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Morgan Wright

John Kevin / Robt Marbut

NEWSPAPER DEDICATION

ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1974

*Thomson
Marshall Parker
Sen Phillips*

I HAVE BEEN WARNED THAT IT IS SOMETIMES RISKY TO EXPOSE MYSELF TO THE PRESS. ALTHOUGH I HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE ROSE GARDEN OF THE WHITE HOUSE, NOT EVERYTHING TURNED UP ROSES. BUT THAT IS AS IT SHOULD BE IN KEEPING MY PHILOSOPHY OF AN ACCESSIBLE AND OPEN PRESIDENCY AND A FREE PRESS. IT IS PART OF THE GREAT AMERICAN PROCESS.

*Not big enough to give us
everything we want is a short bag
enough to take from us everything
we have.*

SO I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE TODAY AT THE DEDICATION OF
THE NEW ANDERSON INDEPENDENT AND ANDERSON DAILY MAIL BUILDING.

I CONGRATULATE THESE NEWSPAPERS ON THE CELEBRATION OF THE 75TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAIL AND THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENT.

AND I WILL TAKE MY CHANCES ON WHAT THEY WILL REPORT ON MY VISIT
AND WHAT I SAY.

AS PRESIDENT, I AM TRYING TO CONTINUE THE SAME FREE
AND PLEASANT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRESS THAT I ENJOYED AS
VICE PRESIDENT AND THROUGHOUT 25 YEARS IN THE CONGRESS. I DO NOT
BELIEVE THAT I AM DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY THAN BEFORE, EXCEPT THAT
THE PRESS SEEMS A LOT MORE INTERESTED THESE DAYS IN WHAT I HAVE TO **S**AY.

THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT OF CHANGES IN AMERICA IN OUR OWN
LIFETIME. BUT THERE IS ONE THING WHICH MUST BE PRESERVED ABOVE ALL
OTHERS. I REFER TO THE FIRST AMENDMENT AND ALL THE REST OF THE
UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION WHICH I AM SWORN TO UPHOLD. A CLIMATE
OF TRUST AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE IS
ESSENTIAL IF OUR SYSTEM IS TO GO ON WORKING. THE ANDERSON NEWSPAPERS
AND ALL THE REST OF AMERICA'S PRESS HAVE MUCH TO DO WITH THAT CLIMATE.
AND, OF COURSE, SO DO THOSE OF US WHO HOLD HIGH OFFICES.

I DO NOT PUT AS MUCH EMPHASIS ON PUBLIC RELATIONS AS

I DO ON FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RELATIONS. WE CAN ALL DISAGREE

WITHOUT BEING DISAGREEABLE.

IT IS NOT THE FUNCTION OF THE PRESS TO PROPAGANDIZE FOR
ANY PARTY, ANY PRESIDENT, OR ANY SECTION OF THE PUBLIC. YOU CALL
THINGS AS YOU SEE THEM. I SAY TO EVERY JOURNALIST ON THE OCCASION
OF THIS DEDICATION THAT I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO SEE A NEW BUILDING
HOUSING TWO FINE NEWSPAPERS AT A TIME IN OUR HISTORY WHEN TOO MANY
NEWSPAPERS HAVE BEEN FOLDING. EVERY REPORTER IS NOW UNDER AN
EVEN GREATER RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR AND
EVERY NEWSPAPER TO KEEP ALIVE THE TRADITION OF A FREE PRESS.

I DIFFER WITH THOSE WHO CATEGORIZE THE JOURNALIST AS

A DIFFERENT KIND OF AMERICAN. I PREFER TO CONSIDER EVERY ONE ON

HIS OR HER MERITS AND TO TREAT EACH AS I WOULD HOPE TO BE TREATED

IF OUR JOBS WERE REVERSED. ALTHOUGH I HAVE HAD A LOT OF ADVERSARIES

IN MY POLITICAL LIFE, I HAVE NO LIST OF ENEMIES. NOR WILL I EVER HAVE.

I NATURALLY DO NOT ENJOY BEING CRITICIZED IN THE
PRESS. BUT I WOULD BE EVEN MORE CONCERNED IF THE PRESS WERE NOT
FREE TO CRITICIZE. THAT IS WHY I AM SO PLEASED TO PARTICIPATE
IN THIS CEREMONY TODAY WHICH PERPETUATES THE GREAT ROLE
OF THE FREE PRESS IN THE UNITED STATES.

IT IS A VERY HAPPY OCCASION FOR ME TODAY TO SEE THAT
THE PRINTED WORD IS STILL ALIVE AND WELL IN SOUTH CAROLINA
AND THROUGHOUT AMERICA.