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9. 6.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

MEETING WITH THOMAS VAIL



Wednesday, August 27, 1975  
12:45 p.m. (15 minutes)  
The Oval Office

FROM: RON NESSEN

I. PURPOSE

To give Thomas Vail, Publisher, The Cleveland Plain Dealer, who is generally sympathetic to Republican policies and candidates, an opportunity for a courtesy call.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, PRESS PLAN

A. Background: Thomas Vail has been anxious for sometime to have an opportunity to make a courtesy call on you to discuss some issues on his mind and to generally size you up in person.

He originally was scheduled to fly with you on Air Force One from Cincinnati to Cleveland during your recent visit but was not able to keep this appointment.

Senator Taft, Jim Lynn, Bill Greener and Jerry Warren have all recommended this meeting with Vail. The Cleveland Plain Dealer is an influential newspaper in an important region of the country.

Vail will be spending some time with Don Rumsfeld immediately before his meeting with you.

B. Participants: The President  
Thomas Vail  
Don Rumsfeld  
Ron Nessen

C. Press Plan: No announcement of the meeting. A White House photograph will be made and autographed and sent to Vail as a memento. Vail may bring his own photographer.

III. TALKING POINTS

This will be more in the nature of a conversation about Ohio politics and issues and personalities that concern Vail, more than an interview. This meeting with Vail will be similar to your meeting with James F. Chambers, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Dallas Times Herald.

No special preparation is necessary.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INTERVIEW ON NEW ENGLAND TELEVISION HOOK-UP

Saturday, August 30, 1975  
6:00-6:30 pm (29 minutes)  
Providence, Rhode Island

FROM: RON NESSEN

I. PURPOSE

To be interviewed by television station WJAR-TV, Providence, Rhode Island for broadcast over 12 stations throughout New England.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, PRESS PLAN

A. Background

WJAR-TV submitted a request to interview you last January. When they found you were going to their area for the Newport, Rhode Island fundraiser, they renewed the request and it was accepted.

When the interview was announced, a number of other Providence stations and others in the area asked to join the interview and, in fact, brought considerable pressure on the White House.

However, WJAR-TV said it would drop its 12 station hook-up if other Providence television stations were invited to join the interview. Therefore, it was decided to leave the interview with WJAR-TV and to tell the other Providence stations that they will have a chance to interview you the next time you are in their area.

They also were told that they would have a brief opportunity to ask you questions at the airport, either as you arrive or upon your departure.

The interview will be taped Saturday evening between 6:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. with a format similar to the anchorman interview in Milwaukee. The program will be broadcast by most of the 12 stations in New England at 7:30 p.m. Saturday. A few of the stations will broadcast the interview later in the evening.

The three interviewers will be:

1. Sara Wye -- Anchorperson on the noon news and weekend news.  
Not an ardent woman liberationist; well-known as the producer/  
correspondent on a number of innovative news documentaries.
2. Jack Kavanagh -- Regular moderator of this local interview program.
3. Arthur Alpert -- News Director of WJAR-TV and well-known in the  
area for his news analyses and news documentaries.

#### B. Participants

The President  
Sara Wye  
Jack Kavanagh  
Arthur Alpert  
Bill Greener  
Bob Mead

#### C. Press Plan

The regular White House Press Corps will listen to the interview program in order to write their stories. A White House photographer and a WJAR-TV photographer will be present. Autographed photos will be sent to the three interviewers later as a memento.

### III. TALKING POINTS

A large part of the interview, we understand, will be devoted to questions of particular interest in New England, including: bussing; various fishing problems; energy; and the economy. No doubt there will be more general domestic and foreign questions and almost certainly a few questions on Mrs. Ford.

You have been provided with a Q & A briefing book with background information on these various New England questions. The briefing book will be up-dated right up to the time of the taping.

EXECUTIVE  
TR3/ST27/75- (2)  
P127-1  
P1216  
WH11-1

• THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 10, 1975

MEETING WITH CARROLL KILPATRICK<sup>x</sup>  
THE WASHINGTON POST<sup>x</sup>

Thursday, September 11, 1975

7:15 p.m. (30 minutes)

(This is approximately 10 minutes after take off  
from Pease Air Force Base)

Aboard Air Force One

From: Bill Greener *Bill*

I. PURPOSE

To have a farewell chat with Carroll Kilpatrick who is making his last trip as the Washington Post White House Correspondent.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, PRESS PLAN

A. Background

Carroll Kilpatrick is retiring on Friday after 24 years with the Washington Post. He has spent the last 14 years covering the White House for the Post. Carroll is 62 years old. He was graduated from the University of Alabama in 1935. His first job was with the Birmingham News and he has been with the Post for 24 years.

He has covered every President since FDR and has been at the White House since John Kennedy was President.

Carroll is married to Frances Kilpatrick. They have two sons -- one a reporter in Birmingham, Alabama and the other, a doctor in North Carolina.



SEP 13 1975  
CENTRAL FILES

Carroll will continue to contribute occasional pieces to the Washington Post but not on any particular schedule or deadline. I'm sure you know that Carroll is considered one of the finest gentlemen in the White House Press Corps.

Carroll owns two farms -- one of 120 acres in Pennsylvania and one of about 10 acres in Vermont.

B. Participants  
The President  
Carroll Kilpatrick  
Bill Greener

C. Press Plan

No announcement of this meeting. White House photo will be given to Carroll, autographed by the President as a memento.

### III. TALKING POINTS

I can't say that I enjoy the fact that this is your last official trip with us on Air Force One. I have long been an admirer of yours and enjoyed the objectivity and talent which you have used in reporting on the White House and its occupants. Both the White House and the Press Corps will be a little poorer when you leave your desk.

I understand that you own two farms. I hope that you'll find some time now to relax and enjoy them. I'm sure you'll be doing some writing and I look forward to a continued relationship. I'm sure you know that the White House door is always open to you as long as I am there.

What are your plans?



September 8, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JERRY JONES

FROM:

RON NESSEN *R 14d*

SUBJECT:

Presidential farewell visit  
with Carroll Kilpatrick,  
The Washington Post  
*X*

I recommend very strongly that the President find 15 minutes sometime this week to bid a personal farewell to Carroll Kilpatrick who is retiring on Friday after 24 years with the Washington Post. He has spent the last 14 years covering the White House for the Post.

I recommend that the President see Carroll briefly either:

1. In the Oval Office on Wednesday or
2. during the flight home from New Hampshire on Thursday. This will be his final trip for the Post and we can arrange to have him on the Air Force One pool (of course, if the President flies to New Hampshire by Jetstar, that would rule this out).

Here is a little background on Carroll: He is 62 years old. He graduated from the University of Alabama in 1935. His first job was with the Birmingham News and as I said, he has been with the Post for 24 years, the last 14 years as a White House correspondent. He has covered every President since FDR and has been at the White House since John Kennedy was President.

Carroll is married to Frances Kilpatrick. They have two sons, one a reporter in Birmingham, Alabama, and the other a doctor in North Carolina.

Carroll will continue to contribute occasional pieces to the Post but not on any particular schedule or deadline.

As you may know, and I'm sure the President knows, Carroll is considered as one of the finest gentlemen in the White House Press Corp.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 17, 1975

TELEVISION INTERVIEW  
Saturday, September 20, 1975  
8:40 a.m. (30 minutes)  
Santa Monica Room  
Century Plaza Hotel  
Los Angeles, California

From: Margita White

I. PURPOSE

To answer questions in a taped interview for the KNBC-TV program News Conference.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background: Bob Abernethy, host of the show, has had a long-standing request for you to appear on his program. Several top Administration spokesmen have been his guests. News Conference is shown each Saturday evening at 6:30 p.m., following Brokaw's Nightly News. On the air for 12 years, News Conference regularly reaches the largest number of Southern Californians for any program of this type, occasionally even doubling the audience of the national interview programs.

