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Folder Title:
White House Correspondents Dinner 4/28/90 [OA 8312]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	20	5	4

Bob
**WASHINGTON HILTON
SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1990**

**THANK YOU, JOHANNA, AND THANK YOU, EVERYONE. AND
GREETINGS TO DENNIS MILLER.**

**WHEN MARLIN TOLD ME I'D BE APPEARING WITH A MEMBER
OF NBC'S LONGEST-RUNNING T.V. COMEDY TEAM, I SAID:
"WHO'D WE GET -- BRYANT GUMBEL OR WILLARD SCOTT?" **

- 2 -

**BUT I ENVY DENNIS MILLER. JUST ONCE -- BEFORE I
WALK INTO THE HOUSE CHAMBER TO DELIVER MY STATE OF THE
UNION ADDRESS -- I'D LIKE TO BE ANNOUNCED BY DON PARDO.
**

DENNIS -- YOU'RE GOING TO GET IN YOUR LICKS ON ME
LATER. BUT I WATCHED YOUR H.B.O. COMEDY SPECIAL
YESTERDAY. GREAT STUFF. BUT YOU USE A LOT OF WORDS
YOU DON'T NORMALLY HEAR IN THE OVAL OFFICE. AND THERE
ARE JUST THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE YOUR PERFORMANCE: \\\
"ISN'T THAT SPECIAL." \\\

TRUE STORY. WE GOT DENNIS TONIGHT ONLY BECAUSE
THIS EVENING'S SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE WAS REPLACED BY HULK
HOGAN'S WRESTLEMANIA. } SOUNDS LIKE NBC GOT FIRST PICK. LL
\\\

BUT I DO LIKE SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE. DANA CARVEY
DOES SUCH A GREAT IMPRESSION OF ME, I ASKED HIM TO
PHONE RAFSANJANI AND SAY IT WAS GEORGE BUSH. LL \\\ BUT
DANA SAID -- WOULDN'T BE PRUDENT. LL

JOHANNA NEUMAN DESERVES SPECIAL THANKS. SHE'S DONE AN OUTSTANDING JOB AS PRESIDENT OF THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT'S ASSOCIATION. IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, THE ONLY PERSON WHO'S WORKED HARDER IN WASHINGTON IS MARLIN FITZWATER'S TAILOR. \\\

YOU GIVE MARLIN A HARD TIME. LIKE THE MORNING HE FINALLY AGREED TO DO MORE "ON CAMERA" BRIEFINGS. AND MICHAEL DUFFY SHOUTS: "YOU LOSE 30 POUNDS AND ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU WANT TO GO ON TV?!" \\\ L

WE ORIGINALLY WANTED TO LAUNCH THE HUBBLE TELESCOPE A YEAR AGO TO TAKE A GROUP SHOT OF MARLIN. \\\ LLL

BUT MARLIN LOOKS GREAT. AND HIS WHOLE ATTITUDE HAS CHANGED. I REMEMBER THE DAY PINOCHET STEPPED DOWN. I SAID: "FINALLY, CHILE IS FREE." AND MARLIN SAID: "GOOD. WHEN DO WE EAT?" \\\ LL

BUT MARLIN KEEPS ME INFORMED. RECENTLY HE SAID:
"A LOT OF REPORTERS ARE TALKING ABOUT THE STRANGE STUFF
WE'RE SEEING ON T.V." I SAID: "YOU MEAN TWIN PEAKS,
THE SIMPSONS, AND NINJA TURTLES?" AND MARLIN SAID:
"NO -- I MEAN YOU ANNOUNCING THE GORBACHEV SUMMIT WHILE
STANDING NEXT TO MICHAEL JACKSON!" \\\

[[YOU LAUGH. WAIT TILL YOU SEE WHAT I ANNOUNCE
WITH ELVIS.]] \\\

L

BUT I'M NOT TAKING THE RAP FOR THIS MICHAEL JACKSON
THING. ROSE GARDEN. SUNGLASSES. NO COAT, NO TIE, NO
EXPRESSION. BORED. A LITTLE CONFUSED. I JUST FIGURED
HE WAS ANOTHER REPORTER. \\\

LL

[[JUST HAD MY ANNUAL CHECK-UP. MINOR PROBLEM WITH MY EYE. NO SURPRISES THERE. THIS GROUP HAS BEEN SAYING I'VE HAD A VISION PROBLEM FOR YEARS. \\\]]

L

VISION:
clock VCR

- 10 -

[[BUT I WENT FISHING THIS MORNING WITH CHANNEL 4'S JIM VANCE AND ANGUS PHILLIPS OF THE WASHINGTON POST. CAUGHT A COUPLE OF BASS, AND ONE CARP. \\\] JUST LIKE BEING PRESIDENT. NO MATTER HOW GOOD THINGS ARE GOING, YOU'RE GOING TO CATCH SOME CARP FROM SOMEBODY. \\\]]

- 11 -

OF COURSE -- THE TRUTH IS -- I HAVE THE DEEPEST
RESPECT FOR THE JOB YOU DO. I KNOW THAT YOU CARE --
YOU WORK HARD -- YOU BELIEVE IN YOUR WORK AND IT SHOWS.
AND I SAID THIS TO THE WHITE HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHERS AND
I'LL REPEAT IT HERE:

- 12 -

I HAVE ALWAYS APPRECIATED THE THOUGHTFULNESS AND THE
CONSIDERATION AND THE KINDNESS THAT YOU HAVE SHOWN TO
OUR FAMILY, AND, INDEED, THE KINDNESS AND CONSIDERATION
YOU HAVE SHOWN IN OUR QUEST FOR PRIVACY FROM TIME TO
TIME. SO WE THANK YOU FOR THAT. \\\

BUT NOW -- IT'S MILLER TIME \\\ --

-- AND [PAUSE] I [PAUSE] AM [PAUSE]
OUT OF HERE!

