

Ford Congressional Papers

1941-1973 Box D37

Press Secretary's Speech File

File: Broadcasts, Radio

STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.
ON THE AIR 2 P. M., MARCH 25, 1966.

I believe Congress should thoroughly investigate the rash of reported sightings of unidentified flying objects in Southern Michigan and other parts of the country.

I feel a congressional inquiry would be most worthwhile because the American people are intensely interested in the UFO stories, and some people are alarmed by them.

Air Force investigators have been checking on such reports for years but have come up with nothing very conclusive.

In the light of these new sightings and incidents near Ann Arbor, Michigan, and elsewhere, it would be a very wholesome thing for a committee of the Congress to conduct hearings and to call responsible witnesses from the executive branch of the government and other witnesses who say they have sighted these objects.

(MORE)

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UFO STATEMENT

-2-

I think the American people would feel better if there was a full-blown investigation of these mysterious flying objects, which some persons honestly believe they have seen.

Press Secretary of Sen. to Files 48-73
Weekly Review Reports Box D35

RADIO TAPE FOR FIFTH DISTRICT STATIONS, MARCH 30, 1966.

My friends of the fifth congressional district, this is your congressman,
Jerry Ford, speaking to you from the nation's capital.

As you know, I have requested a congressional investigation of unidentified
flying objects, UFO's, as they are called.

I am most serious about this; but, of course, this is the kind of subject
that lends itself to some flak, a little criticism, and a shower of compliments.

One day this week, I felt an unidentified flying object whiz past my ear--
my right ear, naturally. Upon close inspection, I had no more trouble
identifying this particular UFO than the Air Force did in telling the people
of Michigan they have been seeing swamp gas.

The UFO I encountered was a brickbat tossed by an irate gentleman who
believes Congress could use its time to much better advantage than in investigating
what he calls "UFO hysteria."

But this was one of the few criticisms I encountered in the more than
50 letters I have received since first proposing that UFO's be investigated by
either the House Armed Services Committee or the House Science and Astronautics
Committee.

Many of the letters I have received are from Michigan--from Grand Rapids,
Ann Arbor, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Algonac, Petoskey, Port Huron, Utica, Grosse
Pointe, Bay City, and other points.

But there is interest all over the country, and everyone but the wielder
of the aforementioned brickbat is urging that I follow up on my proposal that
there be a congressional investigation of UFO's. I fully intend to do so.

(MORE)

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RADIO TAPE FOR 5TH DISTRICT STATIONS

A few of the letters were a bit far out--like the one which suggested that UFO's caused the failure of the Gemini 8 spaceship, the electric power blackout last November in the East, and the recent Boeing 727 airplane accidents.

This letter writer informed me that planet people are piloting the UFO's, have superior abilities, have the anti-gravity secret, and fly about in spaceships that travel 50,000 miles an hour or better. He wants a Minute Man alert whenever UFO's are sighted anywhere in the country.

Another gentlemen sent me a copy of a letter he had dispatched to a friend of his in the Central Intelligence Agency.

He wrote: "Well, the Air Force has done it. By its ridiculous 'solving' of the UFO's in Michigan in a day or two, they may have doomed the Air Force. Brilliant, Absolutely brilliant. They (the planet people) were trying to establish their reality...for it must be done, if they are to help us. Now they are angry at being called 'marsh gas' and are going on record that they are going to harass the Air Force just as they have been doing to NASA. Knowing what I do, if I were the Air Force, I would be scared witless. But, of course, who ever heard of marsh gas being dangerous? To make it clear, the SI's (Saucer Intelligences) are now going to teach the Air Force a lesson it will never forget. They are turning their attention to harassment of the Air Force in a big way."

Now, Dr. Hynek and the Air Force may not be disturbed by that letter, but they'd better beware of some astronomers in the nation. A chap in Seattle, Wash., says he has absolute proof that the Air Force was dead wrong in

(MORE)

RADIO TAPE FOR FIFTH DISTRICT STATIONS

describing Michigan pictures of an alleged UFO as "the rising crescent moon and the planet Venus."

