

The original documents are located in Box 299, folder “Chastisement of Media in Briefing - Con Citizen Mail (1)” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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July 14, 1975

Dear Mr. Taylor:

Thank you for sending your views on my recent comments about a small group of reporters at my daily press briefing.

I am glad to have your thoughts on this. I am sure you realize that my comments were in no way intended as a general criticism of the press. In fact, President Ford and his White House enjoy excellent relations with the press.

Since I made my comments, the atmosphere at my daily briefings has improved considerably and the briefings are now better serving their intended purpose, which is to provide a wealth of information on the President, his activities, and his policies to the American people.

Again, thank you for letting me know your thoughts on this issue which involves only a small part of the White House press relations, but nevertheless is important to the open flow of information to the American people which President Ford so strongly supports.

Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Mr. Philip B. Taylor, Jr.
5634 Valerie Street
Houston, Texas 77036

RN:ir
RN-14



5634 Valerie street
Houston, Texas 77036
July 7, 1975

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

Dear Mr. Nessen:

A week ago you unloaded on the journalists for being "cynical" and untrusting, and other things. I have some thoughts, based on 25 years as a political scientist (Berkeley, Ann Arbor, Hopkins, Tulane, Houston; and more importantly for my viewpoints, the Universities of Montevideo, Uruguay, and Los Andes, Bogotá). And also as a string writer for the Christian Science Monitor, among other journals.

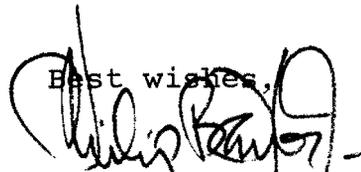
Obviously, you came from the media, and knew the hazards of the job. But that is not the point.

You know by now the essential role the press plays in our system. The president can hamstring the Congress, and he is doing it regularly with glee. There has to be a source of critical, if not cynical, reaction to his doings that he cannot control. The press is not always correct; it lies on occasion, to be sure. But I have covered breaking stories on occasion -- only a few, to be sure -- and I find it a peculiarly hazardous and destabilizing experience, and it's terribly easy to be wrong. As for deliberate lying, Jerry is doing fine, thank you, and it's about time you began to ask yourself if you need to front for such a type.

After all, he had hardly taken office before he pardoned Nixon. After taking oath to defend the constitution, etc., how did this sit with you? I could never see it as other than betrayal of trust, and for me it is nonremovable original sin.

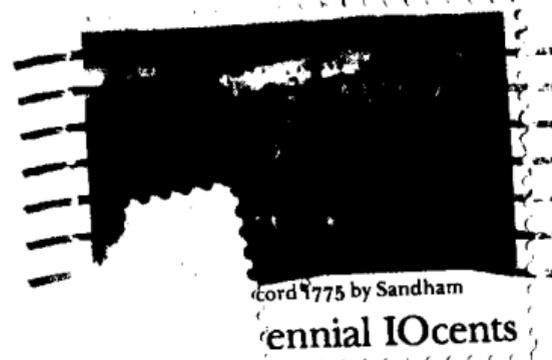
Probably most important is the clash of values. The press is probably composed of a majority of middle-roaders or even more moderate than that. Jerry is a rightist ideologue, and always has been since Grand Rapids. (My Ann Arbor experience allowed me to focus on him.) We have had only a few bigots in power in this century; Wilson was the last one I can think of. But Jerry tops them all: imagine the total unreality of running again against FDR just to get Reagan off his back!

You work for a social fascist, Mr. Nessen. You had better get used to the heat in the press room. I'd personally love to be able to contribute to it.

Best wishes,

Philip B. Taylor, Jr.



Taylor
5634 Valerie street
Houston Texas 77036



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

July 14, 1975

Dear Mrs. Moore:

Thank you for sending your views on my recent comments about a small group of reporters at my daily press briefing.

I am glad to have your thoughts on this. I am sure you realize that my comments were in no way intended as a general criticism of the press. In fact, President Ford and his White House enjoy excellent relations with the press.

