

The original documents are located in Box 300, folder “New Hampshire Skiing Furor” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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NOV 18 1975

208 Crescent Ave.
Revere, Mass. 02151
November 13, 1975

Mr. Ronald Nessen
White House Press Secretary
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D. C. 20006

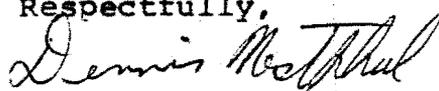
Dear Mr. Nessen:

I am just one eastern skier who agrees with your comments on New Hampshire skiing.

For the past ten years I've skied every winter weekend in New Hampshire or Vermont and one precious week in Vail, Colorado (at the end of the season), and there is no comparison. Why it is like trying to compare the Republican elephant to the Democratic donkey. (The only similarity is that they are both grey.)

The next time "they" give you any "flak" about eastern skiing, just ask them if they had a choice between New Hampshire and Colorado, which would they choose? Hang tough!

Respectfully,



Dennis Westphal



MT. SUNAPEE AREA SKI CLUB

RJW

MT. SUNAPEE STATE PARK
MT. SUNAPEE, NEW HAMPSHIRE



*Don know you
have replied from it
they didn't know it
when they sent this*

February 6, 1976

Mr. Ron Nessen, Press Secretary
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Nessen:

I have not received a reply as yet to my letter of January 19th inviting you to the Mt. Sunapee Area Ski Club Invitational Weekend on March 5, 6 and 7.

Perhaps you did not think I was serious in extending this invitation. I do believe your participation in this dedication would truly redeem yourself in the eyes of the New Hampshire skiers. Your acceptance to this invitation would be announced by the New Hampshire news media prior to the February 24th primary and I think a great deal of advantage would come of it.

Congressman Cleveland and Governor Thompson are both expected to attend this function and we sincerely hope you will be able to make it.

Incidentally, Ronald Reagan was at the Mt. Sunapee State Park yesterday and offered to perform this dedication but I have held off, hoping that you would be able to attend.

Sincerely yours,

John Maxfield

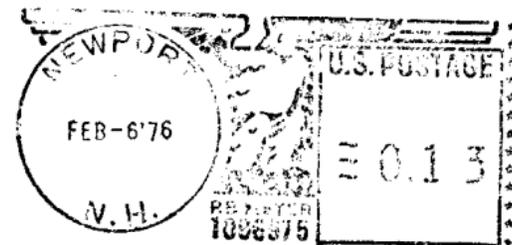
Dr. Jack Maxfield, Chairman
Invitational Weekend
25 Pine St., Newport, N.H. 03773
Telephone 603/863-3434

JFM:b
cc: Paul Hillery



25 Pine St., Newport, N.H. 03773
MT. SUNAPEE AREA SKI CLUB

MAXFIELD
Osteopathic Clinic
Professional Association



Mr. Ron Nessen, Press Secretary
White House
Washington, D.C. 20515

cg

February 12, 1976

Dear Jim:

I was aware of the Mt. Sunapee Area Ski Club's invitational weekend, during which an "icy" slope is being dedicated in my honor.

Unfortunately, the President's schedule is going to prevent me from attending, much as I would like to. I have already written what I hope was a gentle letter to the weekend's organizers, explaining why I would not be able to attend.

I agree that my inadvertent comment about New Hampshire's skiing conditions has injected some interest and humor into the campaign.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Enclosure:

Copy of letter to Dr. Jack Maxfield

The Honorable James C. Cleveland
The House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515



RN/jb

JAMES C. CLEVELAND
2D DISTRICT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Mr. Ron Nessen
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Ron:

The Mt. Sunapee Area Ski Club is having an invitational weekend on March 6th and 7th. Part of the program is going to be the dedication of the Ron Nessen slope on the icy section of the upper bonanza trail.

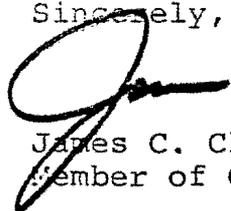
I have accepted this invitation through a letter which I enclose. Although this event occurs after V Day on February 24th, it has occurred to me that it might be a smart move for you to agree to be on hand and if this is done promptly, of course, the publicity would occur prior to V Day. I think it would be beneficial as I told you on the plane.

Although your remarks concerning New Hampshire skiing were perhaps inappropriate it has had the benefit of generating interest, humor and, of course it is always nice to have a scapegoat around.

As a matter of fact, I view my part in the campaign as being something of a scapegoat role. If we win, it will be the President's personality, accomplishments, and his nice staff. If we lose, well here I am.

