The original documents are located in Box 1, folder “9/18/74 - Washington Press Club” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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IF A JOKE DIES, PICK UP THE PAGE, TEAR IT UP AND THROW IT AWAY — AND SAY:

THAT'S THE LAST TIME I'LL EVER BUY A JOKE FROM PETE LISAGOR.

AND WILL TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY...
PRESERVE, PROTECT AND DEFEND...
THE WASHINGTON PRESS CLUB AGAINST...
ALL FORMS OF CHAUVENISM.
I present this to Helen Thomas
WHEN I RECEIVED THE PRINTED INVITATION TO THIS EVENING,

ONE PHRASE IN PARTICULAR CAUGHT MY ATTENTION. IT SAID: COME

HONEYMOON WITH US.....YOU PEOPLE SURE KNOW HOW TO HURT A

FELLA!

To [Signature]

With real appreciation

Your professionalism and friendship

Best wishes. [Signature]
AS YOU MIGHT IMAGINE, I DON'T AGREE WITH THOSE WHO
HAVE CALLED ME THE EVEL KNIEVEL OF POLITICS....BUT I DO THINK I
HAVE PROVEN BEYOND A SHADOW OF A DOUBT, THAT YOU DON'T NEED A
POOL AT THE WHITE HOUSE TO GET INTO DEEP WATER!
I didn't realize how much the honeymoon was over until this morning, when the metro started to build a new station —

in the Oval Office.

As you all know I'm not a silver-tongued orator —

and this creates even more problems for me. Now, when I make a mistake, I can't even say, "pardon me!"
WHEN I FIRST SAID "YES" TO BEING HERE TONIGHT, I WAS THEN VICE PRESIDENT AND HAD A LOT MORE TIME ON MY HANDS. YOU KNOW, PEOPLE SAY A LOT OF NICE THINGS ABOUT THE VICE PRESIDENT, BUT IT'S ALMOST LIKE BEING BEST MAN AT A WEDDING. YOU NEVER GET A CHANCE TO PROVE IT.
AS YOU KNOW, ON AUGUST 9TH I BECAME PRESIDENT AND I

WASN'T SURE THAT MY SCHEDULE WOULD ALLOW ME ENOUGH TIME TO BE

HERE TONIGHT. BUT THEN, THREE WEEKS AGO, MAGGIE HUNTER CORNERED

ME AT RON HESSEN'S POOL PARTY. AND WHO CAN SAY NO TO MAGGIE HUNTER

IN A BATHING SUIT?
AND I'M VERY GLAD SHE DID ASK ME BECAUSE IT'S A REAL
PLEASURE TO BE HERE SEEING SO MANY FAMILIAR FACES IN THIS AUDIENCE.

FOR INSTANCE, I SEE MY GOOD FRIEND SARAH McCLEINION. SOME PEOPLE
SAY THAT SARAH IS VERY OUTspoken. NOT BY ANYONE I KNOW.
BUT ANYBODY IN PUBLIC LIFE IS WELL AWARE OF HOW IMPORTANT THE JUDGMENTS OF THE PRESS ARE. I'M FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT IF THE GOOD LORD HAD MADE THE WORLD TODAY, HE WOULD HAVE SPENT SIX DAYS CREATING THE HEAVENS AND EARTH AND ALL THE LIVING CREATURES UPON IT. BUT ON THE SEVENTH DAY, HE WOULDN'T HAVE RESTED -- HE WOULD HAVE JUSTIFIED IT TO HELEN THOMAS.
I also want to say a special "hello" to all my fellow survivors of Air Force Two who are here tonight. Be honest now, all of you who flew with me in Air Force Two --- don't you miss it? This is the only plane the Air Force has, that has to stop for red lights!
WHEN GOVERNOR ROCKEFELLER SAW THIS PLANE, HE WAS REALLY IN A STATE OF SHOCK......I THINK HE STARTED TO RECONSIDER THE WHOLE NOMINATION......HE SAID, "THIS IS AIR FORCE TWO? I HAVE SOMETHING OF MY OWN THAT GOES FASTER." I SAID, "A PLANE?"

HE SAID, "NO. A LAWN MOVER."
BEFORE I CLOSE, I WANT TO CONGRATULATE THE VERY POPULAR
RON SARR on the occasion of his being elected to the presidency
of the Washington Press Club. I understand Ron really put his
heart and soul into this campaign. He was even going to set up
a campaign organization called The Committee to Elect Ron President

....untill someone pointed out, that's creep spelled sideways.
BUT WHEN IT COMES TO A REPORTER'S INTUITION AND REALLY BEING AHEAD OF HIS TIME, YOU JUST CAN'T BEAT RON SARRO. DO YOU KNOW THAT IN 1970, RON WROTE A BOOK CALLED "ARE YOU SAFE FROM BURGLARS?" I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE BOUGHT IT.......

OBVIOUSLY, NOT ENOUGH.
BUT I DO APPRECIATE YOUR ASKING ME TO BE HERE TONIGHT ON THIS HISTORIC OCCASION — THE INAUGURATION OF THE FIRST MALE PRESIDENT OF THE WASHINGTON PRESS CLUB. AS ONE PRESIDENT TO ANOTHER, RON, I SALUTE YOU. AND I ALSO SALUTE THE MEMBERS OF THE WASHINGTON PRESS CLUB FOR BREAKING DOWN THE BARRIERS OF SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION. I'M SURE YOU ALL KNOW WHERE I STAND ON THIS ISSUE.

AS I PROVE EVERY MORNING AT BREAKFAST TIME, I CERTAINLY DON'T BELIEVE THAT A WOMEN'S PLACE IS IN THE KITCHEN.
IF OUR COUNTRY IS TO SURVIVE AND PROSPER, WE NEED THE
BEST EFFORTS OF ALL AMERICANS --- MEN AND WOMEN --- TO BRING
as one great philosopher once said, "IT IS NO
IT ABOUT. AND DESIDES, AS A WISE-OLD MAN ONCE SAID, NOBODY WILL
EVER WIN THE BATTLE OF THE SEXES. THERE'S JUST TOO MUCH
FRATERNIZING WITH THE ENEMY.

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