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White House Correspondents Dinner 4/29/90 [OA 4729]

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 27, 1990

1990 APR 27 PM 6:39

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH:

CHRISS WINSTON *cw*

FROM:

EDWARD E. McNALLY *emm*

SUBJECT:

REVISED DRAFT: WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS DINNER

Earlier today, you met with David Demarest and others to suggest deletions and improvements in the draft for your remarks at tomorrow's White House Correspondents Dinner. Attached is a new draft, revised in accordance with your suggestions.

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~~ <sup>True story</sup>, 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. \\\

Maybe try A - B



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!

# # #

(McNally/Martin)  
April 29, 1989  
12:15 P.M.  
Draft SIX  
(B:CORRES)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS DINNER  
WASHINGTON HILTON  
SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 1989  
8:00 P.M.

Thank you.

Thank you, Jerry ((O'LEARY, W.H. CORRES. ASSOC. PRESIDENT)).

And congratulations on your leadership this past year.

Congrats also to your successor, Johanna Neumann.

Johanna -- Come by sometime

And I'll tell you how much fun it is

To be a new president.

Johanna, you have a big advantage over me. ((PAUSE))

You can blame things on your predecessor.

Before we left the White House tonight

I told my grandkids

I'd be spending the evening with the media elite.

They want to know which one of you is Morton Downey.

I haven't watched much TV lately.

But I understand Oprah lost weight.

Phil wore a skirt.

Geraldo got his nose busted.

And Downey lost to the skinheads.

Easy to see why I'm not making news.

Geraldo was so successful

With his documentary on Devil Worship

Now he's doing a Special on

"People Who Like Newt Gingrich."

Newt is the only guy whose car  
Has a dashboard statue of Frank Lorenzo.

In the TV debates  
They kept asking Vice President Quayle  
About the first thing he'd do as President.  
Cheer up Dan. ((PAUSE))  
They're still asking me the same question.

I hear my schedule  
Keeps you working until late.  
That you're not getting enough sleep.  
First time I've  
Been accused of keeping anybody awake.

A story in yesterday's paper  
Accused me of drift and a lack of focus. ((PAUSE))  
What was I just saying?

Leslie Stahl asked if I moved too cautiously.  
I said: "Can I get back to you on that?"

People wondered how I picked the sites  
We traveled to this week.  
It's no secret.  
North Dakota's the only place  
I can still dominate the news. ((LONG PAUSE))  
Hey, it was a good trip. ((PAUSE))  
Made page two. ((PAUSE))  
Second section. ((PAUSE))  
Third graph. ((PAUSE))  
Under the fold. ((PAUSE))  
The Bismarck Sun.

You're too hard on Marlin.  
Especially ribbing him about his hairstyle.  
You grew up with the Dick Van Dyke Show.  
And every time Marlin walks in for a briefing,  
You react as if it's Mel.

He's really not Mel.  
Of course, he's no Morey Amsterdam, either.

Jim Morris is here tonight.  
I get the feeling he's  
About to snuff out some  
Of my thousand points of light. ((PAUSE))  
But I've seen Jim's impression of me.  
Frankly, I can't make head or tail out of what he's saying.  
His syntax is all twisted.

It shouldn't be too hard to upstage me, Jim.  
A few weeks ago I was upstaged by a wig.

I'll tell you one thing about Barbara.  
Ever since she drank that radioactive iodine  
She's been doubling as a night light.

Her new nickname?  
"The Three Mile Island Fox."

And it bothers me,  
At the end of a press conference  
When Helen Thomas stands up and says:  
"Thank you, Barbara's husband."

All the good press may be going to Millie's head, though.  
Today, we set out her bowl of Alpo  
And she asked to see the wine list.

I've had a number of you up to the family quarters.  
And Gerry Boyd --  
Just in case it ever comes up --  
I do have photos of you bouncing on Lincoln's bed.

Never make news, my eye.  
Here's a scoop for you --  
My first nominee to the Supreme Court will be: ((PAUSE))  
John Tower. ((PAUSE))  
What we need is a little justice.