Well, happy landings to the Air Force. And I do think the American people want a better explanation of UFO's than they have been getting. If my mail is any indication, there are many, many people who find it extremely difficult to believe some of the stories put out by the government on this and other subjects.

This is your congressman, Jerry Ford, saying--So-long for now, and I'll see you next week at this same time, same station.

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*Folder UFOs 1966.
New Series of Special File.
1947-1973.
Box D9.*

UFO Enclosures

Library of Congress book	(UFO material)
Blue Book	"
Air Force Statement about UFO at Dexter, Michigan	"
March 25, 1966, News Release	(UFO statements)
March 28, 1966, News Release	"
April 3, 1966, News Release	"
April 21, 1966, News Release	"
April 16, 1967, Editorial from The New York Times	(UFO information)
April 17, 1967, Editorial from The Detroit Free Press	"
October 7, 1966, News Release	"
July 31, 1966, UFO Sighting	"
May 9, 1966, News Release	"
April 17, 1966, Ravenna, Ohio	"
September 3, 1965, Exeter, New Hampshire	"
March 2, 1965, Brooksville, Florida	"
April 24, 1964, Socorro, New Mexico	"
February 24, 1959, UFO over Pennsylvania	"
November 23, 1953, Kinross Incident	"
July 19/20 and 26/27, 1952, Washington, D. C.	"
January 7, 1948, The Mantell Case	"
June 24, 1957, Mt. Ranier, Washington	"
Air Force Regulations 80-17 and 80-17A <u>(Only in special cases; see page 5 of blue book)</u>	"

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FROM THE OFFICE OF HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICH.

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

MARCH 25, 1966

WASHINGTON--House Minority Leader Gerald R. Ford, R-Mich., today proposed that Congress investigate the rash of reported sightings of unidentified flying objects in Southern Michigan and other parts of the country.

Ford said he believed a congressional inquiry would be worthwhile because the American people are becoming alarmed by the UFO stories.

He noted that Air Force investigators have been checking on such reports for years but have come up with nothing conclusive.

"In the light of these new sightings and incidents," Ford said, "it would be a very wholesome thing for a committee of the Congress to conduct a number of hearings and to call responsible witnesses from the executive branch (of the government) and witnesses who say they have sighted these objects."

"I think the American people would feel better if there was a full-blown investigation of these incidents, which some persons allege have taken place."

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE TUESDAY, P.M.

MARCH 28, 1966

NOTE TO ALL NEWS MEDIA: House Minority Leader Gerald R. Ford, R-Michigan, today sent the attached letter to the chairmen and the ranking Republican members of the House Committees on Armed Services and Science and Astronautics, urging that one committee or the other investigate the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO's).

Ford is not satisfied with the Air Force explanation of the recent sightings in Michigan and describes the "swamp gas" version given by astrophysicist J. Allen Hynek as "flippant."

Ford has received a number of telegrams and letters from individuals anxious to see a congressional investigation of UFO's.

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C O P Y

March 28, 1966

Rep. George P. Miller, Chairman
Science and Astronautics Committee
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, Chairman
Armed Services Committee
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Chairmen Miller and Rivers:

No doubt you have noted the recent flurry of newspaper stories about unidentified flying objects (UFO's). I have taken special interest in these accounts because many of the latest reported sightings have been in my home state of Michigan.

The Air Force sent a consultant, astrophysicist Dr. J. Allen Hynek of Northwestern University, to Michigan to investigate the various reports; and he dismissed all of them as the product of college student pranks or swamp gas or an impression created by the rising crescent moon and the planet Venus. I do not agree that all of these reports can be or should be so easily explained away.

Because I think there may be substance to some of these reports and because I believe the American people are entitled to a more thorough explanation than has been given them by the Air Force to date, I am proposing that either the Science and Astronautics Committee or the Armed Services Committee of the House schedule hearings on the subject of UFO's and invite testimony from both the executive branch of the government and some of the persons who claim to have seen UFO's.

