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NEWS CONFERENCE

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 1:45 P.M. EDT

OCTOBER 12, 1974

SATURDAY

MR. NESSEN: I have a couple of things, and I might as well do everything at one time.

On Tuesday, at four o'clock in the afternoon in the East Room, the President will sign the campaign reform bill. All 535 Members of Congress are being invited to attend.

At the request of Senator Brooke, the President has today recorded a few remarks that a group of citizens in Boston are -- you have to check the details with Brooke's office -- but a group of citizens want to put some announcements on the radio in Boston urging people to resolve their problems there.

As part of this, he asked the President to record a statement to be broadcast on the radio and the President has recorded the statement. Would you like me to go through it? It is short.

Q Can we get copies of it?

MR. NESSEN: I only have his reading copy at the moment. I could get it typed for you, if you like.

Q How long is it? Read it slowly.

MR. NESSEN: This is the radio thing.

Q We would like a copy of the broadcast, the tape.

MR. NESSEN: The tape?

Q We would very much like it.

MR. NESSEN: Would you really.

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Q It is nationwide, remember. We can play it nationwide.

Q Can you run copies of those things off?

MR. NESSEN: We will get to that.

The President was notified this morning of the resignation of Leon Jaworski. Today was the fourth and fifth vetoes of his Administration.

Q Which one is which?

MR. NESSEN: The President was notified of the resignation of Mr. Jaworski today. I think we could say the President feels very deep gratitude to Mr. Jaworski for his devoted service in office. The President realizes that Mr. Jaworski accepted this appointment at a very critical time, and he accepted the appointment at an extreme personal sacrifice to himself. So, he is very appreciative for Mr. Jaworski's services.

You have probably seen the two letters, have you not, that have been released by the Special Prosecutor's Office. We are not putting them out here, but I have seen them, and they give a full and complete explanation of his resignation. He comments on a couple of other matters that you may be curious about, and I suggest you look at the letters because they may answer a lot of your questions.

I am sure you would ask me about a replacement, wouldn't you? The replacement will be made by the Attorney General. That is what I understand, anyhow.

Q There will be one, then?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Same title?

MR. NESSEN: Before the effective date of Mr. Jaworski's resignation, a replacement will be made by the Attorney General.

Q What is the effective date?

MR. NESSEN: The effective date is the fifth of November. I am sorry. He was appointed the fifth of November 1973. His effective date is October 25, 1974.

Q I take it the President accepted his resignation?

MR. NESSEN: He does not resign to the President. He resigns to Mr. Saxbe.

Q He has no intention of asking otherwise?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I know of. It is my understanding that Mr. Saxbe would make this selection only after thorough consultation with the President and with the President's approval because of the importance of the position.

As I say, you really should get the letters, and they are being given out in the Special Prosecutor's Office.

Just to give you a clue, Mr. Jaworski recommends that his Deputy, Henry Ruth -- what he says in his letter to Saxbe, "I trust that you will not mind my offering a suggestion that he," meaning Henry Ruth, "be given consideration to serve as my successor, this permitting the unfinished matters to continue without interruption," but you should get the full letters.

Q Will the President do that?

MR. NESSEN: They have not had this full consultation yet, Bob. Jaworski only resigned this morning, and Saxbe is out in Ohio somewhere.

Q I just wondered if the President will give this recommendation his consideration.

MR. NESSEN: I think he has to wait and talk to Mr. Saxbe and so forth and Saxbe is out in Ohio today.

Q Is it the feeling of the White House that they would like to keep this Special Prosecutor's position, office, whatever it is, as it is now?

MR. NESSEN: What is the choice? The Special Prosecutor's Office was established by a law.

Q There are several choices, Ron. They are talking about merging.

Q It could be put back inside the Justice Department.

MR. NESSEN: I have heard or seen nothing that would indicate to me any change in the Special Prosecutor's Office.

Q In other words, the feeling right now is that it will stay the same?

MR. NESSEN: That is what I heard this morning, or I have heard nothing to the contrary this morning, is what I should say.

Q What time was the President notified of the resignation?

MR. NESSEN: Between 10 and 10:30.

Q By Whom?

MR. NESSEN: By Mr. Buchen.

Q Does the President have a high regard for Mr. Ruth?

MR. NESSEN: I have not asked him about his regard for Mr. Ruth. I don't know.

