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NEWS CONFERENCE

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE  
WITH JERRY TER HORST  
AT 12:43 P.M. EDT  
SEPTEMBER 5, 1974  
THURSDAY

MR. TER HORST: Once again I am sorry it is late, but I know a lot of you were over at the economic meeting in the East Room and so we took that into consideration, too.

The schedule today, of course, as you know has been posted. The President held his customary meetings with staff today, including General Haig, Secretary Kissinger, Bob Hartmann, myself. As you know, he was involved in the opening of the economists' meeting on inflation this morning. He delivered the opening statements and remained there until about 10:40. And, as the schedule indicates, he is supposed to return to the session this afternoon about 4:30, at which time he will receive a series of representative statements from the economists.

I anticipate the President will be there for about an hour receiving their reports to him.

Following that meeting, there will be a reception for those attending, which the President will attend, in the White House. That will be around 6:00 -- that is, the President will be there about 6:00.

Q Will there be coverage?

MR. TER HORST: We will have to check into that and see how we are going to handle that one, Fran.

Some of you have asked about the availability of transcripts from the economists' meetings. Of course the remarks by the President have already been made available here and we will make again his concluding remarks available as soon as we get them this afternoon.

But a complete transcript of the entire meeting is being done overnight, and the two of them will be available, but probably not until tomorrow night.

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At 10:30 tomorrow morning, for your guidance, Chairman Greenspan, of the Economic Advisers, will brief here to summarize the work of today's session and take your questions here.

Q What time?

MR. TER HORST: 10:30 tomorrow morning in this room.

Continuing with the scheduling for today, the President met with the Secretary of Transportation Brinegar at 12 noon. This is one in a series of meetings with Members of the Cabinet and, of course, the meeting with Secretary Brinegar concerned problems and progress in transportation with particular emphasis, I am told, on Federal policies concerning mass transit.

At 1:00, the President will participate in the promotion ceremony for General Scowcroft who is being promoted to Lieutenant General in the Air Force. I think we have some biographical information available for you on the General.

At 2:00, the President has another in a series of meetings with the Domestic Council. This series is designed to provide him with a complete domestic policy update, so to speak, plus an outlook for fiscal year 1976. Present in today's meeting will be Ken Cole, the Director of the Council, Jim Cavanaugh, the Deputy Director, Geoffrey Shepard, the Associate Director.

At about 3:45, the President will meet with Jack Streight, the Imperial Potentate for the Shrine of North America. This is a courtesy call which had to be postponed from several days ago. Among those present will be Representative John Rhodes of Arizona.

At 4:30, again, as you know, there will be the economists' meeting at which the President will attend, and at 6:00, the reception which we have already mentioned.

The President's schedule today will conclude about 6:30, we believe, with Governor William Scranton. This is another one of a series of continuing meetings the President is holding with Governor Scranton concerning his work on the transition team and, as we have said before, the Governor is being employed by the President to help him with finding the best talents available for staffing jobs in the Administration as positions in restructuring occur.

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That pretty much concludes the schedule. We will post tomorrow's activities as early as possible.

Regarding tomorrow's Philadelphia trip, I might say you should look for a press departure for those who are going to Philadelphia about 4:00. FOR GUIDANCE, I can tell you that the President plans to attend a reception on his arrival there. He is going up, again FOR GUIDANCE, by helicopter, and returning by helicopter, and he is going to a reception and then to the dinner, and we anticipate he will probably speak sometime along about 9:00.

I hope we will have an advance on his address early enough for you to file on a hold-for-release basis.

Q From here?

MR. TER HORST: From here or wherever we can get it, yes.

Q How will the press go?

MR. TER HORST: The press will go by plane.

Q Any pool?

MR. TER HORST: I will have to be the pool on the chopper and I will brief as soon as we get there. You should be there by the time we arrive.

Q Where will the plane go from here?

MR. TER HORST: We will post that tomorrow, but I believe it will probably go, if possible, from National. I think that is where it is going from.

Q Can you tell us on a protective spot basis, is there no way to have an accompanying helicopter for a pool?

MR. TER HORST: We are looking into the possibilities of a press helicopter, but I can't give you any guidance that we can get one. We will post it for the pool if we can.

Q Where will it land?

MR. TER HORST: In Philadelphia.

Q Where?

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MR. TER HORST: I don't have the precise spot, Helen. We hope to get a full schedule later on today on the total trip.

Q He could take off from the lawn here, couldn't he?

MR. TER HORST: Yes, he would take off from the lawn.

Q Did you say there would be an advance speech tomorrow night?

