

**The original documents are located in Box 299, folder “Chastisement of Media in Briefing - Reaction to Briefing” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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Analysis of Calls - Friday - June 27To offer congratulations, sympathy, solace, comfort, etc

Ray Mueller	"Hang in there. Will buy you lunch next week when you catch your breath ✓
Ned Nordness	Go for lunch and 2 martinis ✓
Bob Lewis - citizen	Praised you for lecture. Thinks they <del>needed</del> it.
Susan Hoover	I ssending you down a letter ✓

Requests for interviews, shows, etc:

Harriet Moidel	CBS	Wanted film crew to follow you around today (No one called them back; they did not call again)
Peggy Whedon	ABC	Wants to interview you (Issues and Answers I guess)
Bob Clark	ABC	Didn't say what it was about; presume same as above
Steve Bell	ABC	Wanted filmed interview <i>I'd feel like Steve</i>
Bob Hurley	Mutual	"Reporters Roundup!" would be on with two respected columnists or journalists
Rowland Evans	Channel 5	Wanted you to be on tonight. I told them you were goin to Camp David. They want a firm regret from you

Others:

Bob Crater	<u>Yes</u>	Re: Connie's disrespect of him - he is complaining
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George Embrey	<u>Yes</u>
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Tom DeFrank	<u>Yes.</u>
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*John Osborne*



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 26, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:                   RON NESSEN

FROM:                               JIM SHUMAN

GERALD WARREN FEELS THAT YOU SHOULD CALL ANOTHER BRIEFING THIS AFTERNOON TO DISCUSS FURTHER YOUR "ATTACK" AND YOUR "THREAT."

If you should decide to do that, or you want to do it tomorrow, following are points I think you should make:

1. The statement you read this morning was a reflection of your feelings about a situation which greatly disturbs you. It greatly disturbs you because you feel that the cynicism and distrust of which you spoke preventing you from effectively helping the Press Corps and, by extension, the American people understand what this Administration is thinking and doing. (And here you might mention the day you had no briefing but felt you were able to offer more information and guidance in individual interviews. This does not mean that you advocate that form, but that you realize how much better you could serve the Press Corps.)
2. You do not regret making the statement this morning. You hope that you have lanced an ugly and festering wound. And, if you have done so, the immediate sharp reaction, and pain, will be worth it.
3. You probably ought to discuss here the role of the White House Correspondent and his relationship to the President's Press Secretary. I think that you can make the point that the limitations of the White House assignments are such that an investigative reporter is not going to uncover a Pulitzer prize-winning story from your briefing, or, for that matter, anyone's briefing.



And here you might cite the fact that the greatest investigative reporter of our time, I. F. Stone, made it a point never to attend Press Conferences, Briefings, or Committee Hearings. You might mention the Cuban missile incident I told you of at lunch (in which the White House cover story for the American failure to spot Russian missiles in Cuba was that cloud covers prevented U-2 overflights but that a writer doing a book discovered, not from Pierre Salinger, but from meteorological records that the weather, during the period in question, had been cloudless).

4. Then I think that you should suggest some resolution to the matter by informing the Press Corps 1) that you and your staff will seriously consider ways of improving the accessibility of Administration news and 2) that you hope that the White House Correspondents will give the matter some thought this weekend, too, so that the issues you have raised and the Correspondents need for access to news can be reconciled, so that both the Press and the Public are better served.



- 1) Not angry, no personal  
peju.
- 2) ~~Not~~ Not serving purpose,  
~~from office not serving~~  
~~you~~
- 3) Purpose is to provide  
people info about a HU
- 4) This atmosphere does  
not serve people.
- 5) And we not serving  
you.
- 6) Festering sore.  
Lancin it. air in.
- 7) Healthy skepticism. <sup>Too far</sup> <sub>Q5</sub>  
I expect that. I did it.  
Why did I do it?
- 8) Yesterday. Visits and calls.  
Had no time. I found that  
answers better and more  
info.
- 9) Not an alternative. Not  
thinking of abolishing the bureau.  
Thinking of ways to make



Briefing is more productive,  
more info <sup>in a better manner!</sup> And this  
ways to improve flow of  
information and open up  
we do more.

- 10) Cony David  
You meet, ideas  
Then let's get together  
and combine our ideas  
and find a better  
way to make these  
briefing work.
- 



MORNING

EVENING

SUNDAY

THE  SUN

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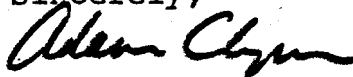
June 26, 1975

Dear Ron,

Jim Naughton told me today that on June 4 at West Point you did mention to him the necessity of President Ford's reading the Rockefeller Report and deciding to release it before it could be made public -- an element you did not raise with me at about the same time.