As Vice President, you were a guest on a News Conference program taped in San Jose on April 20, 1974.

B. Participants:

Robert Abernethy, host  
Jess Marlow  
Warren Oleny





C. Press Plan: The interview will be taped for showing at 6:30 p.m. on KNBC-TV (NBC owned station), Channel 4.

If time permits, Abernethy hopes to interview you for an additional five minutes at the conclusion of the show and use that tape on his Monday evening regular news show.

bcc: Ron Nessen ✓  
Red Caveney  
Pete Sorum  
Bill Greener  
Bob Mead  
Eric Rosenberger

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 17, 1975

BREAKFAST MEETING WITH EDITORIAL BOARD

Los Angeles Times  
Saturday, September 20, 1975  
7:30 a.m. (1 hour)  
Regents Dining Room  
Century Plaza Hotel  
Los Angeles, California

From: Margita White

I. PURPOSE

To brief the Los Angeles Times Editorial Board on Administration policies and programs.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

- A. Background: You were invited to meet with the Editorial Board by Otis Chandler, Publisher.

Other Administration officials have met with the board. Secretary Schlesinger met with them last week.

B. Participants:

Otis Chandler, Publisher  
William F. Thomas, Editor  
Anthony (Tony) Day, Editor of Editorial Pages  
Frank P. Haven, Managing Editor  
Edwin Guthman, National Editor  
Robert Gibson, Foreign Editor  
George Cotliar, Sr. Assistant Managing Editor  
Mark Murphy, Metropolitan Editor  
Jean Sharley Taylor, Associate Editor  
Louis B. Fleming, Chief Editorial Writer  
Robert Erbury, President, Times/Mirror Company  
Jack Nelson, Washington Bureau Chief

Staff

Robert Hartmann  
Alan Greenspan  
Don Rumsfeld  
Ron Nessen  
Margita White

- C. Press Plan: The meeting will be on-the-record with the understanding that you may wish to change the ground rules at any time.

III. TALKING POINTS

Otis Chandler will open the breakfast meeting with brief words of welcome. You may then wish to express your appreciation for his invitation to join the Editorial Board and stress the importance you attach to such meetings. The dialogue will then begin and continue throughout the meal.

bcc: Ron Nessen ✓  
Pete Sorum  
Red Caveney  
Bill Greener  
Bob Mead  
Eric Rosenberger

LOS ANGELES TIMES

EDITORIAL OPINION:

Deregulation of Natural Gas: (September 17) "Deregulation of newly discovered gas supplies has been proposed by the Ford Administration, and is supported by a majority of the FPC. But there is no visible disposition in Congress to go along; the only legislation that has moved beyond the committee stage is a muddled Senate bill.

...the Ford proposal had advance backing from all but one of 16 governors from the most seriously affected states who recently attended a White House meeting on the situation.

The responsibility now lies with Congress."

Italy: (September 17) "The State Department, having made peace with the Communists of the Soviet Union and China, is going to war against the Communists of Italy. It is an innovative new application of an old American foreign-policy technique with an almost perfect record of failure.

La Stampa, one of Italy's best and most responsible newspapers, has accused Ambassador Volpe of 'open interference in Italian affairs' for the way he has carried on about the Communists. There may be a bit of esagerazione about that, but it is close enough to the truth to be embarrassing.

The land of the free is made to look like a silly old ostrich. It is behavior unworthy of the traditions of the United States -- as unworthy as the provisions of the 1952 Immigration Act being used to justify the prohibition."

Welfare: (September 16) "It is a hopeful sign that the secretary of health, education and welfare, scarcely a month after being sworn in, should take up the subject of welfare reform in public and out loud.

It is one of those national priorities so evident, so urgent and so overstudied that one can only be amazed at the inability of the Ford Administration to make up its mind on the subject. David Mathews now leaves the impression that something constructive is going to be done.

The best thing the White House has done thus far is turn John G. Veneman loose on a special welfare study for the Domestic Council.

There is no question that the nation will have great difficulty paying the price of welfare if costs continue to increase at the rate of recent years...Programs proliferate, and with them bureaucracies, yet there is reasonable doubt that any of the programs reaches all of the people eligible.

Mathews' initiative sounds fine. It will count for something if he can get the President to say the same things."

Sale of Missiles to Jordan: (September 16) "Unless Congress and the Ford Administration can come to an early compromise on the proposed sale of Hawk antiaircraft missiles to Jordan, there is a strong chance that King Hussein will make good on his threat to turn elsewhere for the adequate air-defense system that his country now lacks.

It is no mystery that 'elsewhere' means the Soviet Union. What is a mystery is how anyone in Congress can possibly think that introducing Russian weapons into the Jordanian armory for the first time will benefit U.S. interests.

The arguments raised in Congress against the Administration's proposal are based at best on dubious concerns. The arguments in favor of the Hawk sale are based on political realities and persuasive military needs.

Jordan is a moderate and friendly state that up to now has rejected Soviet efforts at intrusion. The American interest is to keep things that way, and Congress should act accordingly to do so."

Federal Pay Increase: (September 16) "After using stealth and deceit to increase their \$42,500 salaries, members of the U.S. Senate must now decide how large that increase should be for themselves, members of the House of Representatives and 17,000 other high-ranking federal officials.

...we support the President's recommendation of 5%, while regretting that the percentage must be the same for all. The victims of Congress' greed are those non-elective public servants who clearly deserve a more substantial increase, but who can receive no more than a now-skittish Congress will have the courage to vote for itself."

S. 1: (September 15) "Legislation now pending in Congress to revise the federal criminal code should be junked.

Senate Bill 1, a massive and complicated measure 753 pages long, is so pervasively and fatally flawed that it lies beyond the scope of any rational amending process.

(The bill) proposes revolutionary change that would vastly enhance the power of government and sharply decrease the freedom of the American people.

Its most drastic provisions would virtually give ownership to the government of all public information. The legislation would accomplish this by creating a new felony: unauthorized disclosure of 'classified' official data. With some 15,000 government employees authorized to classify documents, this provision, with its severe penalties, would permit the government to engage in unprecedented suppression of information.

The sections dealing with 'national defense information' would make government employees and news reporters vulnerable to prosecution that would be limited only by the imagination of the prosecutor.

Government employees who revealed information and reporters who received and published it would be liable under the law...The government would be able to operate behind a screen of secrecy.

...some modifications of sections relating to control of government information may be accepted by the bill's sponsors. Even so, the legislation should be rejected, because freedom is not a commodity to be parceled out in varying degrees to the American people, and S. 1 contains a long array of hazards to a free society."

Refugee Education: (September 12) "The responsibility for educating 40,000 Indochinese refugee children is that of the federal government, but the Ford Administration is unwilling to take the lead.

Instead, and fortunately, educators and members of Congress are exerting leadership. They are also exerting pressure, and they won a small victory the other day. The Department of Health, Education and Welfare agreed to increase refugee education aid.

Members of Congress and California Supt. of Public Instruction Wilson Riles consider the increased level of aid inadequate. We agree.

The government's position is puzzling. Education costs for Cuban refugees were paid by the government. We cannot imagine why Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees would be treated differently."

Sinai Agreement: (September 12) "The new Sinai agreement between Egypt and Israel, from everything we know about it, deserves the strong support of Congress. It appears to be an important step toward peace.

Congress must, of course, double-check the details to be sure that no ambiguities are left unclarified. The prime objective of the congressional hearings is to make sure that the American people know what commitments have been made on their behalf, and to be sure that there will be no misunderstandings about these undertakings"

Soviet Grain Sale: (September 11) "President Ford has decided to try to do something to stabilize grain sales to the Soviet Union. It is a prudent decision. He should use all the muscle he can to promote a formal arrangement.

A long-term grain-purchase agreement with Moscow could not eliminate all the ups and downs of the export market. It could help, however, in the process of making the global food supply more secure."