#

McNally/Simon, April 27, 1990
Draft Six (E:WHCORRES)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS DINNER
WASHINGTON HILTON
SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1990

Thank you, Johanna ((NEUMAN)), and thank you, everyone. And greetings to Dennis Miller.

When Marlin told me I'd be appearing with a member of NBC's longest-running T.V. comedy team, I said: "Who'd we get -- Bryant Gumbel or Willard Scott?" \\\

But I envy Dennis Miller. Just once -- before I walk into the House Chamber to deliver my State of the Union Address -- I'd like to be announced by Don Pardo. \\\

Dennis -- you're going to get in your licks on me later. But I watched your HBO Comedy Special yesterday. Great stuff. But you use a lot of words you don't normally hear in the Oval Office. And there are just three words to describe your performance: \\\ "Isn't that special." \\\

You know, we got Dennis tonight only because this evening's Saturday Night Live was replaced by Hulk Hogan's Wrestlemania. Sounds like NBC got first pick. \\\

But I do like Saturday Night Live. Dana Carvey does such a great impression of me, I asked him to phone Rafsanjani and say it was George Bush. \\\ But Dana said -- wouldn't be PRUDENT.

Johanna Neuman deserves special thanks. She's done an outstanding job as President of the White House Correspondent's Association. In the past 12 months, the only person who's worked harder in Washington is Marlin Fitzwater's tailor. \\\

You give Marlin a hard time. Like the morning he finally agreed to do more "on camera" briefings. And **Brit Hume** shouts: **"You lose 30 pounds and all of a sudden you want to go on TV?!"**

But Marlin looks great. And his whole attitude has changed. I remember the day Pinochet stepped down. I said: "Finally, **Chile is free.**" And Marlin said: **"Good. When do we eat?"** \\\

But Marlin keeps me informed. Recently he said: "A lot of reporters are talking about the strange stuff we're seeing on T.V." I said: "You mean Twin Peaks, the Simpsons, and Ninja Turtles?" And Marlin said: **"No -- I mean you announcing the Gorbachev Summit while standing next to Michael Jackson!"** \\\

But I'm not taking the rap for this one. Rose Garden. Sunglasses. No coat, no tie, no expression. Bored. A little confused. I just figured he was another **reporter.** \\\

[[Recently, Leo Rennert came at Marlin with a curve ball on taxes, Democrats, Social Security, and Dan Rostenkowski. \\\ Marlin didn't flinch. Reached into his bag of rhetorical tricks. \\ His answer -- and I quote in its entirety: ((SLOWLY)) "Leo. \\ Leo. \\ Leo. \\ Leo." \\\ \\\ Marlin -- where **do** you come up with these **snappy comebacks?** \\\ \\\]]

~~And people say the press doesn't care about accuracy! \\\ \\\~~

Of course, [↑]the truth is I know that you ~~do~~ **care** -- you work hard -- you believe in your work and it shows. And I want to know that (I have the deepest respect for the job you do.) I said this to the White House photographers and I'll repeat it here: I have always appreciated the thoughtfulness and the consideration

and the kindness that you have shown to our family, and, indeed,
the kindness and consideration you have shown in our quest for
privacy from time to time. So we thank you for that. \\\

But now it's Miller time \\\ --

AND \\\ I \\\ AM \\\ OUT OF HERE!

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 25, 1990

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *cw*
FROM: EDWARD E. McNALLY *EM*
SUBJECT: REMARKS FOR WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS DINNER

I. SUMMARY

The attached draft for Saturday night's White House Correspondents dinner has been designed to provide you with enough raw material (4 pages) to develop a final draft that's about TWO-AND-A-HALF PAGES in length.

II. DISCUSSION

On Saturday, April 28th, you will attend the White House Correspondents Association dinner at the Washington Hilton, and give brief remarks at the end of the evening.

To break with tradition -- and get away from the standard "Johnny Carson monologue" -- we have based these remarks on the press corps itself -- on recent, real-life incidents involving reporters like Brit Hume, Jerry Seib, Helen Thomas, and other personalities. The first part includes actual quotations from Marlin's daily briefings. The second part uses actual questions called into the Media Relations Office by out-of-town newspapers.

A note about three of the jokes: You are currently scheduled to speak after the evening's entertainment -- Dennis Miller -- the comedian who does the Weekend Update segment on Saturday Night Live (SNL). Your opening line -- "Isn't that special" -- is SNL's most popular signature line, spoken by the "Church Lady" (played by Dana Carvey, who also does the impersonations of you). Don Pardo is the off-camera "announcer" for SNL, Jeopardy, and others -- the most famous "voice" on TV. And your final line -- "I am out of here" -- is Dennis Miller's signature "sign-off" at the end of his routine every week.

The audience of approximately 2,600 will consist of White House reporters, their editors and producers, Members of Congress, and others.

McNally/Simon, April 25, 1990
Draft Four (E:WHCORRES)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS DINNER
WASHINGTON HILTON
SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1990

There are just three words to describe Dennis Miller's
performance: \\\ \"Isn't that special.\" \\\

When they said I'd be following a man whose T.V. newscasts
are based on outrageous fabrications, warped imagination, and
creative distortions, I assumed it was Geraldo Rivera. \\\

But I envy Dennis Miller. Just once -- before I walk into
the House Chamber to deliver my State of the Union Address -- I'd
like to be announced by Don Pardo. \\\

And I like Saturday Night Live. Dana Carvey does such a
great impression of me, I asked him to phone Rafsanjani and say
it was George Bush. \\\ But Dana said -- wouldn't be prudent.