I enclose material which I think will be helpful to you in assessing the advisability of an investigation of UFO's.

May I first call to your attention a column by Roscoe Drummond, published last Sunday in which Mr. Drummond says, "Maybe all of these reported sightings are whimsical, imaginary or unreal; but we need a more credible and detached appraisal of the evidence than we are getting."

Mr. Drummond goes on to state, "We need to get all the data drawn together to one place and examined far more objectively than anyone has done so far. A stable public opinion will come from a trustworthy look at the evidence, not from belittling it."

"The time has come for the President or Congress to name an objective and respected panel to investigate, appraise, and report on all present and future evidence about what is going on."

I agree fully with Mr. Drummond's statements. I also suggest you scan the enclosed series of six articles by Bulkley Griffin of the Griffin-Larrabee News Bureau here. In the last of his articles, published last January, Mr. Griffin says, "A main conclusion can be briefly stated. It is that the Air Force is misleading the public by its continuing campaign to produce and maintain belief that all sightings can be explained away as misidentification of familiar objects, such as balloons, stars, and aircraft."

I have just today received a number of telegrams urging a congressional investigation of UFO's. One is from retired Air Force Col. Harold R. Brown, Ardmore, Tennessee, who says, "I have seen UFO. Will be available to testify."

Another, from Mrs. Ethyle M. Davis, Eugene, Oregon, reads, "Nine out of ten people want truth of UFO's. Press your investigation to the fullest."

(MORE)

Rep. George P. Miller, Chairman
Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, Chairman
Page Two
March 28, 1966

Ronald Collier of Los Angeles, who identifies himself as "a scientist from M.I.T.," urges that you "do everything in your power to make Air Force Project Blue Book (the AF name for its study and verdicts on UFO reports) known to the people."

Are we to assume that everyone who says he has seen UFO's is an unreliable witness?

A UPI story out of Ann Arbor, Michigan, dated March 21, 1966, states that "at least 40 persons, including 12 policemen, said today that they saw a strange flying object guarded by four sister ships land in a swamp near here Sunday night."

Matt Surrell of Station WJR, Detroit, cites an eye witness account of a recent UFO sighting by Emile Grenier of Ann Arbor, an aeronautical engineer employed by Ford Motor Company. He points out that an aeronautical engineer can hardly be considered an untrustworthy witness.

In the firm belief that the American public deserves a better explanation than that thus far given by the Air Force, I strongly recommend that there be a committee investigation of the UFO phenomena.

I think we owe it to the people to establish credibility regarding UFO's and to produce the greatest possible enlightenment on this subject.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

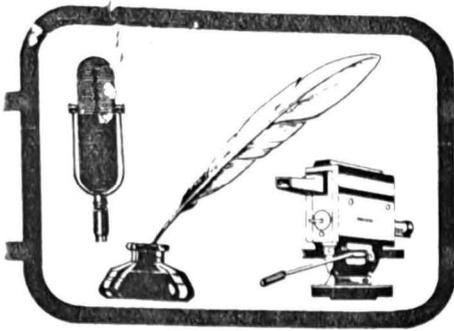
/s/

Gerald R. Ford, M.C.

GRF:plr

Enclosures

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR SUNDAY A.M. RELEASE

APRIL 3, 1966

STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICHIGAN

As I had expected, some persons have ridiculed my call for a congressional investigation of unidentified flying objects (UFO's). These people are a fraction of those who have given me their reaction to my proposal. The overwhelming majority of those expressing a view in letters to me believe a congressional investigation would be useful and is needed.

Those who scoff at the idea of a congressional investigation of UFO's apparently are unaware that the House Armed Services Committee has scheduled a closed-door hearing on the matter Tuesday with the Air Force and that Rep. Joseph E. Karth, R-Minn., headed a three-man subcommittee which held two days of hush-hush hearings five years ago on behalf of the House Science and Astronautics Committee. Karth has confirmed in conversation with a member of my staff that he conducted these secret hearings.