Nixon Documents: (September 10) "The documents of the Nixon Presidency are now, by act of Congress, public property, and rightly so...Nixon of course should have access to the material, and papers that are strictly personal should be returned to him. But the immediate dispute is over actual custody of the documents, and the ultimate issue is one of trust."

Oil Decontrol: (September 10) "If the senators want to serve the people who elected them, they will vote today to sustain President Ford's veto of a bill resurrecting the old oil price control program, then get on with the business of legislating a sensible program of gradual decontrol...Up to now...the Democratic Congress has refused to cooperate.

The national interest clearly calls for a vote sustaining the President's veto, followed by a good-faith willingness to join the Administration in working out a compromise program for the phased removal of oil price ceilings."

Oil Decontrol: (September 2 ) "Democratic congressional leaders, after communicating with their constituents during the August recess, returned to Washington in a mood to work with the Administration for a gradual phaseout of oil price controls. Such a compromise is clearly in the public interest; we urge all members of Congress to support it...if the attempt to reimpose the old controls is successful, the real beneficiaries will be not U.S. consumers but members of the world oil cartel, whose ability to extract higher and higher prices will thereby continue all the longer...If they truly want to serve the people who elected them, members of Congress will uphold the President's veto, then join the Administration to work out a compromise program that will move the country toward greater self-sufficiency in oil without undue hardship on the American people.

Phased decontrol along the lines already proposed by Ford should be one element of such a package. Provision for an excess-profits tax on oil companies that do not plow the extra profits into the quest for new energy supplies must be another --along with tax relief to offset at least part of the impact of higher fuel prices on consumer pocketbooks."

Airlines: (August 22) "America's domestic airlines are in trouble, and the response of officials in Washington threatens to make it worse. The government has been developing remedies that conflict with each other and with the long-term interests of travelers, taxpayers and the transportation system...National policy-makers seem to ignore these risks. The Ford Administration has been calling strongly for deregulation as a way of improving efficiency and fighting inflation, but it has also argued for raising air fares again. The Civil Aeronautics Board, whose costly policies and chronic slowness in decision-making have contributed to the airlines' problems, has now adopted a plan that will aggravate these problems by diverting more passengers to low-cost group charter flights."

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First Year: (August 8) "...many Americans thought Ford was incredibly naive in opening his inaugural address with the pronouncement that 'our long national nightmare is over.'

It might have been naive at the time. But the history of the past 12 months confirms that the country was ready to put Watergate behind it and to move on...



...The new President has not always had success or consensus in carrying out his policies. The country is not in much better shape than it was when he took office. But he governs with candor and with respect for those who oppose him.

...There is trust in Ford, as there had not been in Nixon.

After the first post-Watergate spate of defeats for congressional seats that traditionally had been held by Republicans, the party is recovering, if slowly, from the harm done it by Nixon. One clear indication of that recovery is that Ford leads all Democratic contenders in the presidential polls.

The country now knows that its institutions, despite their imperfections, are durable and will prevail because they serve a people who are forgiving than vindictive; whose strain of common sense runs deeper than their leaning to intemperate judgment, and whose faith persists.

And that, we think, is why the country has come through this past year without that full measure of rancor and attrition and disruption that many thought was inevitable."

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 26, 1975

MEETING WITH PETER AGRIS

Monday, September 29, 1975

11:30 a.m. (15 minutes)

The Oval Office

From: Ron Nessen

I. PURPOSE

To discuss the Turkish aid issue with Peter Agris, Publisher of the Hellenic Chronicle of Boston, the only newspaper serving Greek-Americans in New England.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, PRESS PLAN

A. Background

You asked me to arrange this meeting after Lloyd Waring had contacted you by telephone and urged you to meet with Peter Agris. Waring indicated that Agris had tried before to arrange a meeting but felt he had gotten the brush off.

Agris through his newspaper and his important influence in the Greek community of New England has supported the embargo on further military shipments to Turkey. Waring feels that this meeting with you could persuade Agris to modify his position somewhat.

In addition, Waring feels that his political efforts among the Greek-Americans could be damaged if Agris felt he was being brushed off by the White House.

B. Participants

The President  
Peter Agris  
Bill Greener

C. Press Plan

No announcement. White House photographs will be taken and mailed later to Agris with the President's autograph as a memento of the visit.

III. TALKING POINTS

You need no special preparation for this meeting. You know all the arguments for resuming Turkish military sales and you have all the necessary information on mutual political friends.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INTERVIEW WITH PETER LISAGOR

Thursday, October 2, 1975

4:00 pm (30 minutes)

Oval Office

From: Ron Nessen

I. PURPOSE

To be interviewed by Peter Lisagor, White House correspondent and columnist for the Chicago Daily News.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, PRESS PLAN

A. Background

Peter Lisagor is one of the few remaining regular White House correspondents who is still awaiting an opportunity to interview you for the first time. Peter has been patient but persistent, especially since you have already granted interviews to the two other Chicago newspapers.

Peter will use the material from this interview for a news story in the Chicago Daily News, as well as for his future columns and his regular appearances on "Agronsky and Company" and other TV programs.

Peter has been Washington correspondent for a long time and is generally skeptical and critical of White House actions no matter who the President is. However he also is extremely fair and open-minded.

B. Participants

The President  
Peter Lisagor  
Ron Nessen  
Don Rumsfeld



C. Press Plan

No announcement. White House photographer will take pictures which will be autographed by the President and sent to Lisagor later as a memento.

A transcript will be made of the interview.

III. TALKING POINTS

You have received an extensive Q & A briefing book for your TV interview and White House conference in Omaha. This should provide most of the background information you might need for the Lisagor interview. If there are any late news developments prior to the interview, I will call them to your attention.

Peter's special interest will be politics, although he can be expected to ask a wide range of questions involving the Middle East and other foreign affairs, energy, and the domestic economy, and matters involving your travel safety.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

BRIEFING FOR LEADING COLUMNISTS ON TAX CUT PROPOSAL

Tuesday, October 14, 1975

10: 30 am (30 minutes)

Roosevelt Room - West Wing

From: Ron Nessen *RHN*

I. PURPOSE

To explain in your own words your tax cut - spending cut proposal to a group of leading columnists and editorial writers whose views printed nation-wide have considerable influence on public and Congressional opinion.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, PRESS PLAN

A. Background

Secretary Simon is scheduled to brief the columnists on the tax cut - spending cut proposal. You agreed that it would be a good idea to make a surprise appearance at the briefing to talk about your proposal and answer questions.

Since Secretary Simon will follow you at the briefing with technical and economic details, you probably should speak in broader terms of what the proposal means to the future of America, and of your view concerning the Congressional response so far.

B. Participants

Listed at TAB A

C. Press Plan

No announcement of the briefing. White House photo will be taken.

III. TALKING POINTS

You are well briefed on the tax cut proposal, its broader meaning to the future of the economy, and the likely outcome in Congress. The most likely questions will be in the following areas:

Q: Isn't this proposal just a political gimmick for next year's campaign without any real likelihood of passage?

- Q: How can you expect Congress to set a ceiling on spending when they will not see your budget proposals until January?
- Q: Your tax cut takes effect on January 1, but the proposed budget cut would not take effect until October, just before the election. Doesn't this prove that your primary motivation is political?
- Q: What form must Congressional action take to convince you that Congress is committed to a \$395 billion spending ceiling?
- Q: Is it true, as printed, that this program was really put together by your political advisors (Rumsfeld, Hartmann, and Callaway), and that most of your economic advisors did not know about it until two days before you went on television?

