

MARCH 6, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Champaign, Illinois)

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President, upon arrival at Centennial High School, telephoned Godfrey Sperling, Sr., father of the Christian Science Monitor's White House correspondent, , who was 104 years old on Thursday. Mr. Sperling lives at a nursing home in Gifford, Illinois.

During the brief phone call, the President wished Mr. Sperling a happy birthday. Mr. Sperling, despite his age and somewhat impaired eyesight, is alert. He is described by those who know him as "spirited."

Mr. Sperling is the oldest living graduate of the University of Illinois. He attained his degree in engineering in 1895 and went to work as Champaign County's surveyor, a position he held for 40 years.

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