The original documents are located in Box 21, "1/14/76 - Presidential Remarks for Lombardi Awards Dinner (Includes briefing paper)" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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FILM SPOT:

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS FOR

LOMBARDI AWARDS DINNER

JANUARY 14, 1976

VINCE LOMBARDI WOULD BE PROUD OF THIS

GATHERING IN HIS HONOR. HE WOULD BE PROUD OF THE

YOUNG COLLEGE LINEMEN RECEIVING YOUR AWARDS.

- I JOIN IN THAT PRIDE IN A MAN LIKE VINCE LOMBARDI. . .
- IN THE TRIBUTE BEING PAID THESE FINE YOUNG ATHLETES. . .

AND IN THE PRIDE OF ALL OF YOU WHO HELPED TO MAKE THIS

DINNER A SUCCESS. YOURS IS A NOBLE GOAL + TO RAISE

FUNDS SO WE MIGHT FIND A CURE FOR CANCER -- THE DISEASE

WHICH COST VINCE LOMBARDI HIS LIFE.

TO VINCE LOMBARDI THAN TO HELP MEDICAL SCIENCE CONQUER

THE DREAD DISEASE THAT HAS CLAIMED THE LIVES OF SO MANY

IN THIS COUNTRY AND AROUND THE WORLD.

YOU ALSO PAY TRIBUTE TO YOURSELVES, YOUR COMMUNITY OF

HOUSTON AND THE STATE OF TEXAS AS WELL AS AMERICAN

SPORTSMANSHIP BY THIS DINNER. THE GREATEST GIFT

THAT ANYONE CAN OFFER IS TO GIVE OF HIMSELF OR HERSELF.

AS AN OLD COLLEGE LINEMAN MYSELF, I OFFER MY

CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF THE PLAYERS HONORED THIS

EVENING. I WISH I COULD BE THERE TO PERSONALLY JOIN

IN THIS TRIBUTE. SINCE I CANNOT DO SO, LET ME LEAVE

YOU WITH THIS THOUGHT:

IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR OF OUR NATION, THE
PRINCIPLES AND IDEALS THAT MADE THIS COUNTRY GREAT ARE
AS ENDURING AS THEY WERE 200 YEARS AGO; THE CONCEPTS OF
HUMAN DIGNITY AND INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY ARE AS VALID
AS EVER.

YOUR AWARDS DINNER ENNOBLES THOSE CHERISHED BELIEFS.

I CONGRATULATE YOU FOR BEING A PART OF THIS GREAT CAUSE.

YOU MAKE ALL OF US MORE WORTHY OF THE INHERITANCE LEFT

BY THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF THIS GREAT NATION.

THANK YOU AND HAVE A GOOD EVENING.

END OF TEXT

THE PERCEPTED HAS SEEN.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Taping Session
Wednesday - January 14, 1976
12:45 P.M.

The Cabinet Room

From:

Terry O'Donnell

BACKGROUND

Today at 12:45 p.m. in the Cabinet Room, you will do the following five tapings in the order listed:

1. AUDIO TAPE MESSAGE FOR THE ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL ON THE OCCASION OF THE ANNUAL NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST ON JANUARY 29.

Ships and military installations will hold local prayer breakfasts concurrently with the Annual National Prayer Breakfast. More than 100,000 military and civilian personnel across the Nation and throughout the world will join with those meeting in Washington in acknowledging and reaffirming moral and spiritual values.

2. AUDIO TAPE MESSAGE FOR THE IOWA CAUCUS

Very brief public service announcement to be read this weekend by various radio stations prior to Iowa Caucus next week.

3. VIDEO TAPE MESSAGE - "MAN OF THE YEAR" AWARD FROM THE UKRAINIAN CONGRESS COMMITTEE OF AMERICA-CHICAGO DIVISION

For consistent support of the endeavors of America's minority and ethnic communities. The award will be "presented" at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, January 24, 1976, at the Chicago-Sheraton Hotel where approximately 850 members and guests of the Ukrainian Congress Committee will be gathered. Congressman Derwinski was "Man of the Year" last year.

4. VIDEO TAPE MESSAGE FOR THE ANNUAL CONVENTION-EXPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOME BUILDERS.

Convention is being held in Dallas, Texas, from January 18 through January 22. Expect about 55,000 participants at the Convention with about 600 exhibits on display --- 75,000 firms are members of the NAHB.

5. VIDEO TAPE MESSAGE FOR THE VINCE LOMBARDI AWARDS
DINNER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HOUSTON FOUNDATION
ON JANUARY 22.

You were invited to be the principal speaker and Honorary Chairman of this event. You agreed to accept the Chairmanship but had to decline the invitation to speak. This is the sixth such dinner honoring the Nation's outstanding college linemen during the 1975 football season. Profits from these annual events are donated to the American Cancer Society in Coach Lombardi's name for research purposes. To date, well over \$150,000 has been contributed.

SPECIAL NOTE

Teleprompter will be used for Messages 3 through 5.