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CONGRESSIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS
SEPTEMBER 24, 1974

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!