Columnists attending White House Briefing

October 14, 1975 - 10:30 am

Holmes Alexander	McNaught
Robert S. Allen	Field Newspapers
Bill Anderson	Chicago Tribune
Charles Bartlett	Field Newspapers
Ray Bromley	Newspaper Enterprise Assn.
Alan Emory	North American Newspaper Alliance
Joseph Kraft	Field Newspapers
Louis Kohlmeier	Chicago Tribune/ New York Daily News
Peter Lisagor	Chicago Daily News
John Osborne	New Republic
David Mazie	Washington Post
Joseph Slevin	Knight Newspapers
Frank vanderLinden	Nashville Banner
John Anderson	Washington Post/Newsweek
Marquis Childs	United Features
Harry Ellis	Christian Science Monitor
Rowland Evans	Field Newspapers

Staff:

Secretary Simon

Ron Nessen

Margita White



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INTERVIEW WITH COX NEWSPAPERS

Friday, October 17, 1975  
2:00 p.m. (30 minutes)  
Oval Office

From: Ron Nessen

I. PURPOSE

To be interviewed by four reporters for the Cox chain of newspapers.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, PRESS PLAN

A. Background

Cox Newspapers Washington news bureau is one of the few remaining media groups covering the White House regularly which has not had an opportunity for a private interview with you. The Cox newspapers provides stories to the following newspapers:

Atlanta Constitution  
Atlanta Journal  
Dayton Daily News  
Dayton Journal Herald  
Miami News

Palm Beach Post  
Palm Beach Times  
Springfield (Ohio) Sun  
Springfield (Ohio) Times

The format of this interview will be the same as with previous newspaper interviews in the Oval Office. The reporters for Cox will primarily be in pursuit of hard news stories and there probably will be few personal or feature type questions.

B. Participants

The President  
David Kraslow, Washington Bureau Chief  
Gene Risher, White House Correspondent  
Andrew Glass, Economic and political reporter  
Jean Heller, Investigative and energy reporter  
(her husband, Ray Stephens, is the Washington  
Bureau Chief for the Booth Newspapers of Michigan)  
Bob Hartmann  
Ron Nessen

C. Press Plan

No announcement of the interview. A White House photographer will be present and autographed pictures will be sent later as mementoes. A transcript of the interview will be made.

III. TALKING POINTS

You are being provided separately some Q&A guidance on questions believed to be of particular interest to the Cox newspapers. One of these areas of special interest is the Panama Canal negotiations and relations with Cuba because of the three Cox newspapers in Florida. Otherwise, I believe you are fully briefed on the questions likely to be asked.

You may want to give some thought about how to handle questions concerning your tax cut decision in light of the timing of the interview.

You have pending the appointment of Ben Blackburn of Atlanta, Georgia, to be Chairman of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board. You may want to give the Cox papers a "scoop" for their Atlanta Constitution and Journal by disclosing to them that you intend to nominate Ben Blackburn to the Federal Home Loan Bank Board.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

REUNION PARTY FOR AIR FORCE II COMPANIONS

Saturday, October 18, 1975

6:45 p.m.

Maggie Hunter Residence

I. PURPOSE

To attend an informal reception and dinner at Maggie Hunter's house for reporters and staff members who travelled with you on Air Force II during your Vice Presidential days.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, PRESS PLAN

A. Background

The small group of staff members and reporters who travelled with you as Vice President has maintained the friendships established during those many trips. As you recall, last August I had a reunion of this group at my house which you attended. There was another reunion at Tom DeFrank's condominium in Vail at Christmas time and now Maggie Hunter is having a reunion for the group.

The evening will consist of a reception beginning about 6:30, with a spaghetti dinner, cooked by NBC cameraman George Sozio, to be served later. There also are likely to be some brief humorous sketches and songs about the Vice Presidential days and what has happened to us all since then.

Maggie's address is: 3517 R Street, N. W. in Georgetown.

We have kept your attendance at this party a surprise, so Maggie and the others do not know you are coming.

B. Participants

The President  
Mrs. Ford?  
Maggie Hunter  
Phil Jones  
Tom DeFrank  
Roger Gittines  
Bob Leonard  
David Kennerly  
Ron Nessen  
Cameramen and technicians from AF II  
Col. Sardo  
Col. Blake  
Paul Miltich (may be out of town)

C. Press Plan

No prior announcement. A regular travel pool will follow you but will not be told ahead of time where you are going. David Kennerly photos to be distributed later to those attending.

III. TALKING POINTS

Nothing required except a lot of reminiscing.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

FAREWELL CALL WITH TOM DE CAIR AND FAMILY

Friday, October 24, 1975

Oval Office

12 noon (5 minutes)

From: Ron Nessen *RHN*

I. PURPOSE

To say farewell to Tom DeCair, Assistant Press Secretary, who is leaving the White House after 3-1/2 years to join the staff of Governor Milliken of Michigan.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, PRESS PLAN

A. Background

Tom joined the Press Office staff under Ron Ziegler. Jerry terHorst and I decided he should remain because he is unusually bright and hard-working, whose ideas, loyalty, and enthusiasm have contributed not just to the Press Office, but to the entire White House operation.

Tom is a native of Michigan and has decided to return there to join Milliken despite efforts to persuade him to remain at the White House. Tom feels that he is mentally and physically tired after his difficult years at the White House and wants to have a change of scene and more time with his family.

Tom gave an interview to the Grand Rapids Press in which he was somewhat critical of the current White House operation. I believe you have seen a copy of the interview. I am attaching the story in case you have not.

B. Participants

The President  
Tom DeCair  
Mrs. Diane DeCair  
Sarah DeCair (3 years old)

C. Press Plan

No announcement. White House photo to be taken and autographed by the President and sent to Tom later as a memento of his service in the Ford White House.

# Departing Press Aide Labels Ford Staff 'Inept'

By Robert Lewis

Grand Rapids Press Bureau

WASHINGTON—Inept staff work is undermining President Ford's efforts to sell himself to the voters, and it could cost him the election, says a departing White House press aide.

Thomas P. DeCair, of Kalamazoo, who leaves this week to join Gov. William Milliken's staff, said part of the problem is that Ford has been over-exposed to the point that his words no longer carry the weight they should.

But it goes beyond that, he said in a private interview. "Something is wrong. The White House staff doesn't get the results it should from all of the President's travels and exposure."

"It's a case of things not coming to fruition. It used to be that when the President did something, it commanded attention. Now, no one is 'marketing' him."

"That may be a bad term because of the p.r. connotation," DeCair said, "but that is exactly what's needed. There needs to be substantive material in his speeches. There is no system for building toward a trip and following it up."

DeCair, an assistant White House press secretary for three and a half years, said he was reluctant to resign on the eve of the 1976 election campaign, "because I would like to help Ford get elected." He said he leaves with no bitterness.

Although he named no names, his charge of staff ineptness covered areas that are the responsibility of Ronald H. Nessen, Ford's press secretary, and Counsellor Robert T. Hartmann, his chief speechwriter and political adviser.

Most newsmen see Nessen as an improvement over Ronald Ziegler, President Nixon's press secretary who repeatedly

misled the press on the Watergate coverup.

However, Nessen has had run-ins with reporters over charges that he did not keep the press fully informed about Ford's activities. There has been speculation that Nessen would soon leave, and the resignation of DeCair, a popular and respected aide in the press office, could hasten his departure.

Asked for an example of poor staff work, DeCair cited Ford's trip last July to Helsinki where he had a summit meeting with Soviet leader Brezhnev, met with the heads of Britain, France and West Germany and signed a European security pact.

"I don't think people in the United States were aware of what he was doing and that he also visited several Communist countries," DeCair said. "The White House didn't think the trip through. There were some important issues, such as the Romanian trade agreement, that were obscured."

DeCair, who traveled with the press and also handled advance arrangements for presidential trips, said he resigned partly out of frustration but mainly because he grew weary of the pace and pressure.

The press office staff routinely works 70 to 80 hours a week, including Saturdays and some Sundays. "I'm tired, mentally and physically," said DeCair.

In Lansing, he will be an executive assistant to Gov. Milliken for state affairs and hopes to spend more time with his wife, the former Diane Taylor of East Lansing, and their two-year-old daughter.