MR. TER HORST: Well, if we get an advance text, and I am sure we will. If we get it in time enough, we will release it in time enough that you can file on a hold-for-release basis.

Q Do you have any guidance now, Jerry, on how long the speech may run?

MR. TER HORST: I don't know that, but let me finish with the announcements and then I can take your questions.

On Monday, you know the President is going to Pittsburgh and we anticipate a press departure about 8:00 or maybe a little before. His speech will be at approximately 11:30 and there is, of course, direct return to Washington after that.

I also need to announce to you the President's intention to nominate the following persons: Paul Rand Dixon, of Nashville, Tennessee, to be a member of the Federal Trade Commission. This is a reappointment. Will Hill Tankersley of Montgomery, Alabama, to be Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. He succeeded Dr. Theodore Marrs who is serving on the White House staff as Special Assistant to the President with the Public Liaison Office of Bill Baroody.

And the President also intends to nominate Melvin Conant of New York to be an Assistant Administrator for International Affairs of the Federal Energy Administration.

I think you have those announcements.

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Q Jerry, to get back to the schedule a moment --

MR. TER HORST: Let me finish the announcements.

Q Is it anticipated there will be advance texts on the President's statement in Pittsburgh on Monday?

MR. TER HORST: In each case where there is an advance on the President's address, I am anticipating getting you an advance. I hope we have done well by you.

At 12:00 tomorrow afternoon, the President will meet with the leaders of major women's organizations throughout the United States. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the President's plans for the participation of women in his Administration and to hear from them what they feel are the issues of prime concern, and to determine what the President and the Administration can do to address these concerns.

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Q Jerry, you go so fast it is impossible for the pencil to keep up.

MR. TER HORST: I am sorry, I didn't know you were taking notes. (Laughter)

Let me back up. I will back up a bit. My apologies, Ted.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the President's plans for the participation of women in his Administration and to hear from them on what they feel are the issues of prime concern and to determine what the President and the Administration can do to address these concerns.

Q Where will that be?

MR. TER HORST: This meeting will be held here from about 12:00 to 12:30. We will post a list of participants at that time.

Following the meeting, Anne Armstrong and two representatives from the women's organizations represented will be out to brief here and give you a report on the meeting. That will be about 12:45, I would think. I don't have a full list of the groups represented, but some of them will be NOW, the National Federation of Business and Professional Women, Hadassah, the National Women's Political Caucus, the League of Women Voters and so on.

I just wanted to give you a range of the kinds of organizations that will be present.

Q Will that be in the Oval Office?

MR. TER HORST: Either in the Oval Office, the Cabinet Room or a room large enough to accommodate the number.

Q What is the total number?

MR. TER HORST: I do not have that and we may not know for certain until I get the full list of who has accepted. But we will post that as soon as we get it.

I think that takes care of the announcements and I will take your questions now.

Q Jerry, I have a two part question relating to the \$850,000 which the President proposed for San Clemente. The first part is, does the President agree with Mr. David Eisenhower that his father-in-law, Mr. Nixon, is a "natural resource who ought to run for the Senate," and how does this amount of \$850,000 which Senator Montoya says is too much by many miles, square with the President's requesting belt tightening by the American people?

MR. TER HORST: I think that the remarks by David Eisenhower speak for themselves and I don't think I need to address those.

The President has expressed himself on several occasions regarding his own attitude and respect for the former President and I think I will leave that where he has also put it.

Q How does the \$850,000 square with the inflation business?

MR. TER HORST: This, as you know, this particular sum of money, is, I am told, in line with the amount of money that was provided to other former Presidents as a transitional matter.

Q Then one aspect of this is the second part of my question: Why does Mr. Nixon need a \$42,500 press secretary, Jerry, when apparently from reports he doesn't meet with the press?

MR. TER HORST: I think I would address that question to San Clemente, Les. I am sure the former President can give you a better answer than I can.

As you know, under the Transition Act, the President is entitled to money to hire a staff and there is no definition placed on it by the legislation of Congress as to who is to be on the staff. That is left strictly to the former President.

Q Jerry, the Senate Democratic Caucus resolved today that they would stay in session until the first of the year, if necessary, to consider any new major economic proposals that President Ford may have. Is it anticipated it will be necessary for Congress to stay in session to deal with the economy, and as a result of the summits, will he have any economic suggestions for Congress?

MR. TER HORST: Well, as the President has said before, he is hoping the Congress will be able to complete its work without the necessity for a lame duck session, a session after the election. However, the President, I know, is delighted with the resolution of the Democratic Caucus this morning in which the policy Committee for the Democrats in the Senate pledged cooperation with the President in an effort to solve the problems of inflation and, in fact, I think they used the words that they would support fully the President of the United States and would agree to give highest priority to the problem, and that they do remain ready to stay in session, if necessary.