Therefore I apologize for saying during the June 6 briefing "I think you are a liar," in reference to your statement that that precondition had been in your mind when you discussed the details of releasing that report. I apologize also for any inconvenience or distress this may have caused you.

Sincerely,



Adam Clymer



June 26

John Osborne 5 pm

Joe Cannon Call

Jim Wright 5 pm.

Henry Thomas ✓ no one from H.P.

Frank Cornier

Carol Kilpatrick can't visit

Jim Deakin gone for day

Adam Klymer 5 pm

Tom DeFrank 5 pm

Jarrell ✓

Sheffer ✓

Pyshaw ✓

Purpoint ✓

~~DeFrank~~ Barnes ✓  
Farney 5 pm.





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4. Then I think that you should suggest some resolution to the matter by informing the Press Corps 1) that you and your staff will seriously consider ways of improving the accessibility of Administration news and 2) that you hope that the White House Correspondents will give the matter some thought this weekend, too, so that the issues you have raised and the Correspondents need for access to news can be reconciled, so that both the Press and the Public are better served.

TELEPHONE CALLS:

John Osborne —

Rowland Evans —

~~Marty Schram \*~~

Fred Barnes \* -

Jom Jarriel

Jerry terHorst

Lou Cannon\* --- NOW DOING HIS STORY FOR TOMORROW - needs to talk to you. (Doesn't want to come over in person - can't -- but needs phone call)

Dennis Farney\* —

IN PERSON REQUESTS

Helen Thomas —



June 26

(DESCRIBE CONNALLY APPOINTMENT BACKGROUND)

NOW, I WANT TO SPEAK MORE <sup>G</sup>GENERALLY FOR A MOMENT ABOUT THESE BRIEFINGS. I SAID THE OTHER DAY THAT SOME PEOPLE AT THESE BRIEFINGS ARE TOO QUICK TO CHARGE OR IMPLY COVERUPS WHEN THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF ANY COVERUPS IN THIS WHITE HOUSE. AND I SAID IT IS POISONING THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE BRIEFINGS. I WANT TO ADD <sup>Today</sup> THAT I THINK THAT UNSUBSTANTIATED CHARGES (SOME PEOPLE ARE TOO QUICK TO CHARGE OR IMPLY) THAT I AM LYING OR THAT MY CREDIBILITY IS ~~DESTROYED~~ <sup>ALSO</sup> DESTROYED (AND I THINK THAT) IS POISONING THE ATMOSPHERE OF THESE BRIEFINGS. THIS PRESIDENT HAS BEEN IN OFFICE FOR MORE THAN 10 MONTHS NOW. THAT IS MORE THAN ENOUGH TIME TO GET THIS BLIND, MINDLESS, IRRATIONAL SUSPICION, SYNACISM AND DISTRUST OUT OF YOUR SYSTEM. THIS PRESIDENT IS AN HONEST MAN, A MAN OF INTEGRITY. AND AS PRESS SECRETARY I HAVE KEPT THE PROMISES I MADE THE FIRST DAY I TOOK THIS JOB. THESE BRIEFINGS ARE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ME AND YOU RELAYING INFORMATION TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC ON WHAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE WHITE HOUSE ARE DOING. THE BRIEFINGS, IN THE PRESENT ATMOSPHERE ARE NOT SERVING THAT PURPOSE VERY WELL. YOUR READERS AND VIEWERS ARE BADLY SERVED AND, IN FACT, ARE MISLED WHEN SUSPICIONS ARE RAISED ABOUT EVERYTHING SAID HERE...WHEN THERE IS NOTHING TO BASE THOSE SUSPICIONS ON ~~EXCEPT~~ EXCEPT ~~BLIND~~ BLIND AND IRRATIONAL DISTRUST...AND HABITS OF CYNICAL THINKING BUILT UP OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS. IF THESE BRIEFINGS ARE GOING TO SERVE THE PUBLIC... AND, IN FACT, IF THEY ARE GOING TO CONTINUE AT ALL IN THEIR PRESENT FORM... THE ATMOSPHERE MUST CHANGE. FOR MY PART...I WANT TO SAY THIS...THE NEXT TIME SOMEBODY CHARGES OR IMPLIES THAT THERE IS A COVERUP OF ANY KIND...OR CHARGES OR IMPLIES THAT I AM LYING OR THAT I HAVE NO CREDIBILITY...THEY DAMN WELL BETTER HAVE SOMETHING TO SUPPORT THAT CHARGE...MORE THAN JUST A GENERAL, VAGUE SUSPICION... ~~BEFORE I AM GOING TO COME DOWN HARD ON THEM.~~

