

Meeting -- Monday, April 14, 1969

Clifford Gorsuch, Regional Director,
National Association of Broadcast Employees & Technicians
J. F. Donley, Regional Vice President of the Union
(National Broadcasting Co.)
Albert Recht, Vice President of the Union
(American Broadcasting Co.)

*Nat. Assoc. of
Broadcast
Employees +
Technicians*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Letters were written to:

Al Hardy, International Brother-
hood of Electrical Workers

Clifford Gorsuch, National
Association of Broadcast
Employees and Technicians

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

5/18/69

Mr. Ziegler's office:

Attached is a copy of the merno I mentioned in my conversation last Friday. Mr. Whitehead asked me to find out if this has been taken care of -- and if the unions had had a reply.

Thanks so much.

Eva Daughtrey
Rm. 103 - EOB
Extension 2786

Attachment

Can't
find —
where to
send a
copy

5/16
2:55
Make a copy.

Ziegler's
office
will
call

Request
Telecommunications

April 17, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR RON ZEIGLER

In discussions with representatives from broadcast employees unions about problems in the communications industry, they have used the opportunity to raise an issue that I believe falls in your shop.

They are concerned about the use of Signal Corps (WHCA) employees and equipment rather than network employees in the setting up and operation of equipment for Presidential and Vice Presidential television coverage. They feel that this is a bad practice because of the unprofessional quality of the resulting program and claim the networks agree but are reluctant to raise the issue with you. For example, the wild noise in coverage of the Inaugural Address was attributed to WHCA use of Signal Corps microphones rather than the specially designed mikes provided by the network pool. The situation apparently grows out of personal preferences of President Johnson and the general availability of Signal Corps personnel.

It may well be that we should prefer to use the network pool if the quality would, in fact, be significantly improved and the President would thereby come across better. It certainly would seem to help relations with the TV and radio press. I suggested that there may be important security reasons for use of Signal Corps personnel, but I doubt that is so and think a more considered letter to the unions is in order since they appear to feel strongly about this.

Could you either take care of this matter or suggest an appropriate reply?

signed

- cc: Mr. Ellsworth
- Mr. Holgren
- Mr. Whitehead
- Central Files

Coy T. Whitehead
Staff Assistant

CTWhitehead:ed

*Nat Assoc of
Emp & Tech*

May 23, 1969

Dear Mr. Gorsuch:

I have inquired about the matter we discussed at our meeting on April 14, regarding use of network equipment and crews, rather than White House Communications Agency equipment and personnel for Presidential television and radio appearances.

I am informed that this matter is under discussion with the networks, and I am sure they can give you an appropriate rundown on the status of these discussions.

Sincerely,

Clay T. Whitehead
Staff Assistant

Mr. Clifford Gorsuch
Regional Director
National Association of Broadcast
Employees and Technicians
4530 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20008

cc: Mr. Flanigan
Mr. Hofgren
Mr. Whitehead ✓
Mr. Rose
Central Files

CTWhitehead:ed



NABET

Regional Director
CLIFFORD L. GORSUCH
4530 CONNECTICUT AVENUE APT. 211
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008

June 11, 1969

Dr. Clay T. Whitehead
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Whitehead:

I want you to know how much we appreciate your taking up the matter of the Signal Corps performing our contractually specified and legally guaranteed work for Presidential and related broadcast originations, - television and radio.

As I informed you during our frank exchange in your office, - the broadcast managements seem to be in the position of "having their hats in their hands" when such matters are discussed with White House representatives. They are reluctant to "rattle cages" -- even on their own behalf.

I shall check into the situation with local broadcast management people, but, I reiterate that such investigation must be based upon our "entitlement" as set forth in our labor agreements. I just cannot let go of this tiger's tail -- am certain that you understand exactly what I mean.

Your letter of May 23rd is very much appreciated and I only regret that my out-of-town commitments prevented a more timely response.

If I deem it necessary I shall contact Bill Usery and suggest a conference on the matter with all parties participating.

Sincerely,

NABET

lack of response RLE
 Elaborate problems want to talk about.

FCC

ownership etc type issues main
 concern rather than programming
 Impact of license renewal on station employees.
 50% ownership of network programs.

CATV

program orig OK - can organize

→ Use of govt sec (Sig Logo) for official broadcasts
 (Pres address etc)
 e.g. Sig Logo tape of Pres. budget talk
 Mgt/Unions unhappy Sig Logo qual
 unprofessional.

→