Since I made my comments, the atmosphere at my daily briefings has improved considerably and the briefings are now better serving their intended purpose, which is to provide a wealth of information on the President, his activities, and his policies to the American people.

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Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Mrs. Alta A. Moore
Apartment 49
Azalea Gardens
1103 North Springbrook Road
Newberg, Oregon 97132

RN:kir
RN-14



No. 49, Azalea Gardens
1103 N. Springbrook Road
Newberg, Oregon 97132

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

Sir:

It has been with real disgust that I have read the items in the daily papers as well as the news magazines relative to your ego being bruised because you feel that you are not being believed in your press statements.

In your insulated world among all the crooks and liars perhaps you do believe that your words should be taken as truth but, believe me, Mr. Nesson, out in the cold world of hard facts everyone knows what a line of untruths and garbage you feed to the public and they are not buying it. Why don't you wake up that the days of believing anything coming from the White House, which, incidentally is no longer a pure, white symbol of truth and honesty, is over. Just this morning a neighbor spoke of the lies and deceit coming from Ford and his henchmen and spoke of how much string dangling Ford is still doing at Nixon's call.

It is terribly resented that Nixon is still calling the shots on the workings of government. He is the worst criminal in the world and in any other Country he would have either been shot or put in prison for life and yet all the management of the government of the United States is still being dictated by him.

So don't try to berate the newsmen who question your veracity, they are in the right and you are in the wrong. Just today the paper made it clear that you lied everytime you answered a question on foreign policy because Kissinger (another liar and crook) has you under his thumb.

Ford with all his high handed doings, raising the price of oil and gasoline while he continues to fly around the country using as much gasoline in one trip as ten working people would use in a year, his living in the lap of luxury while people are going hungry and bleating about all he is doing to get the Country back on a normal course. The best thing he can do is not run next year and let some honest man take control of this beloved Country. He showed he was Crook Number Two when he pardoned Nixon and nothing he has done since has changed the general public's opinion.

I am not a crank, just a very disgusted citizen who has never seen our Country in the mess it now is.

(Mrs) Alta A Moore
Alta A. Moore



AZALEA GARDENS, #49
1103 N. Springbrook Road
Newberg, Oregon 97132



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

July 7, 1975

Dear Mr. Mulrooney:

Thank you for sending your views on my recent comments about a small group of reporters at my daily press briefing.

I am glad to have your thoughts on this. I am sure you realize that my comments were in no way intended as a general criticism of the press. In fact, President Ford and his White House enjoy excellent relations with the press.

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Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Mr. Lee Mulrooney
2215 Oak Industrial Drive, NE.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505

RN:ki
RN-14



LEE MULROONEY

MANUFACTURERS REPRESENTATIVE

TELEPHONE 458-0678
2215 OAK INDUSTRIAL DR., N.E.
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. 49505

June 29, 1975

JUL 03 1975

Ron Nessen, Pres. Press Sec'y.
c/o THE WHITE HOUSE
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. Nessen:

Attached please find news story clipped from the
DETROIT FREE PRESS last Friday.

What are you trying to do, Nessen? Intimidate or threaten our reporters? All they are trying to do is their job, or an honest job. If I live to be a 100, I'll never quit being eternally grateful to the news media for Watergate. If they had not remained skeptical and inquisitive to the end, Ford would still be vice-president, and you would be back in the boondocks, probably where you belong.

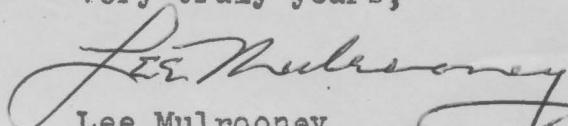
After reading the attached, I couldn't help reflect how you are beginning to sound more and more like your paranoid, fascist predecessor, Ziegler.

Instead of changing the atmosphere, I'd prefer we change Press Secretary, especially one who squares with the newspaper reporters, something you are not doing. When the irate news media finds you out and calls you on it, you reply with a ridiculous tantrum, like your predecessor. All you have to do is tell the truth, buddy, and they will get off your back.