And I want to thank Johanna ((NEUMAN)). Johanna's done an
outstanding job as President of the White House Correspondent's
Association. In the past 12 months, the only person who's worked
harder in Washington is Lesley Stahl's hairdresser. \\\

I also want to congratulate each of tonight's winners. But
all those awards made a lot of people here nervous. These days
when you hear the words "the envelope please," it's a Senator
talking to Charles Keating. \\\

This annual tradition falls in the middle of Washington's
"comedy season." Alfalfa. Gridiron. So tonight, we've turned
to a fresh new group of outside writers. They're young. They're
hungry. They're gifted. They're the White House press corps. \\\

In fact, some of your questions and comments are so good,

*Not
some
awards*

))

they're worth repeating. Like the time Marlin finally decided to do more "on camera" briefings. And Jim Miklaszewski shouts:

"You lose 30 pounds and all of a sudden you want to go on TV?" \\\

We got even with Jim. He was in the travel pool in San Francisco when Marine One somehow swept up a column of water and soaked him to the skin -- a direct hit. \\\ Who says our military can't do pinpoint bombing?! \\\

But Marlin looks great. And his whole attitude has changed. I remember the day Pinochet stepped down. I said: "Finally, Chile is free." And Marlin said: "Good. When do we eat?" \\\

Last month, I announced the most important new summit of the 1990's. And Frank Sesno asks: "Why'd you make the announcement standing next to Michael Jackson? \\\ Brit Hume says: "He wanted to say it standing with someone more famous than Gorbachev. \\\

I get a crank call from Iran -- and Michael Duffy asks if I'm getting Caller I.D. \\\ I'd rather get the name of the person who wrote my number on a bathroom wall in Tehran! \\\

Recently, Leo Rennert came at Marlin with a curve ball on taxes, Democrats, Social Security, and Dan Rostenkowski. \\\

Marlin didn't flinch. Reached into his bag of rhetorical tricks. \\\ His five-word answer -- and I quote: [[SLOWLY]]

"Leo. \\\ Leo. \\\ Leo. \\\ Leo. \\\ Leo." \\\ \\\ \\\ \\\ \\\ possible
Marlin -- where do you come up with these snappy comebacks? \\\ \\\ \\\

Actually, there's a story out on what really happened with that Libyan fire. Turns out Kaddafi staged the whole thing to get on a new T.V. show called "Libya's Funniest Home Videos." \\\

Back in December, Marlin made a startling announcement. He declared that sometimes "the President of the United States has contacts with other worlds." \\\

Helen Thomas jumps up and calls for a filing break. \\\
Jerry Seib asks: "Are you moving up the timetable on Mars?" \\\

And this, just a few weeks after Marlin mis-spoke and referred to me as "President MUSH." \\\ [[TO MARLIN]] Didn't know I knew about that one, did you, Marlin?! \\\ That's okay, Marlin. I spell "Fitzwater" M-U-D. \\\

Wendall Goler said he "had a question from his desk." \\\
Marlin said: "You mean it's too embarrassing for you to ask?" \\\
And the question? Wendall asked: "Why does the President call that man "Lock" Walesa?" \\\

Don't I get any credit for pronouncing "Miklaszewski" right?
Of course, not every station or newspaper has a White House correspondent. So from around the country they call the Office of Media Relations. I don't always have time for a personal response. So I thought I'd answer some of the backlog tonight. These are real questions. Never answered by a President before. So you may want to get out your notebooks...

Question #1: "Do you have a proclamation on National Clown Week?" \\\ No. But we're considering proclaiming Congress a three-ring circus. \\\

Here's a tough one: "What is your response to the allegation that the White House does not play enough polka music?" \\\ We're sensitive to it, and we've been consulting

with Bobby Vinton. \\\ From now on, "Hail To The Chief" will be replaced by "The Beer Barrel Polka." \\\

Question #3: Does the President shave himself? \\\ No. Never have time. \\\ So Victor Kiam drops by and shaves me personally. \\\

#4: "Does the President wear boxers or briefs?" \\\ Now that's what I call solid investigative reporting. No comment.

#5: "Does the President watch Family Feud?" \\\ Sure -- every night I check out the Democrats on C-SPAN. \\\

Question #6: "Will my tapes be erased if they go through the scanner?" \\\ Only on the way out. \\\

Here's a couple with Pulitzer Prize potential: "Does the White House have an official position on how to pronounce "Kennebunkport?" \\\ And: "Can you tell me the official spelling of President Bush's last name?" \\\

And people say the press doesn't care about accuracy! \\\

Of course, the truth is I know that you do care -- you work hard -- you believe in your work and it shows. And I want to know that I have the deepest respect for the job you do. I said this to the White House photographers and I'll repeat it here: I have always appreciated the thoughtfulness and the consideration and the kindness that you have shown to our family, and, indeed, the kindness and consideration you have shown in our quest for privacy from time to time. Thank you all. I've enjoyed it. \\\
But now -- Dennis Miller -- WE \\\ ARE \\\ OUT OF HERE!

#

McNally/Simon
April 16, 1990
Draft Four (E:WHCORRES)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS DINNER
WASHINGTON HILTON
SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1990

Thank you. Thank you, Johanna ((NEUMAN, W.H. CORRES. ASSOC. PRESIDENT)). Johanna's done an outstanding job as President of the White House Correspondent's Association. During the past year, the only person in Washington who's worked harder is Marlin Fitzwater's tailor.

Marlin looks great. And his whole attitude has changed. I remember the day Pinochet stepped down. I said: "Finally, Chile is free." And Marlin said: "Great. When do we eat?"