Now they're saying Bill Bennett has presidential ambitions.  
He's bringing the military into the drug war.  
But Bill, you know the rules --  
Ride one tank and you're out.

You know I love movies.  
Caught the sequel to "Rain Man."  
It's about a White House official who travels across the country  
With a reporter,  
Talking on background the whole way.  
It's called "Dar-Man".

Boyden Gray has a Plymouth that runs on Methanol.  
Now he talks about a car that runs on sea water.  
The water's got to come from Prince William Sound.

Things are getting nasty in Alaska.  
The other day a group of baby seals  
Were clubbing Exxon officials.

I asked Jim Baker if he wanted to go fish for salmon.  
He asked: "Regular or unleaded?"

You think of him as Secretary of State.  
But Jim will be best remembered for the Wilderness Act.  
That's the act he was caught committing in the wilderness.

Oops -- It's getting late.  
(PAUSE -- LOOK AT WATCH)  
There won't be time tonight  
For the slide show  
Of my trip to Honduras.

But let me just close by saying:

Tonight marks the 75th anniversary of the White House  
Correspondents Association -- the diamond anniversary.

High quality diamonds are rare -- and formed under intense  
pressure. People often talk about the pressure of government  
service, but seldom recognize the intense pressure that your  
profession, and especially this press corps, faces virtually  
every day. Even more unique is the tradition of humor -- from  
both sides of the podium -- that helps keep our responsibilities  
in perspective.

So I'll raise a glass to you -- toasting the diamond  
anniversary of this tradition. And remember Jim -- "kinder and  
gentler"... "kinder and gentler"...

# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 26, 1990

1990 APR 27 PM 4:04

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH:

CHRISS WINSTON *aw*

FROM:

EDWARD E. MCNALLY *mm*

SUBJECT:

RAY SILLER AND OTHERS: EXTRA JOKES FOR  
WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS DINNER

Earlier today, you asked David Demarest about Ray Siller's submissions for the White House Correspondents Dinner. Attached is a complete set of the jokes sent in by Mr. Siller, as well as a sampling of those developed by comedian Doug Gamble and our office. Please indicate which jokes you would like to see refined for inclusion in your brief remarks Saturday night.

McNally/Simon  
April 26, 1990  
(d:whsillers)

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS DINNER  
ADDITIONAL JOKES SUBMITTED BY RAY SILLER

[[PLEASE CHECK THOSE YOU'D LIKE INCLUDED]]

Dennis (Miller), I admire you ... landing a job as anchorman on a major American network ... and you aren't even Canadian.

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.

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

B ✓ 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 Helen Thomas 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 did 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 snail darters, the California condor ... 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.

ADDITIONAL JOKES SUBMITTED BY DOUG GAMBLE AND OUR OFFICE

W.H. CORRESPONDENTS -- NEW OPENING JOKES

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

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

Dennis told me he could join us here because NBC replaced tonight's Saturday Night Live with Hulk Hogan's Wrestlemania. True story. I asked Dennis: "What's the difference between professional comedy and professional wrestling?" He said: "Pro wrestling's a more honest game."

(OR: "Pro wrestling isn't a contact sport.")

Thank you, Dennis. When Marlin told me I'd be following the man who takes the news once a week and turns it on its head, I assumed he meant John McLaughlin.

Thank you, Dennis. No hard feelings. But I guess NBC's making up for going easy on me during Tom Brokaw's "Day In The Life Of The White House."

Marlin said: "A lot of reporters are talking about the strange stuff you see on T.V. these days." I said: "You mean Twin Peaks, the Simpsons, and Ninja Turtles?" And Marlin said: "No -- you announcing the Gorbachev Summit standing next to Michael Jackson!"

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

Brit Hume asked me why I announced the Gorbachev Summit while standing next to Michael Jackson. \\ I said: "I guess your family's never competed for a spot on America's Funniest Home Videos!"

People complain the White House beat is boring. That Gorby makes better copy. Not true. Sure, Gorby can call a press conference on arms reduction. Gorby can call a press conference on the changes in Eastern Europe. But can Gorby call a press conference with Michael Jackson?!