Failing in this, Ole Harry Truman put it succinctly when he said: "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen."

Very truly yours,

LM:de


Lee Mulrooney

CC: Helen Thomas, UPI



Detroit Free Press

ON GUARD FOR 144 YEARS

Vol. 145—No. 54

Friday, June 27, 1975

STATE

Profit Taking Trims
Stock Market Gains
See Page 5, Section B

15c

6-Day Home Delivery—90c

Ford's Press Chief Slams Reporters

LEE MULROONEY

MANUFACTURERS REPRESENTATIVE

**TELEPHONE 458-0678
2215 OAK INDUSTRIAL DR., N.E.
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. 49505**



Ron Nessen, Pres. Press Sec'y
c/o THE WHITE HOUSE
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20004

July 7, 1975

Dear Mrs. Meeks:

Thank you for sending your views on my recent comments about a small group of reporters at my daily press briefing.

I am glad to have your thoughts on this. I am sure you realize that my comments were in no way intended as a general criticism of the press. In fact, President Ford and his White House enjoy excellent relations with the press.

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Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Mrs. Ada Meeks
4892 Corduray
Mentor, Ohio 44060

RN:ki
RN-14



Mr. Ross Nessen
St. H. Press Sec.
Washington DC
205

Mrs. Ada Meeks
4892 Cordway
Mentor, Ohio

GERALD R. FORD
JUL 03 1975
44060
COVER

Dear Mr. Nessen: The truth really hurts doesn't it. ??? - you would not have blown your "Coal" otherwise. -- "If the reporters holler" lies and cover-up - we are smart enough to know. "Its happening"!! I'd also add "White-wash" to it. -- seems to me shades of "Nixon" still exist in the White House. And I mean "you seem to be out agreeing. Agree" with your attack on the press. You can't stifle them Mr. Nessen. -- maybe a few, we see at Ford Press Conferences. like Thomas, Jabrel, Schifery, Jones, Peter S, etc. still consider them their "darling". but we do have reporters. Who do their job. well -

P. Sir He seems to find fault
for Politicians & Bureaucrats to
keep all these the reward
level for taxpayers to get to
"work" & support upper "pleasure
trips". - He are told to Conserve
I suggest Ford park that
plane. & yacht - & let
Conservation start at the
leadership level" -

Mrs. Ada Neeks
4892. Cordway
Mentor, Ohio
44060



Mr. Ron Nessen:
White House Press Sec.
White House
Washington, D.C.
~~2570~~

July 7, 1975

Dear Mrs. King:

Thank you for sending your views on my recent comments about a small group of reporters at my daily press briefing.

I am glad to have your thoughts on this. I am sure you realize that my comments were in no way intended as a general criticism of the press. In fact, President Ford and his White House enjoy excellent relations with the press.