Please think this over and I strongly recommend that you accept Jack Maxfield's invitation.

Sincerely,



James C. Cleveland
Member of Congress



JCC/keg

**It's a wonderful
year to ski
New Hampshire**



It's a wonder
year to ski
New Hamp

NOV 18 1975

10323 Waterbird Way
Bradenton, FL 33505

November 13, 1975

Mr. Ron Nessen
White House Press Secretary
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Nessen:

I read with glee the Associated Press story labeled Comment On Skiing Draws Fire in which you got the dander of those flinty New Hampshire ski operators up.

Being a former resident of the state of New Hampshire myself, I can assure you that you really hit the nail on the head when you said that conditions in the state are often icy and uncertain. Of course, the folks who operate the ski areas think that they have great skiing all winter long. They have to think like that.

Thirteen years ago I got sick of bad ski conditions and false ski reports and decided that if I was really going to enjoy the sport I would have to go west. So I moved to Aspen and got some of the best skiing of my life. And I took day trips to Vail where the skiing was just as good.

Sure didn't miss the New Hampshire skiing a bit.

And when I came back from my winter in Aspen--back for a visit--I went skiing with a girl I mightily wanted to impress with my new-found skiing ability. But the first turn I tried to make was a disaster. I hit one of the numerous icy spots, my skis went out from under me and I slid into the woods. Skiing out west doesn't prepare one for ice, rocks, roots and stumps on the slope.

You told the truth. I hope that the truth doesn't loose the campaign any votes in New Hampshire. But the folks who come up from Massachusetts weekends to ski know you speak the truth. There are more votes in Massachusetts anyway.

Yours truly,

Morgan Stinemetz
Morgan Stinemetz



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



SENATE CHAMBER
CONCORD

ATTN: RON NESSEN
ASST. TO THE PRESIDENT
WHITE HOUSE
1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVE
WASHINGTON, D.C.



NOV 18 1975

Reagan's little helper

We're beginning to suspect that Ronald Reagan has a secret agent in the White House, Ronald Nessen by name.

Nessen is President Ford's press secretary, but you'd never know it from the way he acts. Every time he opens his mouth, he costs Ford votes.

Briefing reporters last month just before the President's visit to Elkins, W. Va., he remarked: "Yes, I think the phone has reached there. They even have indoor toilets."

It's too early to say, bang! there went the West Virginia primary to Reagan, but certainly the crack didn't help Ford.

Having insulted West Virginia, Nessen turned his attention to New

Hampshire, where the first primary of the campaign will be held.

Asked whether the President intended to spend part of his Christmas vacation skiing in New Hampshire, Nessen replied that he doubted it because New Hampshire often has icy and uncertain skiing conditions.

It just so happens that skiing is a major New Hampshire industry. Nessen's statement, one source in the industry said, "could be a big ouch for Ford."

Nessen hasn't yet knocked Idaho potatoes, Texas beef, Florida oranges, California wines or the weather in Arizona, but give him time.

Caesar had Brutus. Ford has Nessen. Regan has all the luck.

Arizona Republic Editorial Page
Sat Nov 15, 1975



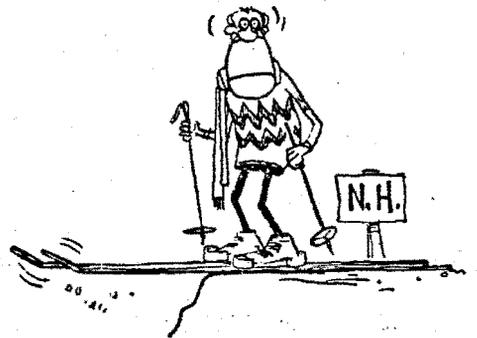
Run

Why Ford Avoids N.H. Slopes

People in New Hampshire were in a huff Saturday after a White House aide said the President does not plan to spend his Christmas vacation skiing there instead of in Colorado, then made some mildly unfavorable comments about New Hampshire snow.

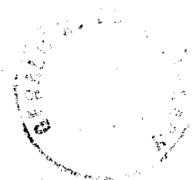
So on Monday, the White House had to trot out another aide to say that, goodness gracious, the President has always said how much he loves New Hampshire snow.

We don't blame the President for wanting to stay off the New Hampshire slopes. Ronald Reagan probably will challenge Mr. Ford in that state's Feb. 24 presidential primary;



Mr. Reagan's chances look good. We can understand why the President wouldn't want to think about going downhill in New Hampshire this winter.

*Charlotte Oberever
Flad 1/11/75*



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date

11/24

TO:

Ron Nessen

FROM:

Liz O'Neill

Room 161, Ext. 2890

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