This annual tradition falls in the middle of Washington's "comedy season" -- the Alfalfa Club, Gridiron Club, Radio and T.V. Correspondents dinner. You've stretched our joke-writing capacity to the limits. So this year, we've turned to a group of outside writers. They're mostly young. Talented. And all share one thing in common: Every weekday morning around 11:00, they gather in the press room House for Marlin Fitzwater's briefing.

It has all the makings of a hit T.V. sitcom. The President plays the role of the high school principal -- a distant presence, often talked about, not always seen -- but the press sits up straight in their chairs when he walks into the room.

Marlin, on the other hand, plays the role of the beleaguered substitute teacher. *Mikl~~e~~zewski*

There was one morning, just after Thanksgiving, when Marlin finally assented to network requests to do more "on camera" briefings. And *Jim Mikl~~e~~wski* shouts out: "You lose 30 pounds and all of a sudden you want to go on TV?"

Like every good sit com, there are regular bits that re-appear week after week. Take _____, for instance. _____ has a unique job. Small but important. Requires special skills.

*Steve Taylor
Brit Hume*

Every morning, whether the news is Panama or Peoria, Main Street or Malta, _____ steps up and asks the same two-word question: "Where's Scowcroft?"

One day in January Marlin took the morning off, and Roman was ready with an answer. Someone asked: "Where's Scowcroft?" And Roman answers: "He's refueling at Elmendorf." \\\ Brit Hume went for the phones so fast it looked like he was doing a lambada with Sarah McClendon. \\\ And Marlin hasn't taken a day off since.

Marlin's good. But he occasionally slips up, too. Deftly handling a question about Presidential secrecy back in December, he referred to times when "the President of the United States has contacts with other worlds." \\\

Of course, the press corps was very helpful. \\\ _____ jumped up and called for a filing break. \\\ Then _____ asked whether we were going to move up the timetable on Mars. \\\

And this just a few weeks after Marlin mis-spoke and referred to the leader of the Free World as "President Mush." \\\ _____ called it a Freudian slip. \\\

But Marlin knows when to hold his tongue. On the first Monday back after the Vice President's somewhat surprising purchase in Chile, \\\ Marlin began what is probably the first White House Press Secretary in history to announce: "I don't do dolls."

Then there was _____, who declared that he "had a question from his desk." Marlin responded: "You mean it's too embarrassing for you to ask?" \\\ And you want to know what the question was? _____ asked: "Why does the President call that man "Lock" Walesa? \\\

I'll tell you the reason. It's because _____

...

Of course, not all the tough questions get fielded by the Press Office. Many of you know to call the White House office of Media Relations. What you may not know is that the interns there

have been collecting a list of some of the most classic questions you ask.

Here's a sampling. True story. None of these are made up.

- "Does the President wear boxers or briefs?"
- "Do you have a proclamation on National Clown Week?"
- "What is your response to the allegation that the White House does not play enough polka music?"
- "We're taking a poll -- does the President watch Family Fued?" (No -- but sometimes I check out the democrats on C-SPAN.)
- "Will may tapes be errased if they go through the scanner?"
- "Can you tell me the official spelling of President Bush's last name?" (Of course we could -- but we'd have to kill you afterward.)

I shouldn't complain. It's just that sometimes I feel like Jim Fowler on Marlin Fitzwater's "Wild Kingdom."

Seriously, it's discouraging. Last month Elvis made more news than me.

Sig Rogich's getting desperate. Next week he's booked me To do "Hollywood Squares."

[[TO BE INSERTED: CLOSING REMARKS.]]

... your commitment to the profession, your deep respect for the presidency --

McNally/Simon, April 25, 1990
Draft Four (E:WHCORRES)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS DINNER
WASHINGTON HILTON
SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1990

There are just three words to describe Dennis Miller's
performance: \\ \\ "Isn't that special." \\ \\

When they said I'd be following a man whose T.V. newscasts
are based on outrageous fabrications, warped imagination, and
creative distortions, I assumed it was Geraldo Rivera. \\ \\

But I envy Dennis Miller. Just once -- before I walk into
the House Chamber to deliver my State of the Union Address -- I'd
like to be announced by Don Pardo. \\ \\

And I like Saturday Night Live. Dana Carvey does such a
great impression of me, I asked him to phone Rafsanjani and say
it was George Bush. \\ \\ But Dana said -- wouldn't be prudent.

And I want to thank Johanna ((NEUMAN)). Johanna's done an
outstanding job as President of the White House Correspondent's
Association. In the past 12 months, the only person who's worked
harder in Washington is Lesley Stahl's hairdresser. \\ \\

I also want to congratulate each of tonight's winners. But
all those awards made a lot of people here nervous. These days
when you hear the words "the envelope please," it's a Senator
talking to Charles Keating. \\ \\

This annual tradition falls in the middle of Washington's
"comedy season." Alfalfa. Gridiron. So tonight, we've turned
to a fresh new group of outside writers. They're young. They're
talented. They're the White House press corps. \\ \\

Your questions are great. When Marlin finally decided to do

more "on camera" briefings, Jim Miklaszewski shouts: "You lose 30 pounds and all of a sudden you want to go on TV?" \\\

We got even with Jim. He was in the travel pool in San Francisco when Marine One somehow swept up a column of water and soaked him to the skin -- a direct hit. \\\ **Who says our military can't do pinpoint bombing?!** \\\

But Marlin looks great. And his whole attitude has changed. I remember the day Pinochet stepped down. I said: "Finally, Chile is free." And Marlin said: "Good. When do we eat?" \\\

Last month I announced the most important new summit of the 1990's. And Brit Hume asks: "Why'd you make the announcement standing next to Michael Jackson?" \\\

Frank Sesno said it's because I wanted to say it standing with someone more famous than Gorbachev. \\\