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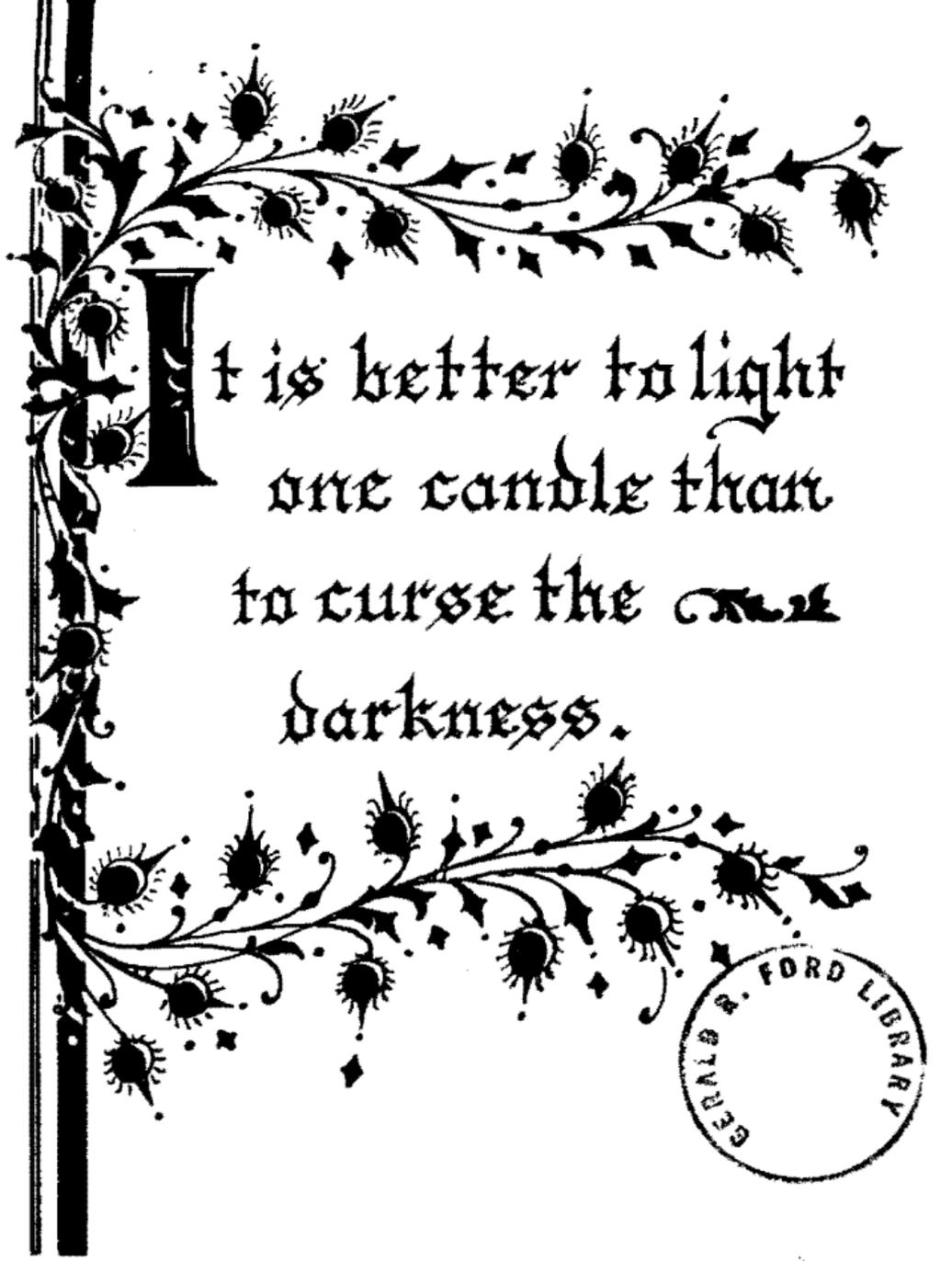
Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Mrs. Ann King
7024 Hawthorn
Hollywood, California 90028

RN:ki
RN-14





It is better to light
one candle than
to curse the
darkness.



Hollywood, Calif

Mr. Ron Neesen

The White House :

My dear friend -

"Facts" are a must in
"Today's World". As lies
have short legs and are
Fed to us by test-tube.
As one keenly concerned
for "Human Rights";

JUL 03 1975

28 June 1975 =

'World Peace' and Trade
Relations with all Nations
No one to be excluded
at U.N. The Sun, Moon
and stars are for everyone
just as is the Good Earth =
None goes his way alone
What We send into the
lives of others, Comes back
into our own =
'Let's have Detente in the Press'

(over)

your Right to be Right and for a better understanding
As all issues must be resolved for the benefit
of all = Keep your cool = Experience is a good
Teacher. That's how we correct our Errors - Also
learn more inhumanity to man = Don't give up =
It is difficult to answer questions when one is
not informed? It's happened before and will
again - Only some reporters lack the knowledge
of the treasures created by man = They need to
enrich their minds = That Truth makes Men Free -
We must not abuse our Freedoms = That our
Forefathers gave us = And the Step - Fathers
would take from us = Make way for the "New
Times" = Be gentle - Kind and True - All good
things will come to you - And what the Future is
only God knows = And he isn't going to ask us if
we are Catholics, Communists, Democrats or Republicans
it's what have we done for Humanity = yes - What??
Much needs to be done to restore our Faith in
Government - The corruption at many levels is
heart-breaking - Let's be United for the common
good of us all = Lead the World in Diplomacy
I'm proud to be American my colors are Red
White + Blue - U.S. stands beside you = Long Live America

Words are No deeds ??

