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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.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Jack Harkness

I promised this
to Ideler Thomas

WASHINGTON PRESS CLUB
SHERATON-CARLTON HOTEL
SEPTEMBER 18, 1974

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 Helen Thomas,
With real appreciation of
your professionalism and friendship
Best wishes. Gary

AS YOU MIGHT IMAGINE, I DON'T AGREE WITH THOSE WHO
HAVE CALLED ME THE ^{*Evil*} 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 NESSEN'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 McCLENDON. 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 ^{WOULD NOT} ~~WOULDN'T~~
HAVE RESTED -- HE WOULD HAVE JUSTIFIED IT TO HELEN THOMAS.

Explained

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 ^{jet} ~~PLANE~~?"

Nelson
HE SAID, "NO. A LAWN MOWER."



BEFORE I CLOSE, I WANT TO CONGRATULATE THE VERY POPULAR
RON SARRO 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 //
.....UNTIL 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 ^{of the} great philosophers once said, ~~It~~ was H. A. K.

IT ABOUT. AND BESIDES, 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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