I get a crank call from Iran -- and Michael Duffy asks if I'm getting Caller I.D. \\\ I'd rather get the name of the person who wrote my number on a bathroom wall in Tehran! \\\

Recently, Leo Rennert came at Marlin with a curve ball on taxes, Democrats, Social Security, and Dan Rostenkowski. \\\

Marlin didn't flinch. Reached into his bag of rhetorical tricks. \\\ His five-word answer -- and I quote: **[[SLOWLY]]**

"Leo. \\\ Leo. \\\ Leo. \\\ Leo. \\\ Leo." \\\

Marlin -- where do you come up with these snappy comebacks? \\\

Actually, there's a breaking story tonight on what really happened with that Libyan fire. It turns out Kaddafi staged the whole thing to try to get on a new T.V. show called

"Libya's Funniest Home Videos." \\\

Back in December, Marlin made a startling announcement. He declared that sometimes "the President of the United States has contacts with other worlds." \\\

Helen Thomas jumps up and calls for a filing break. \\\
Jerry Seib asks: "Are you moving up the timetable on Mars?" \\\

And this just a few weeks after Marlin mis-spoke and referred to me as "President MUSH." \\\ [[TO MARLIN]] Didn't know I knew about that one, did you, Marlin?! \\\ That's okay, Marlin. I spell "Fitzwater" M-U-D. \\\

Wendall Goler said he "had a question from his desk." \\
Marlin said: "You mean it's too embarrassing for you to ask?" \\
\ And the question? Wendall asked: "Why does the President call that man "Lock" Walesa?" \\\

Don't I get any credit for pronouncing "Miklaszewski" right?

Of course, not every station or newspaper has a White House correspondent. So from around the country they call the Office of Media Relations. They don't always get a quick response. So I thought I'd answer some of the backlog tonight. These are real questions. Word-for-word.

Question #1: "Do you have a proclamation on National Clown Week?" \\\ No. But we're considering proclaiming Congress a three-ring circus. \\\

Here's a tough one: "What is your response to the allegation that the White House does not play enough polka music?" \\\ We're sensitive to it and we've been consulting

with Bobby Vinton. \\\ From now on, "Hail To The Chief" will be replaced by "The Beer Barrel Polka." \\\

Question #3: Does the President shave himself? \\\ No. Never have time. \\\ So Victor Kiam drops by and shaves me personally. \\\

#4: "Does the President wear boxers or briefs?" \\\ Now that's what I call solid investigative reporting. No comment.

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Question #6: "Will my tapes be erased if they go through the scanner?" \\\ Only on the way out. \\\

Here's one with Pulitzer Prize potential: "Does the White House have an official position on how to pronounce Kennebunkport?" \\\ And "Can you tell me the official spelling of President Bush's last name?" \\\

And people say the press doesn't care about accuracy! \\\

Of course, the truth is I know that you do care -- you work hard -- you believe in your work and it shows. And I want to know that I have the deepest respect for the job you do. I said this to the White House photographers and I'll repeat it here: I have always appreciated the thoughtfulness and the consideration and the kindness that you have shown to our family, and, indeed, the kindness and consideration you have shown in our quest for privacy from time to time. Thank you all. I've enjoyed it. \\\
But now -- Dennis Miller -- I \\\ AM \\\ OUT OF HERE!

#

McNally/Simon
April 24, 1990
Draft Three (E:WHCORRES)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS DINNER
WASHINGTON HILTON
SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1990

There are just three words to describe Dennis Miller's
performance: \\ \\ "Isn't that special." \\ \\

When they said I'd be following a man whose T.V. newcasts
are based on outrageous fabrications, warped imagination, and
creative distortions, I assumed it was Geraldo Rivera. \\ \\

(OR: ~~I wondered which of the three network anchors it was.~~)

But I envy Dennis Miller. Just once -- before I walk into
the House Chamber to deliver my State of the Union Address -- I'd
like to be announced by Don Pardo. \\ \\

And I like Saturday Night Live. Dana Carvey does such a
great impression of me, I asked him to phone Rafsanjani and say
it was George Bush. \\ \\ But Dana said -- wouldn't be prudent.

And I want to thank Johanna ((NEUMAN)). Johanna's done an
outstanding job as President of the White House Correspondent's
Association. In the past 12 months, the only person who's worked
harder in Washington is Marlin Fitzwater's tailor. \\ \\

(OR: ~~Brent Scowcroft's travel agent.~~)

→(OR: Lesley Stahl's hairdresser.)

I also want to congratulate each of tonight's winners. But
all those awards made a lot of people here nervous. These days
when you hear the words "the envelope please," it's a Senator
talking to Charles Keating. \\ \\

This annual tradition falls in the middle of Washington's "comedy season." Alfalfa. Gridiron. Radio and T.V. Correspondents. So tonight, we've turned to a fresh new group of outside writers. They're young. They're talented. They're the White House press corps.

Your questions are great. When Marlin finally decided to do more "on camera" briefings, Jim Miklaszewski shouts: "You lose 30 pounds and all of a sudden you want to go on TV?" \\\

~~(OR: You lose 30 pounds, fine. But what're we supposed to do with all our wide-angle lenses?!)~~

We got even with Jim. He was in the travel pool in San Francisco when Marine One dropped a torrent of water and soaked him to the skin. \\\ **Who says our military can't do pinpoint bombing?!** \\\

But Marlin looks great. And his whole attitude has changed. I remember the day Pinochet stepped down. I said: "Finally, Chile is free." And Marlin said: "Great. When do we eat?" \\\

Last month I announce the most important new summit of the 1990's. And Larry O'Rourke asks: "Why'd you make the announcement standing next to Michael Jackson?" \\\

Charles Bierbauer said it's because I wanted to say it standing next to someone more famous than Gorbachev. \\\
(OR: ~~It seemed like a good way to get my 15 minutes of fame.~~)