But the Pen is mightier
than the sword →

Live to Love - Enjoy Life

Employ life - Its flits
away and Will not stay =

Man can climb the highest
summits, but he cannot

dwell there long (Bernard
Shaw -)

Take care of yourself -

Keep Well - Best Wishes

All is Well Respectfully

That Ends Well - Ann King

10B7276

MARIAN HEATH
SUDBURY, MASS.

Mrs. Ann King
7024 Hawthorn
Hollywood, California 90028



Press Secretary

Mr. Ron Nessen
2nd White House

Washington

(Personal)



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WHITE HOUSE MAIL
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JUL 2 1975

Processed by:

B-4 Los Angeles Herald-Examiner, Friday, June 27, 1975 A

Denies Charges of Lying

Nessen Sees Changes

July 7, 1975

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for sending your views on my recent comments about a small group of reporters at my daily press briefing.

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Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Mr. H. E. Johnson
Rural Route 1
Marion, Iowa 52302

RN:ki
RN-14



You lie,
and you know
you lie.

JUL 03 1975



Why do you
persist in trying
to fool the public?
You fool only yourself.

H. E. Johnson
R.R. 1
Marion, Ia. 52302



Samuel Adams

Patriot



U.S. Postage 8^c

Ron Nessen,
White House Press Sec'y
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, D.C. 20050

July 7, 1975

Dear Mr. Putnam:

Thank you for sending your views on my recent comments about a small group of reporters at my daily press briefing.

I am glad to have your thoughts on this. I am sure you realize that my comments were in no way intended as a general criticism of the press. In fact, President Ford and his White House enjoy excellent relations with the press.

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Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Mr. Eliot L. Putnam
364 Gay Street
Westwood, Massachusetts 02090

RN:ki
RN-14



ELIOT L. PUTNAM
364 BAY STREET
WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS 02090

JUL 03 1975

Sunday

Dear Ron,

I have noted with concern your
troublesome relationship with some
D.C. reporters of late. I think I
can be of some help and this would
please me because I greatly admired
your honest, intelligent and forthright
reporting during your time with N.B.C.

Just for once try telling the
truth as you did in the good old days.
For example, you of all the people
in the White House must see the
Mayaguez affair as a tragic,
wasteful display of brute force



ELIOT L. PUTNAM
364 GAY STREET
WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS 02090

with little more motive than to
bolster the sagging egos of Pres.
Ford and Henry K. and their ever
present gaggle of military super
heros.

Just give the truth a try, Ron
for just as surely as has been
written the truth shall make you
free.

With best wishes

Eliot Putnam





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

July 7, 1975

Dear Mrs. Shimon:

Thank you for sending your views on my recent comments about a small group of reporters at my daily press briefing.

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Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Mrs. Ina Becher Shimon
1128 North Waverly Place
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

RN:ki
RN-14



June 27, 1975

Mr. Ron Nessen, Chief
Press Corps - White House
Washington, D.C.

JUL 02 1975



Mr. Nessen

You are not a PR man -
as was your predecessor. You
were a member of the press
and ~~for~~ you now to criticize
the press because they won't
the truth which the American
public has a right to, you
resent their quizzing you
and criticizing Ford and
Rockefeller. God forbid the
time comes when we can't do
that! You are aware of what

gracious since they have both
had to explain not "what I
said, but what I mean."

Thank God we have a
press that wants the
truth and will continue to
search for it. Try to remember
when you, too, were interested
only in the truth. In 10
months no man of integrity
must accept every thing
Mr. Ford says or does without
questioning!