The present Science and Astronautics Committee chairman, Rep. George P. Miller, D-Calif., has shied away from a UFO probe at this time, saying his committee does not have jurisdiction over the Air Force. But the late Rep. Overton Brooks, D-La., obviously had different ideas because he tapped Karth to summon Air Force witnesses and question them after a flurry of UFO sightings in 1961.

Karth has informed me that his subcommittee made an oral report to the full committee but never released anything to the public. According to Charles F. Ducander, the committee's staff director, no record was made of conversation between Karth subcommittee members and Air Force witnesses. The hearings, he said, took place in Karth's congressional office.

I have never said that I believe any of the reported UFO sightings indicate visits to earth from another planet. Apart from pranks and natural phenomena, some of these objects may well be products of experimentation by our own military. If this is so, why doesn't the Air Force concede it and in this way reassure the American people? There would be no need to go into detail on the nature of the experiments.

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GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

FOR RELEASE ON THURSDAY, P.M.,
APRIL 21, 1966

STATEMENT BY HOUSE MINORITY LEADER GERALD R. FORD, R-MICHIGAN.

The Air Force has informed me it is arranging for a study by high-caliber scientists of some of the UFO sightings which have never been explained.

This study will be placed under contract soon after July 1, start of the new fiscal year. It will be carried out by a university which has no close ties with the Air Force so that the findings will be completely objective, Air Force officials tell me.

Those people engaged in the study will be high-caliber scientists who have never taken a position on UFO's, the Air Force said. It will be made clear to them that they are not being hired to come up with findings in support of previous Air Force statements regarding UFO's, I am informed.

The Air Force said there is too much effort involved to ask these scientists to make this study without pay.

The report will definitely be made public, the Air Force assured me. The whole purpose of the study is to clear the air as far as the public is concerned.

This, of course, was my purpose in recently requesting that public hearings on the subject of UFO's be conducted by either the House Armed Services Committee or the House Science and Astronautics Committee.

It was as a result of my call for a congressional investigation that the Air Force now is arranging for a study of UFO's by topflight scientists not connected in any way with the Air Force.

I would have preferred a congressional investigation with witnesses to include reliable persons from among those who say they have seen UFO's. I still think this would be beneficial. But the UFO study by a panel of scientists, with the report to be made public, is a step in the right direction.

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NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PUBLIC AFFAIRS)

WASHINGTON, D.C. - 20301

PLEASE NOTE DATE

Office Copy

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 7, 1966

NO. 847-66
OXford 7-5131 (Info.)
OXford 7-3189 (Copies)

AIR FORCE SELECTS UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO TO INVESTIGATE UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT REPORTS

The University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, has been selected by the Air Force to conduct independent investigations into unidentified flying object (UFO) reports.

A research agreement, valued at approximately \$300,000, is being negotiated with the university by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research to analyze phenomena associated with UFO sightings and to make recommendations on the Air Force's methods of investigating and evaluating UFO reports -- a program known as Project Blue Book. A report is expected to be made to the Air Force in early 1968.

Dr. Edward U. Condon will direct the scientific phases of the work, while Robert J. Low will serve as project coordinator. Principal investigators working with Dr. Condon will be Dr. Franklin E. Roach and Dr. Stuart W. Cook.

Dr. Condon, former director of the National Bureau of Standards (NBS), is a professor of physics at Colorado and a fellow of the Joint Laboratory for Astrophysics which is co-sponsored by the university and NBS. Mr. Low is an assistant dean of the university's graduate school. Dr. Cook is chairman of the university's psychology department, and Dr. Roach is an astrophysicist with the Environmental Science Services Administration (ESSA).

Colorado is expected to select several other universities to take part in the research. These and other consultants will bring the number of scientists involved to over 100.

