The original documents are located in Box 1, folder “9/24/74 - Congressional Administrative Assistants” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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TODAY WE PAY TRIBUTE TO THE GREAT UNSUNG HEROES AND HEROINES

OF OUR REPUBLICAN STAFF PEOPLE FROM CAPITOL HILL AND THEIR LONG-

SUFFERING SPOUSES. FRANKLY, NOBODY HAS EVER BEEN ABLE TO

REALLY PIN DOWN THE EXACT DUTIES OF A GOOD STAFF ASSISTANT ---

BUT SOMEBODY DID COME UP WITH A PRETTY GOOD DEFINITION OF ONE.

HE SAID, "A GOOD STAFF ASSISTANT IS SOMEONE WHO GETS HALF THE PAY,

A QUARTER OF THE OFFICE, AND ALL OF THE BLAME!"
I SAID IN MY ACCEPTANCE SPEECH TO THE CONGRESS

THAT "TRUTH IS THE GLUE THAT HOLDS GOVERNMENT TOGETHER." 

WELL, I CAN TELL YOU FROM MY OWN EXPERIENCE --- A LOYAL 

STAFF IS WHAT HOLDS MANY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TOGETHER.
MAYBE THIS IS TELLING TALES OUT OF SCHOOL, BUT I

ONCE OVERHEARD A LADY WHO WAS TRYING TO GET IN TO SEE HER

SENATOR WITHOUT TOO MUCH SUCCESS. AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE

ASSISTANT WAS TRYING TO SOOTHE THIS OBVIOUSLY UNHAPPY

CONSTITUENT. HE SAID, "MADAM, PERHAPS I COULD HELP

YOU. I'M HIS A.A." SHE GAVE HIM A SYMPATHETIC NOD

AND SAID, "DON'T FEEL BAD. IF I WORKED FOR HIM, I'D DRINK

TOO."
IN CLOSING, I DO WANT TO THANK YOU MOST SINCERELY

FOR ALL OF YOUR EFFORTS, YOUR TALENTS, YOUR LOYALTY --

AND ABOVE ALL, THE ENDLESS HOURS YOU HAVE ALL GIVEN SO FREELY

OF. AND I FOUND THAT WORDS ALONE DON'T ADEQUATELY EXPRESS

THIS --- AND SO I HAVE WRITTEN A LITTLE POEM. IT'S CALLED

A TOAST TO CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS.
"A TOAST TO CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS,

THEY LISTEN, WRITE AND EDIT.

THEY WORK AND WORK AND WORK AND WORK --

AND WE TAKE ALL THE CREDIT!"

THANK YOU FOR MAKING ALL THE REST OF US IN GOVERNMENT LOOK

SO GOOD!