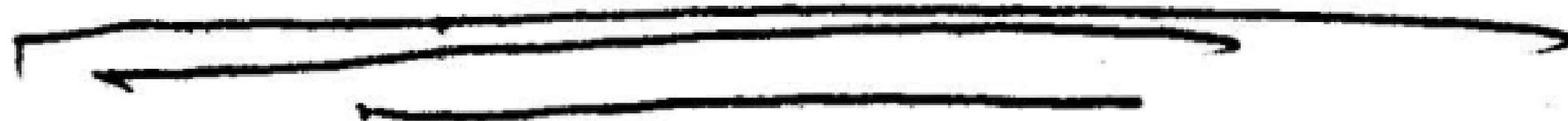


Yours truly
Lydia Becker Simon

Ford's Status Legitimate

BY BILL MOYERS

The Right to Know

A hand-drawn underline consisting of two parallel lines with slightly curved ends, positioned below the title.

Mrs. A. B. Shimon
1128 h. Worely
Melw. Ws. 532

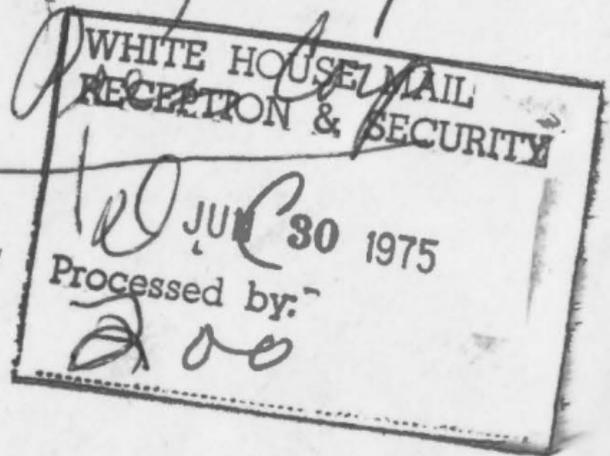


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*opened
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with Mr
Brennfeld's
mail*

Mr. Ronald Nessen, Sec'y
White House
Washington, D.C.



July 10, 1975

Dear Mr. Nusbaum:

Thank you for sending your views on my recent comments about a small group of reporters at my daily press briefing.

I am glad to have your thoughts on this. I am sure you realize that my comments were in no way intended as a general criticism of the press. In fact, President Ford and his White House enjoy excellent relations with the press.

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Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Mr. Bruce W. Nusbaum
Post Office Box 2873
San Francisco, California 94126

RN:frw
RN-14



RN-14

JUL 6 7 1975

P. O. Box 2873
San Francisco, Ca. 94126
July 1, 1975

Mr. Ron Nessen, Presidential Press Secretary
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500



Dear Mr. Nessen:

Just in case you missed Joseph Kraft's article about you and President Ford, I am enclosing it. I hope that if you have not read it that you will read it.

It seems to me that any one who becomes a spokesman for any President feels that it is necessary to defend every action of that President no matter how many of his own principles or misgivings he may have to compromise. Not only President Ford's actions remain suspect in the minds of many Americans in view of the events of the past few years, but so do the actions and words of those who speak for President Ford.

It would seem to me that once a former member of the press corps leaves that field of endeavor to become a spokesman and, yes, even an apologist for a public official, especially a high public official, such a person undergoes a drastic phsycological and idealogical change. Your recent attack upon the Washington Press Corps is a good case in point.

Wittingly or unwittingly, you have added to the growing public distrust and resentment of the press, and your words undoubtedly found an especially warm place in the "hearts" of diehard Nixon-Agnew-Goldwater-Reagan and Wallace supporters as well as other enemies of freedom of the press. Make no mistake about it, Mr. Nessen, freedom in this country, as it prepares to celebrate its 200th birthday, is on the wane, and one of the few bastions of freedom left in this nation and the world is that group of people you, too, were once a part of: the American press corps.

Some times they can be imprudent, arrogant, callous, indifferent, overzealous and, yes, even misinformed, but without their snooping, enterprise and reporting, the government bureaucracy, led by demagogic and unprincipled politicians, would run roughshod over the public interest and the public it is supposed to serve.

