

Sunday, 25 November 2018

Playing With a President

Former U.S President Harry Truman appeared on the Jack Benny show on October 18, 1959, but that's not the whole story.

A future president wanted some publicity thanks to Benny, too.

Before the Truman show even aired, Vice-President Richard Nixon "demanded" equal time. And Jack gave him time. It wasn't quite equal, but it gave the Republican good publicity.

First came this story in the Associated Press on October 14, 1959.

TRUMAN ON BENNY'S SHOW; NIXON WANTS EQUAL TIME

By JAMES BACON

(AP Movie-TV Writer)

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — Ex-President Harry S. Truman turns up in an unlikely place next Sunday: guest star on a comedy show.

Jack Benny, his host, says he has a demand for equal time from Vice President Richard M. Nixon.

"I wrote him back that he's not eligible for my show until he makes president," Benny quipped. Benny and Nixon have been friends for years.

FRIENDLY WITH BOTH

"I'm neither a Republican nor a Democrat," said Jack in explaining why he is so friendly with leaders of both parties. He said Nixon had written him congratulating him on the show business coup of snagging the former President of the United States as a guest star. "Some of my friends have advised me that I should demand equal time," Nixon wrote Benny.

"I think he was kidding," said Jack.

A reporter asked Benny how he managed to get Truman to appear with him.

"Actually," replied Benny, "I didn't ask him. He asked me."

Some months ago a columnist asked Benny if he intended to use the same old guest stars seen on most of the big TV shows.

OFFBEAT STARS

"My answer was that I was seeking offbeat guest stars such as Mrs. Jimmy Stewart and I might try for Harry S. Truman The story got printed but I really had no intention of asking the former President of the United States to appear on a comedy show.

"One day Mr. Truman called me and asked: 'What's this I read about my appearing on your show? I'm ready anytime you ask me.' "Benny and the former President once did a benefit violin-piano duet for the Kansas City Symphony.

"He was so grateful to me for helping out those musicians that he was eager to do something for me. I told him that I do benefit concerts all the time, I love to do them. He owed me nothing. But when Truman agreed to be on the show, Jack suggested that the Truman portion be taped in the Truman Library at Independence, Mo.

Benny said he and the former President had only one disagreement during the taping. "I wanted to keep it dignified and Mr. Truman is worried about my getting laughs," Benny

Benny agreed, Nixon didn't appear on his TV show, though, This United Press International story of November 21, 1959 fills us in:



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Fernando Llera Blog Cartoons



Public **Function** Secretary creates new online platform to fiaht

corruption. - ©2019 fernandolleracartoons.com 11 minutes ago

🖺 Cartoon Research

Pondering "Pocahontas" - I think Disney's Pocahontas will seem better as time passes. While it is flawed, there is still much to recommend in it. Here's my opinion.

6 hours ago

Rews From ME

Today's Video Link - Part of the Tony Awards ceremony vou never see at home is what goes on during the commercials. On the most recent telecast, host James Corden got Billy Por... 7 hours ago

Rip Jagger's Dojo



Panther Girl Of The Kongo! - I have one word for vou in regards the

serial* Panther Girl of the Kongo *-- *Crawdads*! This movie purports to have monsters, but it turns out those cla..

8 hours ago

Movies with Michael



Review: Once Upon A Time ... In Hollywood -Michael's Movie

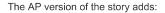
Benny Plays Fiddle, Nixon Accompanies

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21 (UPI)—Vice President Nixon ended a politically significant week tonight by playing a duet with Jack Benny-sometime music partner of former President Truman.

Nixon supplied piano accompaniment for Benny's violin before an audience composer of many of the nation's political writers at the National Press Club. The tune was one of Mr. Truman's specialities-the "Missouri Waltz." Benny, a featured entertainer at the press club's President's Black Tie Ball, explained that he had written Nixon to congratulate the Vice President on a "wonderful job" on his trip to Russia. In reply, Benny said, he received from Nixon a note saying "After your program with Truman, I demand equal time."