Before joining the White House press office, DeCair, 30, had been a sportswriter for the Kalamazoo Gazette and the Holland Sentinel. He grew up in Kalamazoo and attended Kalamazoo and Hope colleges.

White House relations with the press have improved since President Ford took office but DeCair said basic trust on the

(continued on page 3A, column 2)

## White House Press Aide Has Parting Shot

(Continued from page 1A)

part of newsmen is still missing.

"The natural adversary relationship has deteriorated into an antagonistic relation," he said. "It's a long-term erosion that has almost reached the point where it's irrevocable."

He said the problem began developing seven or eight years ago when reporters realized they were not receiving all the facts about the Vietnam War. Watergate compounded it.

"They say time heals all wounds, but I don't know in this case," DeCair said.

He claimed that the Ford Administration, on instructions from the top, has given out detrimental information "that it really didn't have to provide," such as the pro and con tally of mail and telephone calls on major issues. President Nixon refused to give out such tallies.

He said Nessen plays less of an advocacy role than past press secretaries. "Many people forget that the press secretary works for the President," he said. "Mr. Ford has some problems selling himself and it's a disadvantage not to have his press secretary play an advocate role."

G.R.J.C. is updating Alumni records. If you attended please call 456-4555 or write G.R.J.C. Public Info. Office, 143 Bostwick, Grand Rapids 49502 — Adv.

International House of Pancakes 99c Breakfast Special Mon-Fri: 7-11—Adv.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

REMARKS AND Q&A

NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

Friday, November 7  
Baystate West Motor Hotel  
Springfield, Massachusetts

From: Margita E. White

I. PURPOSE

To accept invitation to address the New England Society of Newspaper Editors 21st annual convention.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

- A. Background: You were invited to address the Society's 1974 fall convention as Vice President and declined as President. In January, 1975, the Society invited you to its 1975 fall convention and your acceptance was made possible in conjunction with the trip to Boston.

The 104 members of the New England Society of Newspaper Editors are daily newspaper editors who determine editorial policy and have the right to hire and fire.

Other speakers before the convention will be Senator Henry Jackson on Friday evening, William Safire on Saturday noon and Senator John Durkin on Saturday evening.

- B. Participants: About 125, including members and some wives. Robert Norling, President of NESNE and News Editor of the Concord (N.H.) Daily Monitor, will introduce you. Others to be recognized are:

Mrs. Judith W. Brown, new member of Board of Governors and editor of the New Butler (Conn.) Herald;

William H. Heath, founding father of Society and editor of the Lawrence (Mass.) Eagle; and

Miss Jane P. Olmstead, retiring executive secretary of NESNE.

- C. Press Plan: Coverage by participating editors, including associate members of the AP and UPI. The groundrules will be the same as for regional meetings with media executives. Your remarks and Q&A will be on the record for those attending but there will be no local and White House press coverage. (Note: After these groundrules were agreed upon jointly by the White House Press Office and the Society, a few local reporters objected because they were not invited. Our response has been that you were invited to meet with the members of the Society and this is yet another example of your responsiveness for requests for meetings with the media in various forums and format.)

### III. TALKING POINTS AND FORMAT

- A. Format: Upon arrival, you will circulate among the members, seated at round tables. Mr. Norling will introduce you. After brief opening comments, the members will ask questions from stand-up mikes, rotating from right to left.
- B. Talking Points: Provided by Editorial Office.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEETING WITH LOWELL THOMAS

Saturday, November 8, 1975

10:30 am (15 minutes)

Oval Office

From: Ron Nessen

RHN

I. PURPOSE

To have a conversation with the veteran radio newscaster, Lowell Thomas, to congratulate him on more than 40 years in broadcasting, and to hear the views he wants to pass on to you concerning the Middle East.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, PRESS PLAN

A. Background

About a month ago Lowell Thomas phoned and requested an opportunity to discuss with you his views on the Middle East. He pointed out that his own personal experience in the Middle East goes back to the period of Lawrence of Arabia! And he further pointed out that he has personally interviewed many Middle Eastern leaders over the years. He believes he has gained some valuable insights from his experience in the Middle East which he wishes to pass on to you for whatever use they may be in the current situation. The NSC approves this meeting.

B. Participants

The President  
Lowell Thomas  
General Scowcroft  
Ron Nessen

C. Press Plan

No announcement. White House photograph to be autographed and sent to Lowell Thomas by the President as a memento of the occasion.



### III. TALKING POINTS

Lowell Thomas wants to do most of the talking himself, so you will need no special material on the Middle East.

You probably will want to congratulate Thomas on recently celebrating his 45th year as a broadcaster and comment on the many events and leaders he has been involved with during that long and distinguished broadcasting career. At the present time, Lowell Thomas is the anchor man for the 7 p.m. radio news on CBS. He also does considerable lecturing and travelling.

PR16  
PR17-1 (5)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEETING WITH EDITORS AND MANAGEMENT  
\* SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPERS

Thursday, November 13, 1975

2:00 p.m. (60 minutes)

Reynolds Room

From: Ron Nessen

I. PURPOSE

To present the President's position on key national issues to the editors and management of Scripps-Howard Newspapers.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background: The editors of the 17 Scripps-Howard Newspapers and members of general management meet once a year to debate and formulate editorial policy on national issues. This year the meeting is being held November 13-14, at the Wellington Hotel in Washington. You were invited to meet with them by Earl H. Richert, Editor-in-Chief of the Scripps-Howard Washington Bureau.

A few of the editors have attended regional media breakfasts but this would be your first meeting with the entire group. Former Presidents Johnson and Nixon appeared before the group, and Don Rumsfeld met with them in Memphis four years ago.

B. Participants: Charles E. Scripps, Chairman of the Board; Jack R. Howard, President and General Editorial Manager; Edward W. Estlow, General Business Manager and Vice President; and 17 editors (34 total). A complete list is attached at Tab A.

Also sitting in on the meeting from the White House will be Bob Hartmann, Alan Greenspan, Ron Nessen and Randall Woods.

- C. Press Plan: The meeting will be on-the-record with the understanding that you may wish to change the ground rules at any time. There will be no other coverage, and a transcript will not be released.

### III. TALKING POINTS

Recommend brief extemporaneous remarks as appropriate, perhaps taking some time to explain this weekend's trip to Paris. You may wish to express your appreciation for their visit and to stress the importance you attach to such meetings. The dialogue will then begin and continue throughout the meeting.

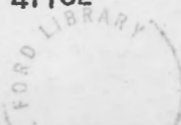
Attached at Tab B is a summary of Scripps-Howard editorial positions on key issues.

#### Attachments



SCRIPPS-HOWARD EDITORS' MEETING  
Nov 12-13-14, 1975

<u>NAME &amp; OFFICE ADDRESS</u>	<u>HOME ADDRESS</u>	<u>PLACE OF BIRTH</u>	<u>DATE OF BIRTH</u>
Boardman, Thomas L. The Cleveland Press 901 Lakeside Ave. Cleveland, Ohio 44114	2739 Green Rd. Shaker Heights, O. 44122	Arcadia, Mo.	8/31/19
Burleigh, William R. The Evansville Press 201 N. W. Second St. Evansville, Ind. 47702	405 Darby Drive Newburgh, Ind. 47630	Evansville, Ind.	9/6/35
Cutler, Bernard J. Scripps-Howard Newspapers 777 14th St., N. W. Washington, D. C. 20005	2735 P St., N. W. Washington, D. C. 20007	New York City	5/26/24
Dye, Sherman Baker, Hostetler & Patterson 1956 Union Commerce Bldg. Cleveland, Ohio 44115	2466 Stratford Road Cleveland Heights, O. 44118	Portland, Ore.	11/18/15
Eary, Ralph E. Scripps-Howard Newspapers 800 Broadway Cincinnati, O. 45202	6721 Hammerstone Way Cincinnati, O. 45227	Charleston, W. Va.	3/3/29
Egger, Charles Columbus Citizen-Journal 34 South Third St. Columbus O. 43216	3846 Overdale Drive Columbus, O. 43220	Columbus, O.	5/20/13
Eskey, Kenneth Scripps-Howard Newspapers 777 14th St., N. W. Washington, D. C. 20005	5102 Baltimore Ave. Washington, D. C. 20016	Pittsburgh, Pa.	6/6/30
Estlow, Edward W. Scripps-Howard Newspapers 200 Park Ave. New York, New York 10017	420 E. 51st St. New York, New York 10022	Snyder, Morgan County, Col.	3/20/20
Friedenberg, Walter The Cincinnati Post 800 Broadway Cincinnati, O. 45202	3475 Vista Ave. Cincinnati, O. 45208	Meriden, Conn.	12/22/28
Grehl, Michael The Evansville Press 201 N. W. Second St. Evansville, Ind. 47702	100 Logwood Drive Evansville, Ind. 47710	Evanston, Ill.	12/6/28





