morning of Oct. 1, 1902, on South Street where the road crosses the Housatonic River.

President Theodore Roosevelt

was riding from the carriage to the ground, along with Gov. Crane and the secretary.

According to reports, "Teddy" picked himself up where he had been flung and issued a blistering oath toward the offending motorman and conductor.

### Two men jailed

The account said the motorman and conductor were under orders from trolley company officials to rush to the Country Club and get the passengers there ahead of the President. The motorman and conductor served 18 months in jail for manslaughter.

The accident made national headlines at the time. Pittsfield has never had much claim for being first with a near miss on a President, which may account for the Secret Service's lack of knowledge

of the incident. "I was distressed and humiliated as it was by this deplorable and shocking occurrence, which came within a hair's breadth of a national tragedy," wrote Edward Boltwood in his "History of Pittsfield."

The City Council passed a resolution expressing its "profound sorrow."

Boltwood further noted that "it is impossible that any words could have expressed adequately the shame and concern felt by the community."

### No plaques

There are no plaques or monuments on South Street to mark the scene of the accident. The oath uttered by Teddy Roosevelt has been embellished with time, but it is safe to conclude today that they were not the kind of "seditious" words used by President Ford in his tele-

vised address to Congress last year. Connecticut teen-ager who clobbered the presidential limousine.

All accounts of the Pittsfield episode agreed that President Roosevelt suffered some cuts and bruises. They were deep enough to keep Roosevelt's memories of the incident alive for years after.

Several months after the accident, three lions escaped from their cages in Pittsfield while being transferred to a Pittsfield theatre. They roamed the city at will and terrorized the citizenry. The mayor of Pittsfield, so legend has it, recalled Roosevelt's prowess as a lion hunter in his younger days and wired the President:

"Three lions running loose here. Can you come and help us?"

Roosevelt wired back: "No need of my coming. The

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