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GREETINGS FOR RADIO-TV CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 11, 1974

I WOULD MUCH RATHER BE BRINGING YOU THIS GREETING IN PERSON
INSTEAD OF ON FILM. IT'S BEEN FAR TOO LONG SINCE I'VE HAD A CHANCE
TO MEET WITH YOU. I REMEMBER WELL THAT 1968 LOS ANGELES CONFERENCE
WHEN YOU ASKED ME TO DISCUSS THE LEGISLATIVE PLANS OF THE NEWLY
ELECTED REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION. A LOT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THEN.

AND UNPREDICTABLE AS THE FUTURE CAN BE, I CAN TELL

YOU ONE THING FOR SURE ABOUT MY NEW JOB. TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY

TO MAKE IT SO, THIS WILL BE AN OPEN ADMINISTRATION. AND THAT

MEANS OPEN TO ALL NEWSMEN.

YOU AND YOUR ORGANIZATION CAN PERFORM A VITAL SERVICE
FOR THOSE OF US IN GOVERNMENT. THROUGH YOUR QUESTIONS AND
REPORTS, WE GET A WEALTH OF INFORMATION FED BACK TO US ABOUT
WHAT PEOPLE ARE THINKING -- WHAT THEIR CONCERNS ARE, THEIR HOPES
AND ASPIRATIONS. AND THIS IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TO ME AS PRESIDENT
THAN IT HAS BEEN IN THE PAST.

THE MEMBERS OF YOUR ORGANIZATION KNOW SO WELL THE
COMMUNITIES AND THE PEOPLE THEY SERVE. OVER THE YEARS, I WAS ABLE
TO PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE WORK OF TWO OF YOUR MEMBERS --
THE LATE DICK CHEVERTON AT WOTV AND THAT OF JACK HOGAN AT WZZM-TV
IN GRAND RAPIDS. THEIR WORK AND THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNITY
PROBLEMS AND PROJECTS PROVIDE ELOQUENT TESTIMONY TO THE DEDICATION
OF YOUR MEMBERS.

I BELIEVE THE NEWS MEDIA CONCERN WITH COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

IS IMPORTANT. HALF-JOKINGLY, I HAVE URGED WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS

TO GO BACK TO THEIR HOME TOWNS ^{occasionally} FOR ^{or} SIX MONTHS A YEAR -- TO GET

REACQUAINTED WITH WHAT THE PEOPLE THERE ARE THINKING AND DOING.

BY THE SAME TOKEN, I SUGGEST IT MIGHT BE PROFITABLE FOR YOU WHO WORK

OUTSIDE WASHINGTON TO SPEND A FEW MONTHS IN OUR CAPITAL EVERY SO

OFTEN. WE ALL WOULD BENEFIT FROM SUCH AN EXCHANGE OF IDEAS,

ATTITUDES AND EXPERIENCES.

AS YOU MAY KNOW, MOST OF OUR WHITE HOUSE PRESS STAFF ARE EXPERIENCED JOURNALISTS. ONE OF THEM, BILL ROBERTS, SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF YOUR ORGANIZATION. I KNOW THAT TO THE BEST OF THEIR ABILITIES THEY WILL DO WHAT THEY CAN TO HELP YOU. AND WHILE SOME PEOPLE SAY THAT GOVERNMENT AND THE NEWS MEDIA ARE, IN A SENSE, ADVERSARIES, I HOPE WE CAN ALWAYS REMAIN FRIENDLY ADVERSARIES.

I TRUST YOUR CONFERENCE WILL PROVE STIMULATING AND
PROFESSIONALLY HELPFUL. I CONGRATULATE YOUR PRESIDENT,
TOM FRAWLEY, ON COMPLETION OF A SUCCESSFUL YEAR AND WISH YOUR NEW
PRESIDENT AND OFFICERS WELL IN MEETING AND SURMOUNTING THE CHALLENGES
AND CONCERNS OF THE BROADCAST JOURNALISTS.

THANK YOU.

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