Benny gave Nixon his chance, and then breezed through a speeded-up version of the "Missouri Waltz." Nixon's

judgement on the performance, as pronounced to the other guests, was: "All of us should stay in our own rackets."



The occasion for the performance was the annual president's ball of the club, honoring William H. Lawrence, a correspondent for the New York Times.

Benny also played the violin with the noted violinist Isaac Stern on a program which included metropolitan opera stars Dolores Wilson and Robert Merrill. Benny was presented with the Laurel Leaf Award of the American Composers' Alliance for promotion of symphonic music.

Benny had emceed the D.C. radio correspondents dinner in 1953, at which Nixon was present.

Nixon and Benny met again, notably in 1961 where the ex vice-president handed Benny a plaque at an American Israeli Foundation dinner to mark the creation of a violin scholarship in Benny's name. And in 1969, Jack greeted the now-president at Andrews Air Force base after Nixon's eight-day tour of Europe.

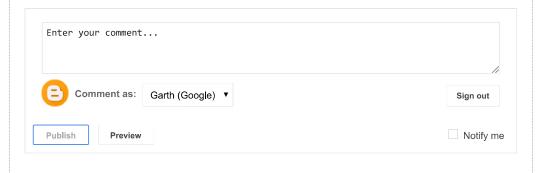
As far as we know, Harry Truman didn't ask Benny for a response in rebuttal, but you can read about his musical escapades with Jack HERE and HERE.

Posted by Yowp at 07:00

Labels: Jack Benny

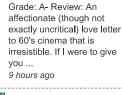
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Yowp



Scooter Looter Cycle -*Scooter Looter* is one of the Hanna-

Barbera cartoons that's chock-full of short cuts and the kind of cartoon that never would have been made the following... 1 day ago

E Termite Terrace headlines



Popeye Cans the Spinach (Commerci al Corner) -Due to the Tom and

Jerry hiatus, the monthly commercials are returning. This month we'll look at Popeye canning the spinach and advertising with other a...

3 days ago

The World of Knight SATURDAY



AFTERNO ON - Nice view. I actually drew it into a panel today.

5 days ago

Way Too Damn Lazy To Write A Blog



The Classic Comedy Rorschach Test - * In

5 days ago

Mark Kausler's CatBlog

Racketty Ann's Mystery Flight! - Here are pages 5 through eight of "Racketty Ann and the Lost World". There's delightful fantasy here as Racketty Ann and Bla Bla take a ride on the back o... 6 days ago

Peter Gray's Comics and Art



New blog on my Art work...Origi nal art...prints for sale

petergrayart

ist@gmail.com for prices https://petergrayart.blogspot

.com/ Will update it like I do on facebook. 2 weeks ago

Supervised By Fred Avery: Tex Avery's Warner Brothers Cartoons



Coming Soon To This Blog...

1 month ago

What About Thad? Chris Reccardi Interviewed

- I don't want to start a practice of publishing an interview every time someone from Ren & Stimpy dies, but Chris Reccardi (1964-2019) was too important a f... 2 months ago

E Likely Looney, Mostly Merrie

That's all, folks! - My posts have gotten thinner over the years. I'm aware of that. I've been hopeful for a long time, that I can remain active with blogging and sharing furth...
6 months ago

Kids, Eh? #1288: Bird Call - #1288: Bird Call 10 months ago

Cartoons, Model Sheets, & Stuff



Pete Hothead Model Sheets -Here are a few model sheets from

the first Pete Hothead short. Released in 1952 and directed former Tom & Jerry animator Pete Burness. Ted Parmelee was the...

1 year ago

Dr. Grob's Animation Review

He Poses for his Portrait -

'He Poses for his Portrait' is the second of only two surviving Newlyweds cartoons Émile Cohl made in the United States. 1 day ago

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