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Radio-TV Correspondents Dinner 3/29/90 [OA 4727]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	16	2	3

**RADIO-TV CORRESPONDENTS DINNER / WASHINGTON HILTON
MARCH 29, 1990 / 9:45 P.M.**

**THANK YOU, LINDA. IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE HERE
TONIGHT -- WITH ALL THE BIG NAMES IN ELECTRONIC MEDIA,
AND SO MANY DISTINGUISHED GUESTS.**

- 2 -

**AS YOU ALL KNOW, WHEN YOU'RE PRESIDENT, YOU DON'T
DO ANYTHING AT THE LAST MINUTE. I HAD THE SECRET
SERVICE COME OVER THIS AFTERNOON. DO THE USUAL
SECURITY SWEEP BEFORE A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT. PLACE WAS
CLEAN. /// NO BROCCOLI.**

- 3 -

NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS BROCCOLI STORY. I SAW A POLL TODAY IN THE BOSTON GLOBE. ((SOME PEOPLE SAY I LIVE BY THE POLLS. HERE'S PROOF THEY'RE WRONG:)) THIS POLL SAYS 79 PERCENT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE LIKE BROCCOLI. /// DANNY ORTEGA'S POLLSTER STRIKES AGAIN.... //

- 4 -

BUT WHAT IS IT ABOUT FOOD AND DRINK? FIRST ALAR AND APPLES. NOW BROCCOLI. EVEN PERRIER. / SOME OF MY FRIENDS IN CALIFORNIA TOOK THAT ONE HARD. THEY'VE FORMED A SUPPORT GROUP CALLED "PARENTS WITHOUT PERRIER."

- 5 -

I'M PLEASED FOR THE MOST PART WITH THE WAY OUR ADMINISTRATION WORKS WITH ALL OF YOU, BUT YOUR BROADCASTS HIT ME PRETTY HARD A WHILE BACK, ABOUT A LITTLE CONFUSION WE HAD WITH A PHONE CALL -- A GUY CLAIMING TO BE RAFSANJANI, WHO WASN'T. // WELL, TODAY, I GOT RAFSANJANI BACK. // CALLED HIM UP AND ASKED HIM IF HE HAD PRINCE ALBERT IN A CAN. ///// ((JUST WISH I KNEW HOW TO SAY, "THEN LET HIM OUT" IN FARSI.))

- 6 -

I HAD ANOTHER PHONE CALL THE OTHER DAY. LECH WALESA -- VERY UPSET. HE HEARD ME SAY AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT "I HAVE NO FAITH IN POLLS." //

- 7 -

ABOUT THOSE PRESS CONFERENCES -- 3 WEEKS AGO, THERE WAS TALK THAT I WAS BOYCOTTING THE MEDIA. NOW, THE SUGGESTION SEEMS TO BE I'M HOLDING TOO MANY PRESS CONFERENCES. // LIKE, WHEN I SAY "AND NOW I'LL TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS" -- AND HELEN THOMAS LEAPS TO HER FEET AND SHOUTS, "THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT." /// OR, WHEN YOU LOOK OUT ACROSS THE BRIEFING ROOM -- AND SEE BRIT HUME AND SARAH McCLENDON DOING THE LAMBADA.

- 8 -

WE ALL KNOW THE OUTCOME OF THE SENATE VOTE TODAY ON THE BYRD AMENDMENT -- A GREAT VICTORY FOR CLEAN AIR, AND THE ENVIRONMENT. AND I WANT TO CREDIT MY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR ALL HIS EFFORTS TO GET THIS CLEAN AIR ACT PASSED. //

NOW MAYBE THE MEDIA WILL TAKE A SECOND LOOK AT THE WAY IT'S COVERING JOHN SUNUNU -- YOU KNOW, THE GUY THE SIERRA CLUB CALLS THE "GREAT SATAN." // BUT I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU: THE OTHER DAY, JOHN WAS OUT ON THE WHITE HOUSE LAWN SWINGING A BASEBALL BAT, HITTING POP FLIES. I SAID, "JOHN, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU PLAYED BALL." HE SAID, "I DON'T. I'M TRYING TO PUNCH A HOLE IN THE OZONE LAYER."

I COULD GO ON ALL NIGHT -- // BUT BARBARA MADE ME PROMISE NOT TO. // SO I'VE GIVEN THE REST OF MY JOKES TO JIM MORRIS.

I APOLOGIZE TO ALL OF YOU FOR HAVING TO LEAVE BEFORE THE EVENING IS OVER. IT'S BEEN A BUSY WEEK. // AND BESIDES, I'VE ALREADY SEEN JIM MORRIS' ACT ONCE THIS WEEK, OVER AT FORD'S THEATER. // THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE CONSTITUTION ABOUT CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT.... //

- 11 -

I'LL TELL YOU, BARBARA JUST LOVES HIS ACT. // AND
I'LL BE HONEST. HE'S GOOD -- TOO GOOD. // BUT THAT'S
AS FAR AS I'LL GO. NOT GONNA COMMENT. // NOT GONNA
CRITICIZE JIM MORRIS AT THIS JUNCTURE. // WOULDN'T BE
PRUDENT.

THANK YOU FOR A DELIGHTFUL EVENING -- AND GOD BLESS
YOU ALL.

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