

The original documents are located in Box 31, “5/6/76 - Remarks Before Association of American Editorial Cartoonists” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

REMARKS BEFORE
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN
EDITORIAL CARTOONISTS

MAY 6, 1976

- MR. HILL / MR. WHO-EE-CEE
- MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION
-

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN EDITORIAL
CARTOONISTS

MR. HILL

(Mr. Hill is President)

MR. WHO-EE-CEE

MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

GUESTS

I WELCOME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH YOU TODAY
AND PROVIDE A MORE PERSONALIZED VIEW OF THE PRESIDENT FOR
YOUR SKETCHES. ALTHOUGH, WHEN IT COMES TO PERSONALIZED
VIEWS, I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER FORGET THE ONE EXPRESSED BY
A FORMER TEAMMATE OF MINE FROM MY OLD MICHIGAN FOOTBALL
TEAM.

HE INTRODUCED ME AT A BANQUET ONE NIGHT AND HE SAID:

"YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT I PLAYED FOOTBALL

WITH JERRY FORD FOR TWO YEARS. JERRY PLAYED CENTER --

I WAS THE QUARTERBACK -- AND YOU MIGHT SAY IT GAVE ME

A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT VIEW OF THE PRESIDENT."

TODAY, I HOPE YOUR VIEWS WON'T BE QUITE THAT

DIFFERENT.

I AM PLEASED AND HONORED TO WELCOME YOU TO
THE WHITE HOUSE. YOUR EDITORIAL CARTOONS, REPRESENTING
A GREAT AMERICAN TRADITION, HAVE ADORNED WHITE HOUSE
WALLS FOR MANY YEARS. TODAY I AM DELIGHTED TO WELCOME
YOU IN PERSON.

TWO YEARS AGO THIS MONTH I ADDRESSED YOUR
ASSOCIATION IN BOSTON. AT THAT TIME GUERNSEY LE PELLEY,
THE EDITORIAL CARTOONIST FOR THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR,
SAID YOU WANTED TO GET A FIRSTHAND IMPRESSION TO BETTER
PERCEIVE MY TRUE IDENTITY.

THERE HAD BEEN A NUMBER OF CARTOON THEMES DEPICTING
IDENTICAL VICE PRESIDENT FORDS SEATED BEHIND DESKS WITH
CAPTIONS ASKING: "WILL THE REAL JERRY FORD STAND UP?"

TODAY, TWO YEARS LATER, THE REAL JERRY

FORD HAS STOOD UP. YOU HAVE TAKEN MY FULL MEASURE.

IN KEEPING WITH YOUR ARTISTIC AND JOURNALISTIC

RESPONSIBILITY TO CALL THE SHOTS AS YOU SEE THEM, YOU

HAVE TREATED ME VERY FAIRLY.

I CONCEDE THAT THE PEN IS MIGHTIER THAN THE
POLITICIAN. ONLY SIX OR SEVEN SECONDS ARE REQUIRED
TO READ AND DIGEST A CARTOON. THAT IS WHY YOU HAVE
SUCH A BIG ADVANTAGE OVER THOSE OF US IN POLITICAL LIFE.
IT MAY TAKE SIX OR SEVEN MONTHS BEFORE THE PUBLIC FORGETS
A CARTOON THAT HITS THE TARGET -- AND THAT TAKES US UP
TO NEXT NOVEMBER.

I AM PLEASED TO TAKE MY CHANCES WITH YOUR
CARTOONS BECAUSE I KNOW THAT YOU DEPICT ALL CANDIDATES
WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR. YOUR CARTOON ART IS A VITAL
AMERICAN SAFEGUARD AGAINST THE DECEPTION OF VOTERS --
BY ANY CANDIDATE, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO DEMAGOGUE
FALSE ISSUES OR FUZZ UP THE REAL ISSUES.

WE COUNT ON YOU TO RIP AWAY FACADES WITH
PENETRATING REALISM. AND JUST AS YOU ASKED FOR THE
REAL JERRY FORD TO STAND UP, I CONGRATULATE YOU FOR
ASKING THE SAME QUESTION FOR ALL THE NEW AND OLD FACES
OF 1976.

I HAVE HEARD CARTOONISTS SAY THAT THEIR
CARTOONS MAKE A COMPLEX SITUATION REALLY SIMPLE,
WHILE THE EDITORIALS USUALLY FOUND ON THE SAME PAGE
MAKE A SIMPLE SITUATION REALLY COMPLICATED.

WE ALL KNOW THE OLD CHINESE PROVERB THAT

A SINGLE PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS.

EVERY CARTOONIST REALIZES THIS ANEW EACH TIME HE STARTS

TO WRITE THE CAPTION. SO IT IS WITH POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS.

WE OFTEN SEE THE REAL SITUATION BEHIND THE MASK BUT CAN'T

ALWAYS, AT THE OUTSET, PUT THE PRECISE CAPTION ON IT.

YET THERE IS A BASIC AND PENETRATING WISDOM THAT EMERGES
IN CARTOONS. I AM CONFIDENT THAT SAME INSIGHT EXISTS
IN FULL ABUNDANCE AMONG THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.
THAT IS WHY I FACE THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT
