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THE WHITE HOUSE

nie NOTE FOR:

FROM : RON NESSEN

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RON NESSEN - A BIOGRAPHY

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For two and a half years Ron Nessen held what many believe is the second toughest job in the Government: White House Press Secretary.

After a distinguished career of 20 years as an award-winning news and television correspondent, Nessen was asked by President Ford to become his spokesman at one of the most troubled times in our Nation's history. The respect of the press and the public in the White House had nearly been destroyed by Watergate, the bitterness of the Ron Ziegler era, and the Nixon pardon. In September, 1974, Nessen stepped into the very center of a stormy chapter of American history.

For the next 2-1/2 years, Nessen had a front row seat at all the headline events of the Ford Administration: the Vladivostok Agreement with the Russians on nuclear weapons; the sad and stunning end of the Vietnam war; the two horrifying assassination attempts against President Ford; the daring military rescue of the captured Mayaquez crew members; the pomp and ceremony of foreign trips; the close primary and convention victory over Ronald Reagan for the Republican Presidential nomination and, finally, the come-from-behind campaign against Jimmy Carter which just barely fell short in a heartbreaking loss.

At all of these important events, it was Nessen's face and words which were seen, heard and read around the world, speaking for President Ford.

When Nessen became Press Secretary to the President, relations between the White House and the press were strained almost to the breaking point. Nessen helped restore trust, openness, candor and friendship to that very important relationship.

Before becoming the spokesman for the President, Nessen was no stranger to great historic events. As a television correspondent for NBC News for 12 years, Nessen spent five tours in Vietnam, covering that war for the American television viewer.

Nessen received the George Polk Memorial Award of the Overseas Press Club, one of the most treasured prizes available to a journalist.

Nessen almost was killed in Vietnam, on camera before millions of televison viewers. He was struck in the chest, near the heart, by a Viet Cong hand grenade fragment while covering a battle in the Central Highlands in July, 1965. His cameraman kept filming as Nessen was tended by medics and was finally evacuated by helicopter. Nessen recovered from his war wound at Walter Reed Army Hospital. and returned to Vietnam to continue his memorable broadcasts which focused on the frustrations and brutality of that far-away war.

Vietnam was not the only war which was brought into millons of living rooms by Nessen on NBC television. He also reported from Bangla Desh, from Biafra, from Bolivia during the search for Che Guevara and from Borneo during a violent tribal uprising.

When President Ford asked Nessen to become his Press Secretary, he was inviting into the inner sanctum of politics a news correspondent who had followed politics closely from the press room. Nessen was NBC's White House Correspondent when Lyndon Johnson was President, and Nessen covered the successful Presidential campaign of Richard Nixon in 1968 and the unsuccessful Vice Presidential campaign of Sargent Shriver in 1972.

One of the most exhausting but rewarding, experiences of Nessen's career as a political correspondent was his coverage of Gerald Ford. Two days after Spiro Agnew resigned Ford was nominated as the new Vice President. Nessen reported for NBC viewers on his confirmation hearings by the Senate and House, his 118,000 miles of travel over the next eight months and finally the emotional hours when Richard Nixon resigned and Gerald Ford was sworn in as President of the United States.

It was during this period that Nessen and Ford became personal friends. That friendship led Ford to ask Nessen to join his top White House staff as Press Secretary.

Nessen's unique background as both a respected journalist and a White House official has made him much sought after by the business and academic worlds as a consultant on communications policy.

For two years in a row Nessen was the guest lecturer at the National War College in Washington, D.C., expounding his views on the media and national policy to an elite class of military officers, foreign policy and intelligence officials and top executives of business and industrial firms.

In addition, Nessen has been asked to share his knowledge at seminars at the Aspen Institute, the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas and many other institutions. His insights have been sought by professors from Towsen State College, the University of Maryland, George Washington University, Georgetown University, the University of Michigan and others preparing books and disertations on the media and government. Nessen is the author of numerous articles.

Nessen began his journalistic career at a number of small radio stations and newspapers in the Washington, D. C. area. He spent five years as an editor with United Press International in Washington before joining NBC in 1962. During his 12 years with that television network Nessen was assigned to cover the news from Washington, New York, Mexico City, London and the Far East.

Nessen graduated from American University in Washington with a degree in history and a prize for his senior thesis on Abraham Lincoln. Nessen is married and the father of two children.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DECEMBER 18, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

RONALD H. NESSEN Biographical Data

Ronald H. Nessen has been Press Secretary to the President since September 20, 1974. Mr. Nessen joined the staff of United Press International in Washington in 1956, working there until 1962, when he joined the National Broadcasting Company.

His first NBC assignment was in Washington, where he served from 1962 to 1965 as a White House correspondent during the term of President Johnson. He was assigned to Southeast Asia by NBC in 1965 and covered Vietnam until he was wounded by a grenade fragment in 1966. He returned to Washington and later that year was assigned to New York, where he anchored a weekly Vietnam television report and a five minute daily Vietnam report on the "Today" show.

In 1967, Mr. Nessen received a series of foreign assignments from NBC, covering Latin America, Asia, Africa and then London. He returned to the United States, where he covered the Presidential campaign of 1968. After that, he was based in Washington, specializing in urban affairs. When Gerald Ford became Vice President, Mr. Nessen was assigned to cover most of the 118,000 miles traveled by the Vice President. When President Ford took office in August, 1974, Mr. Nessen became NBC's White House correspondent.

He was born in Washington, D. C., May 25, 1934. Mr. Nessen attended American University, where he majored in history.

He is married to the former Young Hi Song of Seoul, South Korea, and has two children, Edward, 1 1/2 and Caren, 18. The Nessens live in Bethesda, Maryland.

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Who's Who in Covernment

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GOVERNMENT VOL 3

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THREE: To obviate the necessity of preparing another copy of the sketch for the printer, please return the accompanying manuscript at once, regardless of whether or not changes are necessary.

FOUR: Whenever possible, future events now known-including coming publications and changes in appointments or offices-should be anticipated and added to the manuscript. Such information will remain entirely confidential until publication.

FIVE: DO NOT REWRITE the sketch, as it has been arranged in a standardized sequence found over many years of usage to be exceptionally effective in reference service. Since scattered minor alterations may involve complete rewriting, the editors will appreciate cooperation in minimizing them.

SIX: If a sketch does not include accurate addresses, proofs can not be sent for checking by you or under your direction. Biographical data can obviously only be most effectively thus checked—it not being reasonable to expect even the most expert professional proofreading to detect errors in individual dates and similar personal facts. Such a checking is particularly to your advantage in respect to your listing, for publication places it as a permanent record in reference centers throughout the world. Therefore please note on the overleaf both home and business addresses, including any zip codes. (The editors will gladly, on being requested to do so, omit either or both addresses from the published sketch, and retain them solely for their own requirements.)

THE BASIS FOR LISTINGS

Listings in Who's Who in America are selected solely on the basis of the editors' estimate of reference interest, sufficiently widespread to be more than regional and resulting from meritorious achievement. Initiative on the part of these selected biographees is not a consideration, nor their desires to be, or not to be, listed, although their cooperation in supplying and checking data, in order to assure accuracy and currentness, is sought and appreciated. Whether or not-such cooperation is forthcoming, all those selected and considered to be subject to a requisite degree of reference interest are listed. It follows both that a listing felt to be necessary in the service of reference adequacy is in no way optional with the selected biographee and that no consideration-purchase of the volume: monetary or political influence of any type or degree-other than the factor of reference interest, can effect a listing-no listing has been otherwise determined since the establishment of Who's Who in America over seventy-five years ago.

REVISION OF LISTINGS

Since reference interest is the determinative factor in the selection of listings, it likewise is the deciding consideration in respect to revisions and deletions. Listings are dropped or transferred to the inactive classification according to the editors' estimate of current reference interest, and therefore no other meaning should be attached to such revisions. However, if a biographee does not furnish an address to which requests for current data may be sent, or fails to supply current information from which the editors may judge the degree of reference interest involved, a transfer to the inactive classification is in the majority of instances to be expected.

THE PURPOSE SERVED BY LISTINGS

As indicated above, the purpose of Who's Who in America is to serve national and international reference interest in men and women of meritorious achievement.

Since there are instances of worthwhile accomplishment not being subject to more than regional reference interest, and as well ones of outstanding life records not being considered particularly noteworthy locally, the reasons for all listings may well be not at all self-evident. However, in respect to all, the answer to but one query has been deciding: "Is it likely that some reference center-such as library-may be asked for information about this biographice, or that some constructive user of biographical data-such as a newspaperman, a student, a biographet, a researcher or a commentator-may want biographical facts about him or her?" The uses of Who's Who in America in the private library, and for individual or business service, are both many and well known because of decades of demonstrated effectiveness, but they are also obviously dependent upon the constant observance of this basic consideration of reference utility extending beyond regional requirements.



