

The original documents are located in Box 29, “4/20/76 - Filmed Message for the White House News Photographers' Dinner at the Sheraton Park Hotel” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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1.

... ..

TAPED SPEECH TO PHOTOGRAPHERS' BANQUET

Good evening, ^{2m} as you all sit down to this wonderful banquet, ~~I~~ am in Indiana, eating a chicken salad sandwich in my hotel room.

Actually, it isn't so bad. Police **Woman** comes on at nine o'clock.

~~And at eleven o'clock, I get to take the Secret Service out for a walk.~~

~~Pause.. (looks off stage)... that is right, Ron, isn't it? Eleven o'clock, we go for a walk? ..with the Secret Service, Ron, Ron (and offstage you hear someone saying "Yes sir". Eleven o'clock, Secret Service, walk.~~

~~And he looks back and says~~

^{In fact,} ~~Actually,~~ I couldn't have made it back to Washington, anyway. Bernie

Boston borrowed my plane.

2.

I hope you all know how difficult it was for me to leave the White House and come to Indianapolis. David Kennerly locked me in the residence. (laugh offstage unmistakably David Kennerly's.) I didn't think it was so funny, David.

Bob Serrosi also is sorry I couldn't make it, but he doesn't have to worry, he's already been elected.

Also, [^]special hello to George Tames who shot the famous photograph of a [^]hummingbird fluttering next to Senator Humphrey during one of Hubert's speeches. The hummingbird's wings were frozen motionless but the Senator's mouth was a blur.

~~I understand the rules were amended to allow Bob Serrosi to become your first free-lance President. I think that is what John Connolly is going to do.~~

3.

YVNU

You know, when this new traveling schedule was made out, I realized ~~what~~
now different it was a quandry ~~it was putting everyone into~~, and I was upset that I wasn't going

to be present. I hope you will all forgive me and as a certain White House
photographer put it, ² know how good you have all been to me and how grateful ^{2 want you to know}
I am.

Traditionally, the President of the United States is invited to this dinner to
make these awards every year. I ~~want~~ to promise you that I will do everything
in my power to be with you next year.

And now, a word from my sponsor.

[Faint handwritten signature]