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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *af.*

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS FOR THE

PRESS CORPS CHRISTMAS PARTY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1974

LET ME BID YOU A WARM WELCOME TO THIS CHRISTMAS PARTY
FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS CORPS. I WISH
I COULD MEET WITH YOU MORE OFTEN ON AN INFORMAL BASIS LIKE THIS --
BUT I KNOW THAT DAY TO DAY YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS WITH THE SHY
BUT LOVABLE RON NESSEN . . . STAR OF TELEVISION, PRESS
CONFERENCES, NEWS BRIEFINGS, AND DOONESBURY.

A FEW MONTHS AGO YOU MAY REMEMBER THAT I DESCRIBED
RON NESSEN AS BEING A MODEL PRESS SECRETARY. UNFORTUNATELY,
HELEN THOMAS LOOKED UP THE WORD MODEL IN THE DICTIONARY.
IT SAID: A SMALL IMITATION OF THE REAL THING.

NO, I'M ONLY JOKING. I HAVE THE HIGHEST REGARD
AND ADMIRATION AND RESPECT FOR RON NESSEN. I HAVE TO SAY THAT.
IF I DON'T, YOU KNOW RON. HE'LL START THE NEXT PRESS CONFERENCE
WITHOUT ME!

I HOPE YOU WILL ALL HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME TONIGHT.

I WANT YOU TO RELAX. DANCE TO THE DELIGHTFUL MUSIC OF

MICHAEL CARNEY AND HIS ORCHESTRA. MR. CARNEY DID A

SUPERB JOB OF PLAYING AT THE CHRISTMAS BALL FOR THE CONGRESS

ON TUESDAY, AND I'D LIKE YOU TO JOIN WITH ME IN SHOWING OUR

APPRECIATION OF HIS FINE MUSIC TONIGHT.

I MIGHT ALSO POINT OUT, THERE WILL BE A DELICIOUS
BUFFET AWAITING YOU IN THE STATE DINING ROOM. AND PLEASE
RESEARCH TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT THE LIQUID REFRESHMENTS
NOW BEING SERVED. THE GOOD NEWS IS: WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIND
A NEW FORMAT FOR OUR PRESS CONFERENCES. THE BAD NEWS IS:
TONIGHT WON'T BE IT!

THIS HAS BEEN A RATHER HISTORIC EVENING. WE HAVE
JUST COME BACK FROM WITNESSING THE SWEARING IN OF THE NEW
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE. AS OF AN HOUR AGO, THE EXECUTIVE
BRANCH FINALLY HAS A PIECE OF THE ROCK! NELSON ROCKEFELLER
HAS NOW BEEN OFFICIALLY SWORN IN AS THE FORTY-FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES.

I SINCERELY HOPE YOU WILL GIVE VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER
THE SAME GOOD WILL, SENSITIVITY AND FAIRNESS YOU HAVE ALWAYS
EXTENDED TO ME. WHEN I FIRST BECAME PRESIDENT, I PROMISED
YOU AN OPEN ADMINISTRATION. THIS MEANT OPEN DOORS -- OPEN
ACCESS. OCCASIONALLY, IT HAS MEANT SOME OPEN MOUTHS!
BUT IT HAS ALWAYS MEANT OPEN TRUST AND OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION.
AND THIS IS THE WAY IT WILL CONTINUE. THE ONLY SNOW JOB
YOU WILL EVER GET FROM THIS ADMINISTRATION IS MY ANNUAL TRIP TO VAIL.

HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS

AND I'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING MANY OF YOU IN COLORADO

NEXT WEEK. MEANWHILE -- PLEASE ENJOY YOURSELVES TONIGHT!

END OF TEXT

CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: THE PRESIDENT *has not yet seen*
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN *RHA*
FROM: PAUL THEIS *TK*
SUBJECT: Remarks for Press Corps
Christmas Party

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