The President welcomes their attitude of cooperation but he does hope that the things that will need to be done, or things that he may suggest to them that can be done this session will be acted upon without the need for a special session.

Q Jerry, Senator Byrd is quoted as saying he doesn't think the President is moving fast enough on policy. Is there any reaction from the President?

MR. TER HORST: I don't have any specific reaction to the Senator's comments to give you. The President has been busy working on that very subject to which the Senator is addressing himself all morning, and it has been a little difficult to get to see him on specific questions of that nature.

Q Jerry, have there been any regrets within the White House that Mr. Seidman made his initial projection that there would likely be no major action this year and then that you didn't back off it, as far off as you would have liked to yesterday?

MR. TER HORST: No, I wouldn't characterize it, Marty, as regrets in the White House or any feeling on my part of not supporting what Mr. Seidman said. But I think the point should be well taken, as Mr. Seidman, I think, in perspective tried to show, he was asked whether realistically one could expect action by Congress this session and he pointed out some of the difficulties, timetablewise, that would get in the way of consideration of major legislative initiatives so late in the session.

But I am told, since I was not at the meeting, he also stressed and feels that there are many things the President may be able to do that may not require legislative action or perhaps simple easier legislative action similar to the Cost of Living bill which the Congress did provide rather quickly for the President.

Q Jerry, the Democrats seem to be in effect pushing the President to come up with some very specific and major legislation and they are offering to meet in this spirit. Do you see the President responding favorably to this prodding?

MR. TER HORST: I am sure the President will respond favorably. As I said, he is pleased with their expression of cooperation and he will do everything he can jointly with the Congress and based again on the timetable they set for themselves to tackle this problem.

Q Jerry, has the Quadriad given the President their recommendations on housing action, anti-inflation action in the area of housing? It is housing in the area that would require no legislation.

MR. TER HORST: I guess on both of those I would have to say that I am not aware of the specifics, but I do know that the President is vitally concerned with the problem of the housing industry and, in fact, that was one of the major areas of discussion with Secretary Lynn a few days ago with the President on what could be done. But I am not aware that a specific program is ready to be announced today in that respect.



Q Jerry, the nomination of Melvin Conant, was that in the works under President Nixon or did that originate with Mr. Ford?

MR. TER HORST: No, I believe that was in the works at the time President Ford assumed office. However, the Ford Administration did investigate fully this particular appointment, as it has done with several others, and the investigation indicated to the President that Mr. Conant would be an ideal man for this particular assignment.

Q Jerry, this would not be an incorrect statement, would it, that while Mr. Seidman pointed out the difficulties timetablewise in tackling inflation, that the President, for his part, looks before next year, notwithstanding Mr. Seidman's views, the President looks to a period before next year of getting some things done that can be done?

MR. TER HORST: Very much so. The President is desirous of moving on this as rapidly as he can. There is absolutely no doubt in the President's mind now on that point, and no lack of desire either.

Q When is your list of budget cuts going to be ready and presented to the Congress?

MR. TER HORST: I don't have a date to give you on that. It is being prepared now and I imagine in a day or so we should know that, Andy.

Q Jerry, an equal rights group has charged that the Federal Government has failed to enforce civil rights in northern and western schools because of bureaucrats fumbling and political pressures. Is the President aware of this and is he doing anything about it? It comes from the Center for National Policy Review, they conducted a three year study.

MR. TER HORST: I am not certain that the President is particularly aware of that report this morning, but he is obviously, as he has demonstrated, I hope, very much concerned about equal treatment and equal justice for all Americans and I am sure the Justice Department and HEW and other agencies of Government concerned with that problem will take cognizance of it.

Q Well, in line with that, Jerry, an agency of Government, HEW, the Secretary of HEW Caspar Weinberger, despite a three year study and a very deep one at that, 119 pages or so with a great amount of documentation, refused to issue any kind of comment at all, even to the point of saying that he had seen it or received it or didn't receive it or anything at all. It was left to a subofficial, Mr. Holmes of the Office of Civil Rights to issue a statement.

So I find it difficult to square that with your statement that the necessary agencies of Government, such as HEW and the Justice Department will be concerned.

MR. TER HORST: Well, I would think this is an area they would want to be concerned about, knowing the President's concern, and I am certain that, if the President's concern is not known to them, it will become obvious to them.

Q May I ask you one other question?

MR. TER HORST: Yes.

Q What is the President's view on abortion?