We get a crank call from Iran -- and Lesley Stahl asks if we're getting Caller I.D. \\\ **We'd rather get the name of the person who wrote my number on a bathroom wall in Tehran!** \\\

Recently, Leo Rennert came at Marlin with a curve ball on taxes, democrats, social security, and Don Rostenkowski. \\\

Marlin didn't flinch. Reached into his bag of rhetorical tricks. \\\ His five-word answer -- and I quote:

"Leo. \\\ Leo. \\\ Leo. \\\ Leo. \\\ Leo." \\\ \\\

End-quote. Marlin -- where do you come up with these snappy comebacks? \\\

Every morning a different reporter steps up to the bat and asks the same, two-word question: \\\ "Where's Scowcroft?" \\\

After the fire at the Libyan chemical plant, someone asked: "Where's Scowcroft?" \\\

Marlin answered that Brent was skiing in Utah. So Steve Taylor says: "Is Kaddafi skiing with him?" \\\

Actually, there's a breaking story tonight on what really happened with that Libyan fire. It turns out Kaddafi staged the whole thing to try to get on a new T.V. show called "Libya's Funniest Home Videos." \\\

Another time Marlin took the morning off. Someone asked: "Where's Scowcroft?" And Roman answers: "He's refueling at Elmendorf." \\\

We did send Brent to Elmendorf recently. He was still looking for ~~Michael Duffy and Kevin Merida.~~ *the two reporters we left there last February.* \\\

Back in December, Marlin made a startling announcement. He declared there're times when "the President of the United States has contacts with other worlds."

Helen Thomas jumped up and called for a filing break. \\\ Jerry Seib asked whether we were moving up the timetable on Mars.

And this just a few weeks after Marlin mis-spoke and referred to me as "President Mush." \\\ [[TO MARLIN]] Didn't know I knew about that one, did you, Marlin?! \\\ ~~Cesley Stahl~~ called it a Freudian slip. \\\

(OR: That's okay, Marlin. I spell "Fitzwater" M-U-D...)

But Marlin knows when to hold his tongue. Fielding questions after the Vice President's somewhat surprising purchase in Chile, \\\ Marlin became the first White House Press Secretary in history to utter those four unforgettable words:

"I don't do dolls." \\\

(Frank Murray), said he "had a question from his desk."

Marlin said: "You mean it's too embarrassing for you to ask?"

\\ And the question? Frank asked: "Why does the President call that man "Lock" Walesa? \\\

Don't I get any credit for pronouncing "Miklaszewski" right?

(OR: Because that's the metric pronunciation.)

Of course, a lot of reporters also call the Office of Media Relations at the White House. (So I thought I'd give you a sampling of some of the tougher questions.) These are real questions.

Question #1: "Do you have a proclamation on National Clown Week?" \\\ [No. But we're considering proclaiming Congress a three-ring circus.] (OR: No. But I hear the Clown Association is proclaiming a National President's Week.)

Here's a tough one: "What is your response to the allegation that the White House does not play enough polka music?" \\\ We're sensitive to it and we've been consulting with Bobby Vinton. \\\ From now on, "Hail To The Chief" will be replaced by "The Beer Barrel Polka." \\\

Question #3: Does the President shave himself? \\\ No. Never have time. \\\ So Victor Kiam drops by and shaves me personally. \\\

#4: "Does the President wear boxers or briefs?" \\\ That's what I call solid investigative reporting. (OR: ~~When you're a G-man, you wear a G-string.~~)

#5: "We're taking a poll -- does the President watch Family Feud?" \\\ Sure -- I check out the democrats on C-SPAN? (OR: ~~No -- I try to stay away from meetings with Bill Webster and Dick Cheney.~~) (Bill Bennett and Dick Darman?)

Question #6: "Will my tapes be erased if they go through the scanner?" \\\ They used to be. But the scanner was fixed after Rosemary Woods left. \\\ (OR: Only on the way out.)

Here's one with Pulitzer Prize potential: "Does the White House have an official position on how to pronounce Kennebunkport?" \\\ ~~Yes. Correctly.~~ *Very carefully.*

"Can you tell me the official spelling of President Bush's last name?" \\\ No. But we can give you a hint: It's very close to the un-official spelling. \\\ And people say the press doesn't care about accuracy!

(OR: Ask Marlin. M-U-S-H...)

sign to end

SEND TO ED McNALLY (202) 456-6218

Siller

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS DINNER

APRIL 28, 1990

Dennis, I admire you...landing a job as anchorman on a major American network...and you aren't even Canadian. (PLEASE CHECK THAT HE ISN'T.)

Dennis is worried. He heard Deborah Norville has a sister.

This past decade, the number of accredited White House Correspondents has swelled. This is the first year your number exceeded Americans who received census forms...We're proud of that.

Someone asked me about the Hubble Space Telescope, whether we really need photos taken from a telescope hundreds of miles above the earth's atmosphere. The answer of course is yes. That's the only way to see all of Ted Kennedy on that boat.

We originally wanted to launch the Hubble telescope a year ago to take a group shot of Marlin.

You know Marlin...this year's poster boy for Opti-Fast.

Marlin used to have a weight problem. He had his own ozone layer.

Marlin was overweight because he didn't get any exercise. How many people do you know with an elevator on their Stairmaster?

Last year on Earth Day, Marlin was mistaken for it.

He finally went on a diet after (CATTY CORRESPONDENT) spotted him and said, "Well, aren't you the cute couple!"

But seriously, since I've held political office, I've had a number of press secretaries. He's the best I ever had...as Marla Maples said to the New York Post.

OR

I've been in elective office a long time, had many groups of reporters covering me. But you're the best I ever had...as Marla said to the Donald.