What you want is a copy of the tape?

Q Yes, sir.

MR. NESSEN: And a script of what he said?

Q Ron, does the President have any reaction to Mr. Jaworski's specifically making a point of the fact that it was not due to the pardon?

MR. NESSEN: What reaction would there be?

Q He could be grateful.

Q Ron, I have one question for you. Will there be any kind of briefing after the two o'clock --

MR. NESSEN: I think they said -- here is the basic plan. There will be some pictures taken at the beginning of the meeting, and then Miss Porter and all the others -- and I think that is 20 or 21 -- will come out here. I did not tell you that, did I, because I just arranged it by phone. I forgot to tell you.

Miss Porter and all the others will come out here. Miss Porter, I think, will sort of serve as spokesman, but all the others are available for questioning at the same time here.

Q What is the nature of this meeting?

MR. NESSEN: Organization. It is the first time they met. They have to crank up and decide.

Q The President is going to meet with them?

MR. NESSEN: He is going to sit in on it, that is right, and Larry Speakes is going to sit in on it, too, for me. Larry will give you any information that the participants are not able to give you, but I think with 21 people here to ask questions of you, you should be able to get everything you need. It should be one of our basic shambles.

Q Ron, is there any reaction from the President on the report that there is going to be 18 percent cutback in utility, electric utility investment and expansion.

MR. NESSEN: There was a report. I forget what the source of it was. Who were they quoting on that?

Q There was a study some outfit had done themselves. I can't remember the name.

MR. NESSEN: I did not talk to him about that specific aspect.

Q Did he comment on the Mexican oil finding?

MR. NESSEN: Like what?

Q Like what? Like --

MR. NESSEN: Why do you always ask for comment on everything that goes on in the world?

Q It could relieve us --

MR. NESSEN: At the time the Echeverria meeting was announced, I don't think the oil discovery had been announced.

Q No, but now that it has, has the President indicated that he might talk about that?

MR. NESSEN: Did he indicate? He has not indicated to me that he will.

Q Ron, do you have a schedule for tomorrow?

MR. NESSEN: My understanding is that the President is really going to take it easy this weekend.

Somebody misquoted the President in his office. It was he that had the little cold, not Mrs. Ford.

Q He has a little cold?

MR. NESSEN: He has a little cold. I am not announcing that the President has a little cold --

Q So does Susan.

MR. NESSEN: So does everybody in this building. We are very close here, you know. I think Fran asked the President in his office, "How is Mrs. Ford," and the President said, "Fine, and we all went to bed early last night because I have a little cold," and somehow it came out on the wires that Mrs. Ford had a little cold. She does not, but he does.

Q How is the dog?

MR. NESSEN: The dog is healthy, though.

Q Seriously, you said this was a rather short statement.

MR. NESSEN: If we are going to type it for you -- do you really want to hear it? We can get it typed and run off here.

Q It can be typed and run off in 20 minutes.

MR. NESSEN: "Boston is a fine, proud city, the cradle of liberty, where many of the freedoms that we also cherish today in this country were born 200 years ago. The people of Boston share a tradition for reason, fairness and respect for the rights of others.

"Now, in a difficult period for all of you, it is a time to reflect on all that your city means to you, to react in the finest tradition of your city's people. It is up to you, every one of you, every parent and child, to reject violence of any kind in your city, to reject hatred and the shrill voices of the violent few.

"I know that nothing is more important to you than the safety of the children in Boston, and only your calm and thoughtful action now can guarantee that safety. I know that you will all work together for that goal and have one more thing to be proud of in the cradle of liberty. Thank you very much."

Q Ron, was this statement written here or was this written in Boston when the President was asked to broadcast it?

MR. NESSEN: No, this was written here.

Q Ron, was the President concerned the other day when most of the leads that came out of the news conference on this subject put more emphasis on his antibusing remarks than on his antiviolenence remarks. Is he glad to have this opportunity to put an emphasis back on the antiviolenence part now?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. You know, we read that over here at the briefing the next day, and he obviously said all these same things in other forms because he believes it.

Q Ron, he reported that where today, in his office.

MR. NESSEN: The Cabinet Room.

Q Do you know when it is to begin playing?

MR. NESSEN: I think you have to check with Senator Brooke or the citizen's groups in Boston who are organizing it.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 2:01 P.M. EDT)