NAME & OFFICE ADDRESSHOME ADDRESSPLACE OF BIRTHDATE OF BIRTH

Hanna, Gordon  
The Commercial Appeal  
495 Union Ave.  
Memphis, Tenn 28101

5450 Valleybrook Cove  
Memphis, Tenn. 38117

Jack County, Tex. 2/22/20

Hewitt, Alfred L.  
Fullerton Daily News Tribune  
655 West Valencia Drive  
Fullerton, Calif. 92632

1438 Skyline Drive  
Fullerton, Calif. 92631

Kalamazoo, Mich. 4/12/21

Hollander, Richard  
Scripps-Howard Newspapers  
777 14th St., N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20005

3502 Macomb Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20016

New York City 4/6/12

Howard, Jack R.  
Scripps-Howard Newspapers  
200 Park Avenue  
New York, New York 10017

120 East End Ave.  
New York, New York 10028

New York City 8/31/10

Howard, Michael Balfe  
Rocky Mountain News  
400 West Colfax Ave.  
Denver, Colo. 80204

4210 E. 6th Ave.  
Denver, Colo. 80220

New York City 7/24/42

Knap, Thaddeus  
Scripps-Howard Newspapers  
777 14th St., N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20005

1429 Woodacre Drive  
McLean, Va. 22101

Milwaukee, Wisc. 5/26/20

Lee, Robert W.  
El Paso Herald-Post  
Mills & Kansas Sts.  
El Paso, Tex. 79999

6321 Snowheights  
El Paso, Tex. 79912

Ridley Park, Pa. 3/17/16

Le Grand, Duard  
Birmingham Post-Herald  
2200 4th Ave., North  
Birmingham, Ala. 35202

3325 Hermitage Rd.  
Mountain Brook, Ala. 35223

Macon, Ga. 2/9/15

Looney, Ralph E.  
The Albuquerque Tribune  
7th St. & Silver Ave., S.W.  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

1525 Calle del Ranchero NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

Lexington, Ky. 6/22/24

Millett, Ralph L. Jr.  
The Knoxville News-Sentinel  
204 W. Church Ave.  
Knoxville, Tenn. 37901

4168 Towanda Trail  
Knoxville, Tenn. 37919

Memphis, Tenn. 10/30/19

Richert, Earl H.  
Scripps-Howard Newspapers  
777 14th St., N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20005

5214 Farrington Rd.  
Washington, D. C. 20016

Deschutes, Ore. 9/20/14

NAME	ADDRESS	PLACE OF BIRTH	DATE OF BIRTH
Schneider, Charles H. Memphis Press-Scimitar 495 Union Ave. Memphis, Tenn. 38101	230 S. Belvedere Blvd. Memphis, Tenn. 38104	Miller, Miss.	1/17/12
Scripps, Charles E. Scripps-Howard Newspapers 1100 Central Trust Tower Cincinnati, Ohio 45202	1883 Madison Rd. Cincinnati, O. 45206	San Diego, Calif.	1/27/20
Scripps, E. W. II 340 No. Minnesota St. Carson City, Nev. 89701	340 No. Minnesota St. Carson City, Nev. 89701	New York City	11/26/29
Scripps, Robert P. North Main St. Balmorhea, Tex. 79718	North Main Street Balmorhea, Tex. 79718	Washington, D.C.	3/1/18
Steele, Jack Scripps-Howard Newspapers 777 14th St., N.W. Washington, D. C. 20005	5824 Osceola Rd. Washington, D.C. 20016	No. Manchester, Ind.	9/15/14
Stephens, J. B. Scripps-Howard News Press Plaza Cleveland, Ohio 44114	2888 Pease Dr. Rocky River, O. 44116	Elmira, N. Y.	5/30/05
Stolberg, David F. Scripps-Howard Newspapers 200 Park Ave. New York, New York 10017	18 E. 81st St. New York, New York 10028	New York City	10/10/27
Frimble, Vance H. The Kentucky Post 421-23 Madison Ave. Covington, Ky. 41011	1013 Sunset Ave., Kenton Hills Covington, Ky. 41011		7/6/13
Froan, John The Pittsburgh Press 34 Blvd. of the Allies Pittsburgh, Pa. 15230	301 Shadowlawn Ave. Pittsburgh, Pa. 15216	Jessup, Pa.	8/23/18
Viglucchi, Andrew T. The San Juan Star P.O. 4187 San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936	B-38 Esmeralda, Golden Gate Guaynabo, Puerto Rico 00920	Albany, N.Y.	6/9/27
Vagner, James H. Scripps-Howard Newspapers 200 Park Ave. New York, New York 10017	28 Dale Road Huntington, N. Y. 11743	Chicago, Ill.	3/11/21

Weber, Thomas E. Jr.  
The Stuart News  
111 East Ocean Blvd.  
Stuart, Fla. 33494

432 Pine Tree Lane  
Stuart, Fla. 33494

Memphis, Tenn.

1/4/44

Wentworth, Edward H.  
Hollywood Sun-Tattler  
2600 No. 29th Ave.  
Hollywood, Florida 33020

1320 Dewey St.  
Hollywood, Fla. 33020

East Orange, N.J.

11/11/38



Below is a sampling of editorials from the following Scripps-Howard newspapers: Memphis Commercial Appeal, Pittsburgh Press, Cleveland Press, Columbus Citizen-Journal, Cincinnati Post and Rocky Mountain News.

In some cases, two papers will be listed at the end of an editorial excerpt. This is because the Scripps-Howard headquarters frequently writes "canned" editorials on issues of national concern, leaving to the discretion of the individual editors the decision whether or not to adopt the "party line." Frequently, the headquarters' editorials are adopted without a single word changed.

None of the papers is consistently supportive or critical of Ford Administration policy. Their reaction seems to depend very much on the specific issue at hand. They do, however, consistently agree with each other and for that reason, I have listed the quotes by issue, rather than by paper.

Tax Cut Bill: "President Ford's proposal to cut taxes by \$28 billion in 1976 may be good presidential politics, but it's a depressingly dreary example of the inflationary, pie-in-the-sky economics that Ford himself has been preaching so strongly against... Ford, who spent 25 years in the House, is well aware that Congress isn't going to make a \$28 billion cut in federal spending during an election year... What the President really has done is dazzle the public... The real question, then, is not who gets the political glory, but whether Congress and the President can discipline themselves enough to pass a tax cut that makes sense and keep federal spending under control at the same time."

Rocky Mountain News -- October 8

New York: "President Ford, probably for reasons of campaign politics, has picked near-bankrupt New York City as his oratorical whipping boy... Actually, it is doubtful that New York City is run significantly worse than the Federal Government. The essential difference, which makes Washington look sounder, is its license to print money, which postpones its day of reckoning... If Ford wishes to conduct a genuinely honest campaign, he should stop scoring easy points on the political pygmies and fiscal jugglers in New York. He ought to put his own house in order -- and run on that record."

