

**The original documents are located in Box 119, folder “Howe, James” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Ron Nessen donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

SUICIDE OF JAMES HOWE

4/11/75

- Q. Was Nancy Howe under investigation by the White House at the time of her husband's death?
- A. Some questions had been raised by newspaper reporters about a vacation taken by the Howe family. The Legal Counsel's office was inquiring into the matter to ascertain the facts. However, I would not characterize this as an investigation.
- Q. Did anyone in the Legal Counsel's office talk to any members of the Howe family regarding their relationship with Tong Sun Park?
- A. Yes, in the course of establishing the facts, Mr. Buchen did talk to members of the family. (FYI - Buchen talked to James Howe and Lise, their daughter. He has not talked to Nancy Howe).
- Q. Mrs. Howe has not reported for work this week. Has she been suspended?
- A. No, there is no change in her status as Personal Secretary to Mrs. Ford. (FYI: She did work on Monday, but has been off since)
- Q. How did the President and Mrs. Ford find out about the shooting?
- A. The President was informed by a staff member and he subsequently told Mrs. Ford (FYI ONLY: The President was told before the speech, but did not tell Mrs. Ford for about four hours. Therefore, you should avoid getting into specific times.)
- Q. Has there been any violation of the law or of the White House Code of Ethics?
- A. No conclusion has been reached.

Q. Is the Washington Post story generally accurate?

A. I don't know what all the facts are, so I am not in a position to confirm or deny it.

Q. Will you tell us when the Legal Counsel's office has completed its inquiry?

A. Yes, I would expect that we would have some report for you on that.

Q. How was the White House informed of the shooting?

A. I understand that the daughter called into the White House switchboard when she was trying to get an ambulance. The switchboard notified a member of the White House staff who subsequently informed the President. (FYI ONLY: The switchboard notified Dick Kaiser who in turn called Dick Cheney. Don Rumsfeld informed the President).