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Work is now underway on the Fifth Edition of

Who's Who in American Politics

Who's Who in American Politics is a biennial publication of individuals who are actively participating in politics from the national, state, county and local levels of government. The publishers are fortunate in having the continuing cooperative support and valued expertise of Paul A. Theis, Former Public Relations Director, Republican National Congressional Committee and Edmund L. Henshaw, Executive Director, Democratic National Congressional Committee in the compilation of this edition scheduled for fall 1975 publication.

To ensure Who's Who in American Politics continuing as the authoritative reference, we ask you to complete or revise your information on the enclosed form and return it promptly to preclude further mailings. Neither submission of data nor eventual listing in this edition puts you under any obligation whatsoever.

The scope of the directory includes those who are not listed in any other biographical reference work; therefore, you are our source of information. We are sure you will want to be a part of this outstanding reference source.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Ann Gammons Supervising Editor Jaques Cattell Press

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- ★ President
- ★ Vice President
- ★ Cabinet officials
- ★ Governors
- ★ Lieutenant Governors
- ★ Officers of state political parties
- ★ Chairmen of county political parties
- ★ Mayors of major cities
- ★ Many more

How can you be among those listed? Return the enclosed form.



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Nessen, Ronald H. White House Officer
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Washington, DC 20500



11. BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS: List chr	ronologically with dates up to and including present position.		
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Press Secretary to the President	The White House / Washington, D.C.	9/74	PRESEN
News Correspondent	N.B.C. / Washington, D.C.	1962	1974
Editor	U.P.I. / Washington, D.C.	1956	1962
Writer	Montgomery County Sentinal - Rockville	1955	1956
Radio Newscaster	WARL - Arlington, Va. Maryland	1954	1955
Radio Newscaster	WEPM - Martinsburg, West Virginia	1952	1954
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Jayne & Edward Song. Educ: Am Univ, BA, 59. Hon Degrees:
LLD, Heidelberg Col, 75. Polit & Govt Pos: Press secy to the
President, 74- Bus & Prof Pos: Radio newscaster, WEPM,
Martinsburg, WVa, 52-54 & WARL, Arlington, Va, 54-55; writer,
Montgomery Co Sentinal, Rockville, Md, 55-56; ed, United Press
Int, Washington, DC, 56-62; news correspondent, Nat Broadcasting
Co, 62-74. Honors & Awards: George Foster Peabody Broadcasting
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¹ RAINWATER, CHARLES ADAM, JR Ariz State Sen

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⁴b Greenway, Ark, Mar 2, 22; ⁵s Charles Adam Rainwater & Mary Martha Trosper R; ⁶m 1948 to Janet Elizabeth Jones; ⁷c Barbara Ann, Linda (Mrs David Norling), Timothy Paul & William Wesley. ⁸ Educ: Univ Ark, BA, 48; ⁹Phi Beta Kappa; ¹⁰Sigma Alpha Epsilon. ¹¹ Hon Degrees: LLD, Univ Ariz, 66. ¹² Polit & Govt Pos: Coordr, Nationalities Comt Nixon for President, Phoenix, Ariz, 60; Del, Rep Nat Conv, 64; Ariz State Sen, 64- ¹³ Bus & Prof Pos: Gen Mgr, Home Lumber & Supply Co, 51- ¹⁴ Mil Serv: Entered as A/S, Navý, 43, released as Lt, 45, after serv in Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron 33, SPac, 44-45; Campaign Ribbons.¹⁵Publ: The Principle of Equalization Applied to the Allocation of Grants in Aid, Soc Security Admin, 54; Need is Our Neighbor, Friendship Press, 66; The Role of the State Chairman, J Am Businessmen, 11/57. ¹⁶Mem: Ariz Lumber-men's Asn; Toastmasters; Jaycees; Kiwanis. ¹⁷Honors & Awards: Distinguished Serv Award, Jaycees, 65. ¹⁸Relig: Baptist. ¹⁹Legal Res: 2200 Crannell Dr Safford AZ 85546. ²⁰Mailing Add: PO Box 381 Phoenix AZ 85201 Bus & Prof Post Radio newscasters Presidenty 74-Martinsburd, WVax 52-54 & WARL, Artington, Va, 54-551 Writer, Monthemery Co Sentinel, Receiville, Hd. 55-361 ed: United Frees Int: Washington: DC: 56-62; news correspondent: Nat Broadcasting Con 62-74. Honors E Awards: George Foster Peabody Broadcasting ¹ Name ² Political party affiliation ⁸ Present political or governmental position * Birthplace and date Mailine Add: 5112 Bal 21 ⁵ Father's and mother's full name ⁶ Marriage date and spouse's name ⁷ Names of children ⁸ Education ⁹ National Greek letter professional and honorary societies ³⁶ College-level fraternities, sororities, and social clubs ¹¹ Honorary degrees ¹² Political and governmental positions (including only current congressional appointments and chairmanship of past committees) ¹³ Business and professional positions ¹⁴ Military service, including military decorations (optional) 15 Publications (limited to 3) ¹⁶ Current memberships in professional or technical organizations, lodges, clubs, veteran, civic and farm organizations (maximum of 5) ¹⁷ Honors and awards (list 5 most important) ¹⁸ Religion (optional)

- ¹⁹ Legal Residence
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- ²¹ Telephone (home and/or office),

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Work is now underway on the Fifth Edition of

Who's Who in American Politics

Who's Who in American Politics is a biennial publication of individuals who are actively participating in politics from the national, state, county and local levels of government. The publishers are fortunate in having the continuing cooperative support and valued expertise of Paul A. Theis, Former Public Relations Director, Republican National Congressional Committee and Edmund L. Henshaw, Executive Director, Democratic National Congressional Committee in the compilation of this edition scheduled for fall 1975 publication.

To ensure Who's Who in American Politics continuing as the authoritative reference, we ask you to complete or revise your information on the enclosed form and return it promptly to preclude further mailings. Neither submission of data nor eventual listing in this edition puts you under any obligation whatsoever.

The scope of the directory includes those who are not listed in any other biographical reference work; therefore, you are our source of information. We are sure you will want to be a part of this outstanding reference source.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Ann Gammons Supervising Editor Jaques Cattell Press

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¹⁸ Religion (optional)
 ¹⁹ Legal Residence
 ²⁰ Mailing Address
 ²¹ Telephone (home and/or office)

Those included are . . .

- * President
- ★ Vice President
- ★ Cabinet officials
- ★ Governors
- ★ Lieutenant Governors
- ★ Officers of state political parties
- ★ Chairmen of county political parties
- ★ Mayors of major cities
- ★ Many more

How can you be among those listed? Return the enclosed form.





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1898 - Our Seventy-Fifth Anniversary - 1973

Dear Friend:

Perhaps no other aspect of American life is subject to such rapid change as the composition of our various federal, state and local governments. If, as Webster observed, Democracy is "government, made for the people, made by the people," then it is imperative that the people have ready access to knowledge of their elected and appointed representatives and Civil Service employees. Moreover, the increasing interaction between the federal, state and local levels of government requires a reference book that will serve to acquaint officials on one level with those on another.

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Your biography is a key element which will determine the general effectiveness of this new edition. It is essential to the basic purpose of WHO'S WHO IN GOVERNMENT. Therefore, we have enclosed a biographical data form on which you can supply the information we need. Your sketch will be compiled from the data you supply. This form is designed to provide us with information specifically essential to our government directory--data which you may not have given in other Marquis publications, should you already be listed. Please use the post-paid envelope provided for speedy return of your form. Because of the complex nature of WHO'S WHO IN GOVERN-MENT, we would appreciate your cooperation in returning your data form as quickly as possible.

There is no further obligation on your part. A proof of your sketch will be sent to you for final checking prior to publication. This will help ensure that WHO'S WHO IN GOVERNMENT, Second Edition, meets the high standards set for all Marquis Who's Who publications: completeness, accuracy, and timeliness.

Sincerely,

Paul Rohe

Director of Research

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200 East Ohio Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611, U.S.A.





Thirty-Ninth Edition 1976–1977



I bid him look into the lives of men as though into a mirror, and from others to take an example for himself. — Terence, The Brothers

WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA is *the* basic reference book in contemporary American biography, an outstanding repository of biographical information about the most prominent individuals in the United States and Canada.

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Carefully designed to prevent arbitrary selection, these standards, objectively and meticulously applied, have made WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA a reference source relied upon throughout the world and have earned it recognition as "an American institution." Important facts about the new, *Thirty-Ninth Edition*...

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Two of the many salient features of the new, Thirty-Ninth Edition are "Thoughts on My Life," comments by biographees on their lives and careers, and the index to biographees sketched in the Marquis Regional Library volumes (Who's Who in the Midwest, Who's Who in the East, Who's Who in the South and Southwest and Who's Who in the West), attesting to the complementary relationship between WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA and the regional directories.

Unexcelled Format

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