The Cleveland Press -- October 18



"President Ford has made a difficult and wise decision in rejecting any federal aid to stop New York City from defaulting on its huge debts... Congress would do well to drop the various loan schemes under consideration and concentrate on the President's plan to help the city... Ford warned against letting the federal budget take New York's deficit road to disaster. We hope he was listening to his own warning."

Rocky Mountain News -- October 31

Regulatory Reform: "We couldn't agree more that a major surgical operation is needed to make sense out of the host of regulatory agencies that has sprung out in the last generation or two. But we believe the President limited his fire to too restricted a target. The evils of big government go beyond the regulatory agencies and they abound in the rest of the executive branch of government over which the President has specific control... For too long American taxpayers have served as involuntary milch cows for the nourishment of an excess of federal employees."

Columbus Citizen-Journal -- September 9

Foreign Aid: "President Ford has given Congress the bill for the commitments Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has made abroad... That is the gist of the foreign aid proposal of nearly \$5 billion... it is good business to 'invest' in peace in this fashion. That sort of assistance has nothing whatever to do with the problems of New York or any other American city, and Congress would be wise to avoid any invidious comparison... These are difficult times in fiscal affairs and foreign aid... must be trimmed to fit the present conditions... But the United States has some obligation to peace-keeping in the world and some obligation to join with other nations in helping less fortunate nations overcome their immediate problems."

The Memphis Commercial Appeal --  
November 1

Food Stamp Proposal: "A report by the Treasury Department... was further proof of how expensive a bureaucratic boondoggle the federal food-stamp program had become last year... food stamps should not be given to families above the poverty line and not truly needy. And greater efforts should be made, as Ford has proposed, to make sure those in need receive all the benefits they're entitled to... It would be far simpler to streamline the whole welfare role of government by providing lump-sum cash payments..."

The Memphis Commercial Appeal --  
October 30



School Lunch Bill: "The truth is that Ford simply didn't see any necessity for offering federally subsidized, 20-cent school lunches to children from families (of four) earning as much as \$9,770 a year... That may seem miserly to some. It seems reasonable to us... Fortunately for the country Ford seems less interested in being popular with Congress than in keeping the government solvent... If that means vetoing an overblown school-lunch bill, so be it."

Rocky Mountain News -- October 10

Rockefeller: "Vice President Nelson Rockefeller's announcement that he does not want to be considered as a vice presidential candidate next year was the culmination of a growing movement against him within the Republican Party... Rockefeller's announcement should make the presidential campaign somewhat easier for Ford. The conservatives in the GOP have lost a strong argument against Ford... But it also opens wide the door for speculation about who will be chosen by the President as his new running mate if he gets the nomination."

The Memphis Commercial Appeal --  
November 4

"A politician will do the strangest things while pursuing a nomination... The latest case in point is Vice President Nelson Rockefeller, who has just visited the Deep South where he sounded a bit like a Dixiecrat and a Confederate grandfather... In his open wooing of the GOP right wing, Mr. Rockefeller risks alienating the party's moderates and liberals, his long time constituency... Mr. Rockefeller should realize that when a candidate starts to compromise his principles in chasing a nomination, he may end up with neither."

The Pittsburgh Press -- September 3

Ford Campaign: "Few people who have watched the Ford campaign struggling to get untracked and raise money think it now is competently led under former Army Secretary Howard (Bo) Callaway... The possibility that dirty tricks will be an issue surfaced with the appointment of Stuart Spencer, a professional campaign manager, as acting political director of the Ford organization... If Ford indeed is to satisfy his ambition of winning the presidency in his own right, he will need a more effective campaign body than he has crafted to date."

The Cleveland Press -- October 10

Betty Ford: "Republican bigwigs meeting recently in Washington glumly insisted that Betty Ford's candor with respect to sexual mores in the White House has cost her husband the allegiance of a significant number of voters... We're sure the party philosophers will get over their nerves in due time. But, meanwhile, we hope they stifle the (for them) perfectly natural instinct to urge the President to dump Betty in 1976. She strikes us as just the kind of wife a careworn Chief Executive needs to come home to after a tough day in the Oval Office."

The Cincinnati Post -- September 13

"No doubt...many American parents will find themselves at odds with Mrs. Ford's apparent equanimity in a matter which they themselves deem wholly unacceptable...However, we can't help but applaud Mrs. Ford's even-minded candor."

Columbus Citizen-Journal -- August 13

Ford's First Year: "Even if Ford had done nothing else, he would deserve thanks for having restored a high degree of trust in the presidency, without which this democracy cannot work well... Ford has opened up an airless White House. He has substituted candor for secretiveness and honesty for deceit...In retrospect, Ford's pardon of his predecessor looks like a wise decision. We were skeptical about it at the time...During the year Ford also has been lucky-- in fact, so lucky as to escape paying for his errors of judgment... All in all, when one considers the long-playing agony that brought Ford to the White House,...the country seems as lucky as he is. It could have been much worse."

The Cincinnati Post  
The Pittsburgh Press

August 7





Ron --

As you know, we log every meeting the President has with any press person.

On November 13 the President met with editors and management of Scripps-Howard newspapers "to present the President's position on key national issues to the editors and management of S-H."

This obviously shouldn't be included as an interview, should it? ?

\_\_\_\_\_ no - shouldn't ~~ix~~ be interview  
include just as a press session

~~Other:~~ ~~It~~ It was the  
same as Editorial Board  
meeting or c g  
meeting with Editors  
and publishers out-  
of-town. He did answer  
Q & A's, there were  
stories written and  
a transcript was  
made. RAN.

Don N.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

TELEVISED REGIONAL NEWS CONFERENCE

Friday, November 14, 1975  
5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Marriott Motor Hotel  
Ballroom North  
Atlanta, Georgia

From: Bob Mead *BM*

I. PURPOSE:

To conduct a News Conference with local and regional "live" radio and television coverage. This is your first News Conference for members of the regional-only press. White House Press Corps will, however, be in attendance but will not participate in questioning.

II. BACKGROUND:

The format will be the same as utilized in Detroit and other regional areas, with two aisle microphones. Questioners will address you from each side of the room, alternating from left to right.

III. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

4:55 p.m.	Depart suite enroute Ballroom North announcement area.
5:00 p.m.	Arrive Ballroom North and pause for announcement.
5:01 p.m.	Announcer makes introduction and you proceed to podium and News Conference begins.

NOTE: You should call on Mr. Jim Merriner of the Atlanta Constitution first, who will be standing at the microphone on your left.

5:30 p.m. (approx.)	Mr. Merriner will thank you and News Conference concludes.
------------------------	--

Depart Ballroom North enroute Presidential Suite.