People complain the White House beat is boring. That we're losing the public relations war to Gorby. Not true. Gorby meets with the Pope -- I counter with Michael Jackson. \\\ And if he moves on Mitterand again -- I've got Rosanne Barr, Michael Jordan, and the Ninja Turtles in reserve.

Some papers reported I'd made Michael an advisor on arms control statements. Not true. Only on fashion statements. \\\ Arthur Adler -- look out! \\\

I always thought all those stories on "Weekend Update" were real, which is too bad because that's what I've been basing my foreign and domestic policies on.

In the spirit of "Saturday Night Live" just let me say, I'm George Bush and you're not.

This evening is the reverse of the way it should be. Usually I work first and then it's Miller time. [[DENNIS MILLER, THE NIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENT, SPEAKS FIRST.]]

I can't tell you what a thrill it is to have this opportunity to see what Dennis Miller looks like from the waist down.

Dana Carvey has said that his imitation of me is a combination of John Wayne and Mr. Rogers. He's right. I have the sensitivity of John Wayne and the macho of Mr. Rogers.

The last time I had this tough an act to follow was that night in New Hampshire in 1980, when I was upstaged by some fellow who announced that he was paying for the microphone. I wonder what ever became of him?

I'm pleased that President Gorbachev is coming to America next month for talks that can have a profound effect on the future of his economic reforms and the happiness of his people. And after he meets with Ronald McDonald, maybe he'll have time for me.

In case you didn't hear the late-breaking news tonight, a political scandal has hit the Kremlin. I'm not up to speed on it yet -- all I have is a statement just issued by President Gorbachev that says "I have never, nor will I ever, trade arms for Pepsi."

Cuba has charged that "TV Marti" is a form of terrorism. Ok, we don't want to be cruel. We'll pull "The Capital Gang" from the transmission.

I'm pleased to announce a cultural exchange program with East Germany, so that each country can showcase the outstanding individuals produced by our respective societies. They're sending us Katarina Witt, and we're sending them Bart Simpson.

A scientist told me the Hubble Space Telescope is so powerful, it can explore a black hole. Why anyone would want a close-up look at a Democratic think tank is beyond me.

I hear there was a bar near the White House serving a drink last Sunday called "The Earth Day Cocktail." After two of them, you're polluted.

I feel sorry for the people who have to wade through all the pages of the federal budget each year, so we're going to spice it up a bit. We're coming out with a swimsuit edition.

I don't know if the census will be more accurate this year than 10 years ago. But I do know that because of their diets, Marlin Fitzwater, Tom Foley and Henry Hyde will no longer count as six people.

I'm glad that America's major tuna companies will no longer sell tuna caught by methods harmful to dolphins. It broke my heart to see that film clip of a fisherman pulling in his net and finding Dan Marino struggling to break free.

One of the kids was up in the residence the other night when Barbara and I were trying to do the latest dance craze. I said to him "does this look like the Lambada?" He said "No, it looks like the Lumbago."

**MORE ACTUAL QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS:**

"Which U.S. Vice President recorded a hit song and what was it?"  
(Walter Mondale recorded a country & western song dedicated to his wife called "I Never Promised You a Rose Garden.")

"Do you have any information on foreign policy?" (Not according to the Democrats.)

"What is the Cabinet?" (The Cabinet is a group of advisors who are blamed for the President's mistakes.)

"What is the President's blood type?" (Blue)

"Can I get a life-size cardboard cut-out of the President?" (For eight years as Vice President, people thought I was a life-size cardboard cut-out.)

"Is the White House on the stock exchange?" (No, but before some White House aides lost weight we were listed under "Pork Belly Futures.")

"What do you know about counterfeit jewelry?" (I have an alibi for that night. I was home all evening with Barbara and she can vouch for it.)

"Can I bring in 10 antique cars to photograph them?" (Too late. We just did a photo session with 10 antique Congressmen.)

"Why does the President use the word 'thing' so much?" (Now that's the kind of curiosity thing that can lead to the irritation thing.)

"What is the White House policy on inter-office romance?" (Quite strict. The last time we loosened up, Millie had puppies.)

Every morning a different reporter steps up to 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."

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.

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.

# # #