Last Sunday was Earth Day. Most of you do your part to protect the environment. You ask recycled questions.

I'm all for protecting the environment. But there are a few militant extremists out there. Last week a member of the Sierra Club ordered the earth to bite Millie.

I've been asked where I might allow offshore oil drilling. It would have to be a place where it wouldn't interfere with the breeding of wildlife, such as (NEED NAMES OF AN ENDANGERED BIRD AND FISH, PREFERABLY WITH FUNNY SOUND)...and Ted Kennedy on his boat.

We figured out a way to shorten the press conferences. Beginning next week, Helen Thomas's seat will be on that hill where Millie got bitten.

Some of you are obsessed with how you look on TV during the press conferences, and have taken steps to improve your appearance. After Millie got bitten, one of you asked Marlin if Millie would be getting a nose job...and three of you handed him your doctor's business card.

After awhile, you learn to be cautious when the press is around because frankly, you're very snoopy. Around here, even my dog sticks her nose where it doesn't belong...Et tu, Millie.

Ed

DOUG GAMBLE

April 24/90

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Then Johanna Neuman says: "Marlin -- to follow up on John's ugly question with an even uglier one -- "

And Marlin counters with: "Don't do it Johanna -- fight it off!"

When the German Foreign Minister brought me a piece of the Berlin Wall -- Ken Walsh wanted to know if the speechwriters asked him to bring it to Lafayette Park. \\\

(What can I say. "MIKE-ay-el -- MICK-ay-el" -- it's easy to mix the two up.)

Brit Hume went for the phones so fast it looked like he was doing the lambada with Sarah McClendon. \\\ And Marlin hasn't taken a day off since.

I've also heard some complaints that covering the White House beat is boring. You'll change your tune when we release the first pictures taken by the new White House Photographer -- Robert Mapplethorpe.

But Sig Rogich is getting desperate. Next week he's booked me to do "Hollywood Squares."

And last month Elvis made more news than me.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
MARLIN FITZWATER

April 4, 1990

The Briefing Room

11:21 A.M. EDT

Q How do you pronounce Maslennikov? Better learn, man. Arkady --

MR. FITZWATER: Maslennikov, Arkady Maslennikov.

Q Is he Gennadi's replacement?

MR. FITZWATER: That's what the news accounts -- well, not a replacement, no. Different job.

Q What happened to Gennadi? Was he fired?

MR. FITZWATER: No, he's still the Foreign Ministry spokesman. That's what he's always been. I can only assume that the new Soviet President took a look at my performance and said, "I must have one of those." (Laughter.) "Get me a Marlin." (Laughter.)

Q I have a housekeeping question. This application for Bermuda which was supposed to be in yesterday, there's a whole group of us that never knew it was out and were supposed to do it, so could you extend the deadline?

Q Just for old-time sake, will you do the Marlin and Gennadi show again?

Q Well, there are at least five of us that I know of who have never been aware that this even existed until just now, and it says the deadline was yesterday.

MR. FITZWATER: Well, I'm told they went out March 26th, and those five of you who didn't get it are shameless laggards and no-accounts -- but we'll try and get you on the trip anyway.

Well, let's start out with a formal welcome to Mr. Arkady Maslennikov to the ranks of the spokesmen rolls.

Q Have you ever met him?

MR. FITZWATER: I have not met him, but I look forward to the possibility.

Q What's his background?

MR. FITZWATER: It says in The New York Times and The Washington Post that he's been in Pravda for many years and has been serving recently in the Soviet system as a spokesman and just got promoted to this job. So that's good.

Q And he got orders to tell it like it is?

Q He says he's no Marlin Fitzwater. (Laughter.)

MORE

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so -- and you leave at 3:15 p.m., so we'll just put a lid on.

Q Is he going shopping or anything?

Q What is he going to do this afternoon?

MR. FITZWATER: He promised me no movements today.

Q Attention K-Mart shoppers. (Laughter.)

MR. FITZWATER: We have here the President of the United States marked down to \$79.99. (Laughter.)

Q You're thinking of Reagan. (Laughter.)

MR. FITZWATER: Probably shouldn't have started this line of questioning. (Laughter.)

Does anybody else have anything?

Q Wait a minute. I haven't even asked my question yet.

MR. FITZWATER: Oh, I'm sorry. (Laughter.) Go for it.

Q Is it possible that tonight in New York at the NAACP dinner he will talk about the Civil Rights Commission?

MR. FITZWATER: About the Civil Rights Commission?

Q I think there's a vacancy that's expires tonight and this make's it --

MR. FITZWATER: I haven't seen the text. Although the status of the Civil Rights Commission is that there are three vacancies -- one by resignation and two by virtue of the end of their terms. So we will be replacing those or appointing replacements as soon as possible. We don't have them ready -- I don't believe he's announcing anyone tonight.

Q Well, can you give us any sort of sense of what he will be talking about tonight?

MR. FITZWATER: I just haven't seen it. I mean, obviously, he's going to be discussing civil rights issues and equal opportunity, progress for minorities, and so forth. But I don't have specifics. But we'll have an advance text for you, so you'll have it all.

Q Two things about Chile. Did he send a message to the winner of the elections, first? And secondly, are you confident that Pinochet will ensure a smooth transition to democracy?

MR. FITZWATER: I have a statement which I'll be glad to read at this time. Yesterday's election in Chile marked an important threshold in Chile's movement towards democratic rule. We congratulate the people of Chile and their exercise of the cherished rights of freedom of speech and elections. The elections were carried out in a successful manner, and all Chileans should be proud of this process.

We congratulate Mr. Aylwin, who has won the presidency. The United States looks forward to continue strengthening the bilateral relationship for the mutual benefit of both peoples and to working with the new President.