MR. TER HORST: The President's long held position as a Member of Congress and as Vice President and as President is that this is a matter which should be elective for the States to decide and he personally has favored in Congress a constitutional amendment to that effect.

Q You mean to overturn the Supreme Court ruling?

MR. TER HORST: Yes.

Q Does he still favor it?

MR. TER HORST: He still holds to that position.

Q What did you think about Mrs. Ford's position on this topic yesterday?

MR. TER HORST: Well, as you know, I have read the transcript, as you all have, and as I recall, Mrs. Ford was asked a question whether her position was closer to Governor Rockefeller's or that of Senator Buckley and she said definitely Governor Rockefeller's.

Mrs. Ford's concern and the President's concern is essentially that there must be a remedy for persons where abortion becomes necessary because of serious illness, or a case of a criminal attack of some kind. Those are obviously primary concerns.

Q Jerry, then if Louisiana had a law which forbade abortion for any reason, like rape, incest, or grave threat, if Louisiana passed a law, does he feel that Louisiana should be able to prohibit abortions for anything, is that what you mean?

MR. TER HORST: What I am saying is that the President's position is as I have stated, that the President favors a constitutional amendment permitting the States to enact legislation in this field. So he is leaving it up to the States.

The President does not favor Federal legislation on the subject of abortion, obviously.

Q How does he feel about abortion per se, I mean the question of abortion on demand?

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MR. TER HORST: The President, in 1972, I recall, opposed the idea of a Michigan referendum on the subject of abortion on demand.

Q Jerry, did the President take a position on the Buckley amendment or on the Helms amendment or the Hogan amendment?

MR. TER HORST: I can't recall specifically. He might have, but I can't recall specifically.

Q Jerry, what is the status of the meetings between Justice, Defense and the President on amnesty and with the Pittsburgh speech, can we expect the amnesty statement out Tuesday?

MR. TER HORST: The President still has not finished what he wants to do on the subject of announcing an amnesty program. That is still in process and, as I mentioned, it probably cannot come this week because of the time schedule. Monday looks like a difficult day and I would ON BACKGROUND suggest you think about Tuesday for that.

Q Can you suggest a forum maybe in which that announcement may be made?

MR. TER HORST: I cannot.

Q Back to abortion for a minute. In answer to a question as to the President's position on abortion on demand, you said he opposed a Michigan referendum on abortion in 1972. That doesn't tell me anything unless I know what that referendum was.

MR. TER HORST: It was for abortion on demand. I said he opposed a referendum on the question of abortion on demand.

Q Would that have permitted abortion on demand?

MR. TER HORST: Yes.

Q Would you say his views are closer to Rockefeller's or Buckley's?

MR. TER HORST: I think, since the President is going to have a news conference before too long again, it would be a perfect question for you to bring up, and you can get the answer first hand.

Q Your 1972 reference, Jerry, on the referendum, you are implying his position is still the same today?

MR. TER HORST: I have detected no change.

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Q Does his opposition to a Federal law mean that he opposes an amendment to the U.S. Constitution which would protect the unborn?

MR. TER HORST: Well, let me put it this way: The President favors an amendment to the Constitution which would give the States the right to enact legislation in this field and he is a firm believer in the idea of local government taking more responsibility rather than less and he has not been in favor of Federal legislation on the subject.

Q But, Jerry, is it fair to say that he and Mrs. Ford hold somewhat different views on this?

MR. TER HORST: I would think their views are not really that far apart. And, as I recall again, I don't know how much detail is available, but Mrs. Ford's view yesterday, as expressed in her news conference, was only that she was closer to Governor Rockefeller's position than she was to Senator Buckley's, which is not a very definitive answer, I guess, but that is what she said.

Q Jerry, if I may move from abortion to breakfast, I understand that Mrs. Ford said that the President has become adjusted -- I didn't hear the quote exactly -- but he now takes full advantage of the fine service here at the White House. And yet I understand we are now in possession of some pool film of his preparation of breakfast this morning.

I wonder if you would verify for me that that film was not unrequested. Was that White House suggested and, second, is the President indeed preparing breakfast for himself or only for cameras?

MR. TER HORST: Well, to start with the beginning of your question, we have been deluged with requests from photographers to take pictures of the President making breakfast. The President said to me, before we arranged to have the picture taken, that since he now lives at the White House he no longer finds it necessary to make breakfast because he has help in the White House which does it for him.

But, however, it turns out that he still pops English muffins or toast in the toaster on his own. (Laughter)

He is not adverse to pouring a second cup of tea himself and the photographers still wanted to get a picture of that. So at their request, we made this opportunity available.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

AT 1:08 P.M. EDT)