The National Academy of Sciences has indicated its willingness to assist by appointing a panel--at the time the Colorado report becomes available to the Air Force--to review the investigating team's work. This panel will not be part of the investigating team, but will provide a further independent check on the scientific validity of the method of investigation.

In announcing the selection, Air Force Secretary Harold Brown said, "We are more than pleased to be able to place this grant with respected individuals in a university of such high standing in the scientific community. Additionally, the location of the university should prove invaluable to the investigators, since the National Center for Atmospheric Research and the research headquarters of the Environmental Science Services Administration are located at Boulder. These organizations conduct research on the properties of man's natural environment, specializing in the physical characteristics of the atmosphere and the near-space medium."

MORE

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✓ Air Force Project Blue Book files, as well as any other UFO information in the possession of the Air Force, will be made available to the team. Additionally, all Air Force installations within the U.S. will assist the team if requested. The investigators will, however, conduct their research independently of and without direction from the Air Force.

The decision to enter into a research agreement for this work was based on a recommendation of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board which completed a review of the resources, methods and findings of Project Blue Book earlier this year. While complimenting the Air Force on the organization of Project Blue Book, the Board recommended that the program be expanded to include investigation of selected sightings by independent scientists.

Within the Department of Defense, the Air Force has the responsibility of investigating UFO reports. The Air Force has been investigating such reports since 1948 under its role of air defense of the United States, and the university's research does not alter Project Blue Book responsibilities of receiving, investigating and evaluating UFO reports.

END

(DOD Release No. 388-66, May 9, 1966, refers.)

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

Office Copy

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

7 OCT 1966

Dear Mr. Ford:

Knowing of your continuing interest in Air Force matters the Secretary of the Air Force has asked me to inform you of our selection of the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, to conduct independent investigations into unidentified flying object (UFO) reports.

Attached is a copy of the news story scheduled for release at 11:00 A. M. EDT today, October 7, 1966.

If further information would be helpful, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Bryce Poe

BRYCE POE, II, Colonel, USAF
Chief, Plans Group
Legislative Liaison

Attachment

Honorable Gerald R. Ford

House of Representatives

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Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

Box 46 Subject File

EXECUTIVE

TR 19

J. 11/19/75 ST9 Lawrence

BEH

29

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 23, 1974

Dear Jackie,

Thank you most sincerely for your wonderfully warm letter. I am truly grateful to have your support and encouragement and will do my very best to continue to merit your high regard.

I am looking forward to participating in the Jackie Gleason Inverrary Golf Classic on Wednesday, February 26th, 1975. I know it will be a fun day for me and want to commend you for your efforts in behalf of the Boys Clubs of America. These young people are the adults of tomorrow and the hope of the future of our great country.

I am certain that General Haig advised you that some event, unforeseen at present, may necessitate a change in my plans. Let's hope it doesn't happen and that I will be able to honor my commitment for that day.

With warm personal regards and appreciation for your prayers in my behalf.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jackie Gleason
Willow Wood Road
Lauderhill, Florida 33313

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Photocopy from Gerald R. Ford Library

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jackie gleason

*Read over office
10/2/74
md*

August 28, 1974

MK

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

General Haig told me today that you personally consented to participate in our golf tournament the Jackie Gleason Inverrary Golf Classic -- Wednesday, February 26th, 1975.

I am just delighted and thrilled, and want to express my warmest appreciation! It will mean much to the tournament and the Boys Clubs of America.

I know the great pressures of your office are overwhelming, and just hope and pray the good Lord will bless you with good health.

Please be assured of my personal and sincere support.

Best regards.

Most cordially,

Jackie Gleason
Jackie Gleason

JG:SS

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Declassified

Rg

Subject: Bill ...

EXECUTIVE

TR19

(54)

*GRF
MEI/G **

March 11, 1975

Dear Jackie:

I want to tell you once again how much I enjoyed participating in the Gleason Golf Classic. It was indeed a pleasure to play with such pros as yourself, Bob Hope, Elliott Kahn, and that other fellow, Jack Nicklaus, wasn't bad either.