QUESTIONERS AT THE ATLANTA NEWS CONFERENCE

1. Jim Merriner - Atlanta Constitution
2. Gloria Lane - WSB-TV, Atlanta, Ga.
3. Craig Lesser - WBHF, Cartersville, Ga.
4. William Cotterell - UPI
5. Kathy Johnston - AP
6. Mike Christenson - Atlanta Journal
7. Alma Brown - The Times, Gainesville, Ga.
8. Don Hicks - WBIE, Atlanta, Ga.
9. Diane Tannen - WGAC, Atlanta, Ga.
10. Beryl Sellers - Columbus, Ga. Ledger - Inquirer
11. Bob Ketcheraid - WSB, Radio
12. Shelby McCash - Macon, Ga. Telegraph & News
13. Ronald Wilson - Georgia Network, Inc.
14. Fay Joyce - Atlanta Constitution
15. Walt Smith - UPI
16. Helen Casey - WZGC Radio, Atlanta, Ga.
17. Nick Taylor - WXIA-TV, Atlanta, Ga.
18. John Patrick - WAGA-TV, Atlanta Ga.
19. Charles Hayslett - Atlanta Journal
20. A.M. (Bud) Weiss - WYZE Radio
21. Sam Pruitt - WALG, Albany, Ga.
22. Kay Warnalis - WUDG, Athens, Ga.
23. Dick Bielen - WGST Radio, Atlanta, Ga.
24. David Sisson - WSB-TV, Atlanta, Ga.
25. Bob Roundtree - WBIE/WCOB, Atlanta, Ga.
26. Peter Maer - WSB Radio, Atlanta, Ga.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INTERVIEW WITH FRED KOCHER OF WMUR-TV  
MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Tuesday, November 25, 1975  
11:00 am (20 minutes)  
Diplomatic Reception Room

From: Ron Nessen *RH*

I. PURPOSE

To be interviewed for a 30-minute documentary to be broadcast on WMUR-TV (ABC), Manchester, New Hampshire, by Fred Kocher, the news director and anchorman.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, PRESS PLAN

A. Background

This interview was arranged with the endorsement of the President Ford Committee. WMUR-TV is the only major television station in New Hampshire with an estimated audience of 1.4 million homes in New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, and Vermont.

This interview was considered to be an excellent way to get your message to the people of New Hampshire during this period when you are not campaigning there personally.

Fred Kocher, who will interview you, is described as bright, friendly, and personable. Kocher plans to use the 20-minute interview, together with film footage of your trips to New Hampshire to create a half-hour documentary. The broadcast time and date is not known at the moment.

B. Participants

The President  
Fred Kocher (pronounced KOKER) - News Director & anchorman,  
WMUR-TV (ABC)

C. Press Plan

No announcement of the interview. White House photograph will be taken to be autographed by the President and sent to Mr. Kocher later as a memento.



III. TALKING POINTS

Fred Kocher indicates that the interview will be informal and personal, in other words, an effort to show President Ford, the person.

As for specific questions, he indicates they will deal with the following areas:

1. The President's views on what the issues are in the New Hampshire primary and his stand on these issues.
2. The New Hampshire primary and why people should vote in that primary.
3. Issues of special interest in New Hampshire.
4. Issues of importance in the New England region.

A briefing book providing full background on these likely areas of questioning is being prepared and will be presented to you in time for you to review it before the interview.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 18, 1975

MEETING WITH HENRY BURROUGHS

Friday, December 19, 1975

12:40 p.m. (5 minutes)

The Oval Office

I. PURPOSE:

Farewell call for Mr. Burroughs who is retiring from his Washington post after a number of years as an AP photographer.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN:

A. Background:

Henry Burroughs joined AP in 1944 in Washington, and except for a four year tour in the Berlin Bureau, has been covering the Washington scene ever since. President's from FDR to Gerald Ford, have all had a turn as targets for Burroughs' camera.

Burroughs received the first AP Managing Editors Award for photography in 1964. In 1973 he was named "Photographer of the Year" by the White House News Photographers Association.

Burroughs is chairman of the U.S. Senate Press Photographers Gallery Standing Committee. He also served as president of the White House News Photographers Association in 1957.

B. Participants:

The President, David Kennerly and Susan Ford.

C. Press Coverage:

White House Photographer.

# THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

## FAREWELL CALL FROM BILL THEIS BUREAU CHIEF OF HEARST NEWSPAPERS WASHINGTON BUREAU

Friday, December 19, 1975  
12:45 p.m. (5 minutes)  
Oval Office

### I. PURPOSE

To extend best wishes to Bill Theis upon his retirement as Chief of the Hearst Newspapers' Washington Bureau.

### II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background: Bill Theis has been a Washington newspaperman since 1942. He came here as head of the House of Representatives staff for International News Service. In 1945, he switched to the Senate and headed INS (which subsequently became United Press International) coverage there until 1968. That year, he became chief of Hearst Newspapers' Washington Bureau.

He is co-author, with the late Raymond Lahr, of a book entitled, CONGRESS: POWER AND PURPOSE ON CAPITOL HILL. You have a copy of this book and are mentioned in it.

As a result of reorganization of Hearst's Washington staff, Bill Theis is taking early retirement, effective December 31. The Bureau will be headed by Kingsbury Smith, who will return to Washington from Europe to head a reduced staff.

B. Participants: Bill Theis, Ron Nessen

C. Press Plan: White House photo. A copy of which will be autographed and sent to Bill Theis.

### III. TALKING POINTS

1. Bill, I appreciate your coming by and want to say that we are sorry to hear that you will be leaving Hearst.

2. We hope that your talents will continue to be utilized here in Washington. I know that readers of your newspapers have depended upon you over the years to tell them what is going on in Washington.

3. I remember the book that you and Ray Lahr did together. It was a good book on Congress.

4. I certainly wish you the best of luck.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

FAREWELL CALL BY WILLIAM GREENER AND FAMILY

Monday, December 22, 1975

5:50 pm (5 minutes)

Oval Office

From: Ron Nessen



I. PURPOSE

To extend best wishes and good luck to Bill Greener and his family upon his leaving his post as Deputy Press Secretary to the President to become Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, PRESS PLAN

A. Background

Bill Greener has served as Deputy Press Secretary to the President since April 15, 1975. Previously he had a long, distinguished career in the military and as press officer in a variety of federal agencies. He is well respected and well liked by the press.

B. Participants

William Greener	
Mrs. Charlene Greener	
Barbara Greener	21 years old
Charles (Chuck) Greener	20 years old
Candice (Candy) Greener	18 years old
Thomas (Tommy) Greener	11 years old

Ron Nessen

C. Press Plan

There will be no press announcement. A White House photograph will be taken to be autographed and sent to Bill.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

YEAR-END CONVERSATION WITH REPORTERS

Wednesday, December 31, 1975

11:30 a.m. (45 minutes)

Roosevelt Room

From: Ron Nessen *RN*

I. PURPOSE

To give your assessment and to answer reporters' questions about your accomplishments during 1975.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, PRESS PLAN

A. Background

You were quite pleased with the small, informal press conference format of Saturday, December 20. You decided you would like the same format for an informal conversation with reporters on the Administration's accomplishments of 1975.

The reporters who normally cover the White House often lose sight of the long-range picture of your Administration in their concentration on day-to-day and week-to-week news events.

You decided to hold this year-end conversation in order to give the reporters an opportunity to stand back and write a series of stories recalling the trends and accomplishments over the past 12 months.

No doubt the conversation will produce some immediate news stories. But more importantly, it will give the reporters material to write year-end assessment stories for the Sunday newspapers of January 4 and the weekly news magazines of January 5.

B. Participants

1. Confirmed

Helen Thomas - United Press International  
Frank Cormier - Associated Press

Tom Jarriel - ABC  
Bob Pierpoint - CBS

Mel Elfin - Newsweek  
John Osborne - New Republic  
Bonnie Angelo - Time  
John Mashek - U.S. News and World Report

Stan Carter - New York Daily News  
Jack Nelson - Los Angeles Times  
Bob Boyd - Miami Herald  
Godfrey Sperling - Christian Science Monitor  
Phil Shabecoff - New York Times  
Adam Clymer - Baltimore Sun  
Aldo Beckman - Chicago Tribune

Charles Bartlett - Chicago Sun Times Syndicate/Field Newspapers  
Pat Buchanan - Columnist  
George Will - Washington Post Writers

2. Yet to be confirmed

John Chancellor - NBC (or John Cochran)  
Jim Dickenson - Washington Star

C. Press Plan

Conversation to be announced. Still photographers and silent film cameras to be admitted briefly at the end of the conversation.

D. Talking Points

Dave Gergen has submitted to you an excellent review of your accomplishments this past year and sample Q & A's covering the major events of 1975. You have read these several times, indicated your approval, and used the material extremely well during your Air Force I interview with David Broder and Lou Cannon.

I will bring you up to date on any late news developments before the conversation.