I don't have any idea about Pinochet's activities.

Q How about a phone call? Message?

MR. FITZWATER: Nothing at this point. We'll let you know if there is anything.

down now -- the post-Christmas Beeville, Houston, Alabama --

MR. FITZWATER: Let's see here. Let me -- I think I can give you a general scenario. As the general matter, the President will go to Camp David on the afternoon of Friday, December 22. He will be at Camp David Saturday, Sunday. And then, on Sunday afternoon -- no. Wait, that's not right, Sunday. And then, on the 25th, he's at Camp David, 26th at Camp David.

On the morning of the 27th, which is Wednesday, we will leave for Corpus Christi, Texas. I don't have the exact time, but we go to Corpus Christi. Tentative plans for the President to do some fishing there in Corpus Christi. Then, we will go on in the afternoon to Beeville. Tentative plans for a barbeque in the evening there in Beeville; and then he will remain overnight at the ranch outside of Beeville.

The press corps, at that point, would go back to Corpus Christi. I don't have a hotel for you yet, but we're looking for a hotel there in the city. The President will remain on the ranch on Thursday the 28th. And on Friday the 29th and on the morning of Saturday, the 30th, we'll go -- we'll depart Beeville for Houston. Overnight in Houston on that Saturday night, overnight in Houston on Sunday, the 31st. And on New Year's Day, Monday, January 1, 1990, after a long night's sleep and good rest, the President will depart at 8:00 a.m. (Laughter.)

Q Jesus.

Q Which means the press corps departs at what time?

MR. FITZWATER: The press bus will leave the Cadillac Grille at 4:02 a.m. (Laughter.)

Q Do you have the picture of Mick doing a shooter?
(Laughter.)

Q Straight from the bar to the plane.

MR. FITZWATER: Anyway, we go to Montgomery, Alabama, for some more fishing. Departs Montgomery about 6:00 p.m. and arrives back at the White House late Monday evening.

Q Oh, God. What a fun guy. (Laughter.)

Q Is Mrs. Bush with him in Houston?

MR. FITZWATER: Mrs. Bush, I think, plans to join him in Houston. You better confirm that with her office, but I think she does.

Q Who's ranch is it, again, please?

MR. FITZWATER: Pardon?

Q Who's ranch is it.

MR. FITZWATER: The ranch is it. It's Will Farish's ranch.

Q If he has a hangover, will the departure be the same?

MR. FITZWATER: That's in Goliad County there, Sarah. That's in Goliad County.

Q We know Goliad. (Laughter.)

MR. FITZWATER: Yeah, I thought so --

Q Marlin, before the President begins this assault on the animal kingdom, does he have any plans to do --

MR. FITZWATER: Let's see, that makes -- (laughter.) Two hours. (Laughter.) That makes it, let's see -- I don't have my calendar in front of me. Wait, maybe I've got one here.

Q More than a weekend?

Q If the meeting's on the 19th, do we go down on the 19th, or do we go down on the 18th?

Q Right -- sitting there with Air Force One.

Q SR-71. (Laughter.)

Q The pool ordered the --

Q Played golf.

MR. FITZWATER: Okay, we're talking April here. So that means we would go down on Thursday, the 19th. And the meeting with President Mitterrand is on that day, Thursday, the 19th. Overnight there in South Florida. Then on the 20th, we have two events in Florida, overnighting in Islamorada. That's on Friday night, the 20th -- and staying in Islamorada on Saturday the 21st, overnighting there and returning to Washington, either the 22nd or the 23rd. There's a possibility of additional travel there.

Q Where is Alabama?

Q It's in there.

MR. FITZWATER: Alabama is on Friday the 20th. Can you get to Australia in one night? (Laughter.) Would the Foreign Press Center please disregard that last comment. (Laughter.) We're not going anywhere.

Q Will Mitterrand accompany Bush in Alabama, Orlando or Islamorada?

MR. FITZWATER: No.

Q Good. Thank you.

Q Is the SR-71 being turned into Air Force One?
(Laughter.)

MR. FITZWATER: Hey now, there's an idea. If we could get to California in 68 minutes, I think we're on to something here.

Q Fundraising.

MR. FITZWATER: All right. Does anybody want to do anything else here? We have a movement in 20 minutes to go have a little Saint Patrick's Day cheer with Speaker Foley.

Q Is that movement purely social, or are you going to get into anything substantive up there?

Q Gephardt going to be there?

MR. FITZWATER: I think, as in past years, it will be a lot of Irish charm and good cheer and probably not too much discussion of legislation and Federal Register notices.

Q Let me ask you one thing before we go. When the President announced his Fund for Democracy, he talked about new democracies in Panama and Nicaragua. The one country he didn't mention was the last one -- Haiti. Is there any reason why there hasn't been any talk about aid for what is certainly the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere?

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The White House
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From: Sybil Graves
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3:55 PM

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Following is information on the Journalism Awards for the WHCA Dinner:

The Merriman Smith Memorial Award
Winner: Norman D. Sandler, UPI

The Aldo Beckman Memorial Award
Winner: Ann Devroy, Washington Post

Edgar A. Poe Award
Winner: Keith C. Epstein, The Plain Dealer

Senate and House Press Galleries Prizes:

Raymond Clapper Memorial Awards
1st Prize: Bill Lambrecht, St. Louis Post-Dispatch
2nd Prize: John Hall, Media General

Worth Bingham Memorial Award
Joint Winners: Jenni Bergal and Fred Schulte
Ft. Lauderdale News and Sun Sentinel

Barnet Nover Memorial Awards
1st Prize: Christopher Scanlan, Knight-Ridder Newspapers
2nd Prize: Andrew Melnykovich, Casper Star-Tribune