You were so generous in presenting me with gifts commemorating the tournament that I scarcely know how to begin thanking you. The set of gold-plated irons, the shoes, and the pewter cups are all deeply appreciated and will be put to good use I assure you.

February 26 was also special because it was your birthday, and I am delighted that we were able to join with you in celebrating this event. Again, many happy returns of the day!

With my gratitude for your gracious hospitality, and with warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Returned marked "Undeliverable as addressed Unable to Forward"

/Re-addressed to:
Mr. Jackie Gleason
Willow Wood Road
Lauderhill, Florida 33313

X
Mr. Jackie Gleason
407 Lincoln Road
Miami Beach, Florida 33139

cc: Mary Fenton ✓

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GRF:MFW:MH:mh

GIFT

30 gold plated irons, shoes + pewter cups from - Gleason Golf Classic

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The President will be met by:

Jackie Gleason
Craig Gleason (Son), Marilyn Horwich (Fiance)
John Montgomery, Tournament Director
Jack Gaines, Owner of Haft/Gaines Development
Company (Developed Inverrary Country Club)

PRESS POOL COVERAGE

The President, escorted by Jackie Gleason, John Montgomery, and Jack Gaines, proceeds to locker room.

STAFF INSTRUCTIONS: You will be escorted to the Practice Tee area.

12:38 pm The President arrives locker room and changes into golf attire, after meeting Club Pros Gene Stout & Joe King.

OFFICIAL PHOTO COVERAGE

{ // NOTE: Privately, Jackie Gleason will present the President a set of gold-plated irons and a silver Gleason Golf Classic paperweight.

12:47 pm The President, escorted by Jackie Gleason, John Montgomery, and Jack Gaines, departs men's locker room en route Practice Tee.

12:50 pm The President arrives Practice Tee.

The President will be met by:

Bob Hope
Jack Nicklaus
Elliott Kahn

OPEN PRESS COVERAGE

CROWD SITUATION

NOTE: The President and the other members of his "fivesome" will have approximately 10 minutes for practice.

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Subject Book Box 21

ME/G*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 26, 1975

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Lauderhill, Florida)

THE WHITE HOUSE

EXCHANGE OF REMARKS
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT
AND
JACKIE GLEASON

INVERRARY COUNTRY CLUB

8:00 P.M. EDT

MR. GLEASON: Gentlemen, as you all know, we are honored with the President of the United States, and he would like to say a few words.

Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Jackie.

I don't know a day, since last August, where I have had a more enjoyable, a more wonderful time than today in this great tournament with you and Bob Hope and Elliott Kahn and Jack Nicklaus. You know, this is just one of those things that I will always remember, and I thank you and the others who participated.

I -- going a long time back -- have great respect for excellence, and I was playing with some people today who epitomize that, you and Bob, in the field of entertainments -- the unquestioned excellence in the field that you excel so beautifully in -- Elliott Kahn, a young man who has done superbly in the business world, and the one I envy the most, (Laughter) -- it is not you.

MR. GLEASON: I know.

THE PRESIDENT: It is not Hope.

MR. GLEASON: I know.

THE PRESIDENT: It is not Elliott. If I could just be half as good as Jack Nicklaus...(Laughter.)

A long time ago, back when the ball was round in football, I played a little football against another school in the Big Ten, and I loved the competition because Ohio State always represented a great skill, great competence, tremendous competitive urge and so forth. And as much as I hate to lose to them, I think they represent the best, and of course, Jack Nicklaus in golf represents the finest. And Jack, to play with you today and have you break the course record was a great thrill for me.

MORE

(OVER)

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You and I didn't contribute one thing to our score.

MR. GLEASON: Yes we did; you broke a record today.

THE PRESIDENT: What did I do?