A study of Gerald Ford's past would creat a healthy doubt in the mind of any reasonably well informed person as to his qualifications for the job he now holds. Gerald Ford is no Harry Truman no matter how much Ford would like the parallel drawn. While both men had special interest groups behind them, Truman had a strength of character that enabled him to rise above such commitments. The actions of President Ford have changed remarkably little from those of Congressman Ford. He was a staunch defender of Nixon and his policies to the bitter end and he is continuing many of the policies and comittments that got us involved in the war in Southeast Asia and keeps the worlds arms race booming.

His principal concern as a Congressman was also the concern of business, and his vetoes as President indicate that there has been no change in this concern. The public interest, though he may not be able to differentiate between the two (business and the public), has always been secondary with him. Business manipulated him as a Congressman and it is still manipulating him as President.

Your statement that, "The President is an honest man, a man of integrity" may, in fact, be true---if you use as your yard stick the supposition that he truly believes that what he is doing is just and right and in the public interest. But you know, I believe that Nixon felt such was the case with him.

Democracy demands more of its leaders than that they be honest men of integrity and they and their supporters view such nebulous terms. It demands that they be in reasonable control of themselves, their emotions and their philosophies, as well as their advisors. It has been some time since we've had such a President.

Some of President Ford's actions have been necessary, but the reasons he has given for some of these actions have made his actions, as well as his understanding of the issues, suspect---and this is one of the main reasons that what you chose to call, "blind, mindless, irrational suspicion and cynicism and distrust" have not evaporated.

That a Ronald Reagan and a George Wallace and to a lesser degree, a Henry Jackson, loom so large upon the American political scene at this time is proof positive that what I say has more than a grain of truth to it.

President Ford, because he was not elected to that position, had a chance that few of his predecessors had, a chance for greatness because he was not beholden to any special interest group for that selection. He could have ignored party lines, could have ignored sectional issues, could have ignored pressure from the special interest groups of business and labor and set about appointing the best qualified people for positions in his administration, set about trying to get legislation passed that was truly in the public interest, set about putting into practice what most politicians preach about but most never get around to doing, but in all of these areas President Ford has fallen short, not just short, but far short. President Nixon knew what he was doing when he chose Ford to be his new Vice-President. He knew that Ford was weak and could be manipulated. After all, he had been manipulated during his entire tenure in the House---and it is obvious that he is still being manipulated. And now, Mr. Nessen, you are being manipulated, and just as your predecessor took umbrage with the Press Crops for pointing out his soft underbelly, and that of his boss, you are becoming overly sensitive to those who question not only your boss's veracity but yours as well. Wake up, Mr. Nessen, least you become another Ron Ziegler!

Sincerely,


Bruce W. Nusbaum

Wala Publications, Detroit — 400,000.

Washington Insight



Ford's Struggle With Suspicion

Joseph Kraft

BRUCE W. NUSBAUM
P. O. Box 2873
San Francisco, Calif. 94126



Mr. Ron Nessen,
Presidential Press Secretary
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

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2 JUL
1975



July 10, 1975

Dear Mr. Duriel:

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Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Mr. Abe Duriel
ARCO Petroleum Company, Inc.
177 East Broad Street
Rochester, New York 14604

RN:frw
RN-I4



PHONE: 546-8288

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ORCO Petroleum Company, Inc.

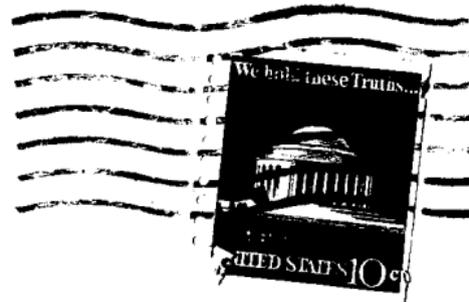
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ABE OUIEL

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Ronald Nessen
to WHITE House
Washington DC

Ford and Critics Jockey on Oil Prices

By EDWARD COWAN

domestic crude oil production | ges could be made up next
best follow half billion 0.5 million