

Hot Off The Wire

By BRAD WILLIAMS

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And what do you do for a living, young man?
I write political news.

Well, say, there sure has been a lot of it this year, hasn't there.
Wow! And with the conventions coming up, you must be busier than a gun lobbyist these days.

Yes, sir, I certainly am.

Well, come on now, let me in on the latest news.

Okay. There never has been a president of the United States named Hubert.

Gosh. Seems like I saw a wire service report to that effect in the Plain Dealer the other day.

I wrote it.

But is it really true? Not one single Hubert has ever been president of the United States? Are you positive?

I looked it up. It's my job.

Well, you know, that will make things a little tougher for Hubert at the Chicago convention.

Yes. Too bad his name isn't Lyndon. We've already had a president named Lyndon.

. . . or been had by one named Lyndon.

Beg your pardon?

I was talking about a president named Lyndon.

Oh.

You're not a political analyst, I gather.

No, I specialize in the news side of politics only.

Got any more red-hot items.

Oh yes. Lots.

For instance?

There has never been a president of the United States named Richard.

You're kidding!

No. I looked that up too.

You must spend all your time in the library.

I just like to dig, dig, dig, I guess. Why, when I was looking up the information on Hubert and Richard, I also discovered that there never has been a president of the United States named Eugene . . .

That ought to brighten Hubert's day.

. . . Or a president named Nelson, or Ronald.

Richard should be ecstatic.

There has been a president named George. He was one of the early ones.

Do you suppose, when this word gets out, that George will win in a landslide?

I don't make news; I just report it.

Well, it seems to me that if you're going to run around bursting into print with such press-halting flashes as the ones you've been revealing to me . . . well, you ought to have some conception of the political turmoil your news is going to produce. Don't you think so?

I don't like to think.

Say, you'd be great for television.

I tried to get a job as an announcer, but they told me I'd have to change my name.

Which is . . .

Chet Brinkley.

I see. Maybe you could write for television.

That was my former job. I used to write ad libs for the baseball announcers.