The original documents are located in Box 6, folder “3/13/75 - Radio and Television Correspondents Association Annual Dinner” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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RADIO AND TELEVISION CORRESPONDENT'S ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL DINNER

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1975
I have only one thing to say about a program that calls for me to follow Bob Hope: who arranged this?

Scoop Jackson?

It's ridiculous. Bob Hope has enormous stage presence, superb comedy timing, and the finest writers in the business. I'm standing here in a rented tuxedo --

With three jokes from Earl Butz!
(ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS)

BEFORE I BEGIN, LET ME ASK YOU TO JOIN WITH ME IN A

SHORT, BUT RATHER SOLEMN CEREMONY, WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL --

WOULD ALL THE T-V NEWSCASTERS IN THE ROOM PLEASE STAND --

FACE TOWARD RON NESSEN, AND REPEAT AFTER ME: "THERE,

BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD, GO I!"
I'm very grateful for your invitation because my association with radio and T-V correspondents has always been an enlightening and educational experience. It's taught me so many things. For one thing, it taught me always to wear a helmet -- when taking a question from Tom Brokaw.
I AM VERY HONORED TO BE HERE BECAUSE, AS WE ALL KNOW, THERE ARE ONLY THREE MAJOR VEHICLES TO KEEP US INFORMED AS TO WHAT IS GOING ON IN WASHINGTON: THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA, THE PRINT MEDIA, AND DOONESBURY . . . NOT NECESSARILY IN THAT ORDER.
I'm going to keep this very short tonight . . . .

But before I close, I have been asked by Ma-rye-yà McLaughlin to make one announcement. She wants all of you to hold on to your ticket stubs for tonight's drawing of prizes --- and with your permission, Ma-rye-yà has asked me to read just a few of the many valuable prizes we have for you tonight.
FIRST \[ \underline{\text{THE UNLISTED PHONE NUMBER OF IRVING R. LEVINE'S}} \]

HAIR STYLIST.

A SCALE MODEL OF THE WHEEL BARROW WALTER CRONKITE TAKES HIS MONEY HOME IN.

A LEATHER-BOUND COPY OF HOWARD COSELL'S GUIDE TO TERMINAL HUMILITY.
THE SECRET TRANSCRIPT OF HENRY KISSINGER'S LATEST EFFORT TO NEGOTIATE A PEACE TREATY BETWEEN PHIL JONES AND RON NESSEN.

THE ONLY KNOWN PHOTOGRAPH OF FRANK BLAIR SMILING ---

AND THE ONLY KNOWN PHOTOGRAPH OF JOE GARAGIOLA NOT.

A GOLD-PLATED CROWBAR FOR GETTING A WORD IN EDGE-WISE WITH SARAH McLENDON.
AND LAST, BUT NOT LEAST -- A HAND-WRITTEN LETTER

FROM THE WORLD'S GREATEST VENTRiloQUIST, EDGAR BERGEN --

TO DAVID KENNERLY, SAYING: ONE DUMMY IN THE FAMILY IS ENOUGH!
WELL, ENOUGH OF THAT. I WANT YOU ALL TO KNOW HOW MUCH I HAVE ENJOYED THIS EVENING AND THE OTHERS I HAVE SPENT IN YOUR COMPANY. FRANKLY, I WISH THERE WERE MANY MORE HOURS IN THE PRESIDENTIAL DAY SO THAT OUR CONTACTS WITH EACH OTHER WOULDN'T AIN'T SO BRIEF AND SO FORMAL.
BETTY AND I HAVE TRIED VERY HARD TO KEEP THE WHITE HOUSE A HOME AS WELL AS AN INSTITUTION. WE WANT OUR WARMTH TO COME FROM PEOPLE AND NOT JUST FROM FIREPLACES. YOUR INSIGHTS, YOUR THINKING, YOUR FRIENDSHIP AND YOUR FAIRNESS ARE GREATLY VALUED AND APPRECIATED. AND I TELL YOU MOST SINCERELY -- IT WILL NEVER BE OTHERWISE. THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU, TO SAY IT.

END OF TEXT
TO: THE PRESIDENT
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN
FROM: PAUL A. THEIS
SUBJECT: President's remarks at the Radio and TV Correspondents dinner

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRESIDENTIAL USE: 
9 p.m., Thursday, March 13, 1975, Washington Hilton

SPEECHWRITER: Bob Orben
EDITED BY: Friedman/Theis/Hartmann

BASIC RESEARCH/SPEECH MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY:
Scheduling, Advance, Research

CLEARED BY (Please initial):
(X) OPERATIONS (Rumsfeld)
(X) CONGRESSIONAL/PUBLIC LIASON (Marsh)
(X) PRESS (Nessen)

LEGAL (Buchen)
(E) ECONOMIC POLICY BOARD (Seidman)
(E) OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (Lynn)
(E) DOMESTIC COUNCIL (Cannon)
(E) NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (Scowcroft)
(X) RESEARCH (Waldron)
(X) JERRY WARREN (FYI)

LEGEND: (X) A-ok, go ahead
(E) GTS, do not use
( ) No action required