MR. GLEASON: We went around the entire course, and there was not one dissident voice or sign throughout the entire area. And that is a record.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I just want to thank you and everybody that was related, Mr. Fuqua and all of the others, who made a significant contribution to this.

I have a couple of serious comments to make. You know, as an office holder in the Federal Government, who carries a lot of weight in Washington -- in only Washington -- it gives me a great deal of pleasure tonight to say that I want to extend to you happy birthday, to a man who carries a lot of weight, anywhere, anywhere, Jackie Gleason. (Laughter.)

I did appreciate, as Jack Nicklaus and you and Bob and Elliott Kahn and the others know -- after a couple of hard weeks and a few more coming down the road, it was great to be here and participate. Still, I can't quite get all of the problems out of my mind, even on a delightful day like this.

You know, on the first tee, Jackie Gleason asked me this question: what was my greatest problem? I think he was referring to golf. (Laughter.) But I had what was really on my mind, and I said, "Congress." (Laughter.)

But I enjoyed playing with others in our fivesome; it was a great treat. All of them are far better, infinitely more competent than myself, but I am going to work at it. And if you are kind enough to invite Betty and me down next year -- that is a subtle way of asking for an invitation.

MR. GLEASON: You are not only invited next year, but if you follow me, I know where a martini is. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, somebody asked me, out on the golf course, how I shot today, and I said I shot a 72. The truth was, that is before I asked for a rebate. (Laughter.)

But, let me say, I appreciate very much, Jackie, the opportunity to be with all of you, to be with Jack Nicklaus and to meet Barbara Nicklaus and their son, Steve, and daughter, Nancy, and to meet the others, who are here, and to be with people who are superb, the best. It is the kind of challenge that I think we in American have to seek and work to achieve. So, thank you very much on behalf of Betty and myself.

MORE

Page 3

You know, we have had more pickets outside of Washington concerning her than concerning me, but that is an indication of her character. And I am very proud to introduce to all of you the First Lady, my dear wife, Betty Ford.

END

(AT 8:05 P.M. EDT)

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M.E./E *

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March 11, 1975

Dear Jackie:

I want to tell you once again how much I enjoyed participating in the Gleason Golf Classic. It was indeed a pleasure to play with such pros as yourself, Bob Hope, Elliott Kahn, and that other fellow, Jack Nicklaus, wasn't bad either.

You were so generous in presenting me with gifts commemorating the tournament that I scarcely know how to begin thanking you. The set of gold-plated irons, the shoes, and the pewter cups are all deeply appreciated and will be put to good use I assure you.

February 26 was also special because it was your birthday, and I am delighted that we were able to join with you in celebrating this event. Again, many happy returns of the day!

With my gratitude for your gracious hospitality, and with warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jackie Gleason
407 Lincoln Road
Miami Beach, Florida 33139

cc: Mary Fenton ✓

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GRF:MFW:MH:mh

GIFT

30 gold plated irons, shoes + pewter cups
from - 25 Gleason Golf Classic

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EXECUTIVE

MEI/6*

X

December 15, 1975

STRAIGHT WIRE

Mr. and Mrs. Jackie ^{XX}Gleason
c/o Hank Meyer
2990 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, Florida 33137

Congratulations. Our hearts are with you on your wedding day and Betty and I join your many friends in wishing you both a joyful and a happy life together.

GERALD R. FORD

GRF:RLE:AVH:RLE:aby

50 T
Yr wedding day

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006 DLY GOVT WHITE HOUSE DC DEC 15
PMS MR AND MRS JACKIE GLEASON DLR DONT DWR
C/O HANK MEYER
2990 BISCAYNE BOULEVARD
MIAMI FL 33137

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CONGRATULATIONS. OUR HEARTS ARE WITH YOU ON YOUR WEDDING
DAY AND BETTY AND I JOIN YOUR MANY FRIENDS IN WISHING YOU BOTH
A JOYFUL AND A HAPPY LIFE TOGETHER.

GERALD R. FORD.

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