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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN AND JACK HUSHEN

AT 11:35 A.M. EDT

OCTOBER 25, 1974

FRIDAY

MR. NESSEN: I am sorry to be late, but there were a lot of meetings at the White House this morning which I thought I should attend to gather information. At noon, there is a meeting with the newspaper editors and publishers which I want to go to. If the questioning is not over at that point I will ask Jack to step in and finish for me. We had hoped to get started earlier, but we could not.

I am going to go quickly today because my time is going to be short. We could save the announcements for the end and let Jack do it after I have departed, if you want to do that. I think Jack can do these.

I did attend a meeting this morning which the President held in the Cabinet Room on the fiscal 1975 year budget reductions, and that meeting lasted approximately an hour and 30 minutes.

If you are willing to put off the announcements until the end, I might as well just go ahead and start answering your questions.

Q Tell us about the budget meeting, Ron, since you were there. Can you do that?

MR. NESSEN: Yes. As you know, the President is firmly determined to reduce the budget this year below \$300 million, and as part of this he had requested from the agencies and departments a list of programs in their particular area which they considered marginal. This list has now come back and today for the first time he began going through the list. It is quite long and he will need time to study it. There were no decisions at all made today. It has not reached the point where decisions can be made.

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However, from the list of items that the departments feel is expendable, I think it was obvious to me and to the others at the meeting that this will be perhaps the toughest series of decisions that he will have to make or has made since he has become President.

It will also be tough for Congress and some of the critics in Congress who say that the President has proposed only marshmallows will, I think, have quite a different feeling when they receive his proposals for budget cuts. I think some of the things he said in his speeches of the last few days about wanting a Congress elected which will help him achieve his goals in fighting inflation will be more understandable when you see the kind of decisions that will be involved in the budget cutting.

Q Are we going to see those before the election?

MR. NESSEN: The process only started at 10 o'clock this morning. As I say, it is an extremely difficult process, an extremely difficult decision.

Q Do you expect we will see it before the election, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: I would not expect that you would see them for a while, although the fact that you won't see them for a while is not related to the election.

Q Ron, do you expect we will see them before the election?

MR. NESSEN: I said I don't think you will see them before the election.

Q You said you didn't think we would see them for a while, but you don't think we will see them before the election?

MR. NESSEN: But the fact that you won't is unrelated to the election.

Q Ron, why do you say this will be his toughest decision? Are you suggesting that because there are so many programs that can't be cut or departments that don't want to be cut. In what different ways is this going to be tough?

MR. NESSEN: Because we don't know what programs he is going to propose cuts in, but just from the initial list sent in by the agencies and departments you can see that many of these programs have strong supporters in Congress and in the public.

Q Ron, does the President feel that he might have to cancel some of his campaign trips scheduled between now and election time so he will have more time to work on this list?

MR. NESSEN: No. The President, as you know, Phil, does not cease being President when he leaves the White House. On all of these trips he has worked on Presidential business on the airplane and on helicopters and in his hotel.

Q Ron, do these budget cuts relate further than just expenditure of money; in other words, would they include programs that some people in the Government said are inflationary because of the procedures they follow?

MR. NESSEN: I am not sure I know what you mean, John.

Q I am referring to the fact that a few weeks ago the Administration and the White House was drawing in recommendations of programs that might be inflationary other than the impact of the money spent. They were inflationary for other reasons, because they would curtail supplies or would cut down productivity and that kind of thing. Is this involved in that, too?

MR. NESSEN: We are talking here primarily about cuts that will be needed to meet his goal of a budget below \$300 billion.

Q Ron, this is only with respect to funds that has been involved here, not the other --

MR. NESSEN: We are at a very early stage in this, John.

Q What is the approximate total of the programs the agencies and departments say is marginal? If he cut everything they say is marginal, would that top \$5 billion?

MR. NESSEN: I cannot give you a figure, Norm. His goal is \$300 billion. When he makes his choices the proposals will add up to the point where the budget will be less than \$300 billion.

Q What I am trying to get at is when he has all these programs, if the agencies and departments came up with enough so that it would be possible to get \$5 billion or if it is going to be necessary to go beyond that list to reach \$5 billion.

MR. NESSEN: At the meeting this morning there was no overall figure given for how much all these margin programs would add up to, but when the decisions are made, which is some time away, they will add up to enough to meet his goal of a lower budget.

Q How will he implement these cuts? Will he go to Congress or will he simply impound the funds?

MR. NESSEN: As I say, the decisions on what programs to reduce the spending for has not been made and will not be made for a while, but it would appear that the money could be saved, in some cases, by deferrals, in some cases by rescissions, in some cases by legislative action and, wherever possible, by administrative action.

Q In what case does Congress have to act? It just has to act on deferrals and rescissions, does it not?

MR. NESSEN: That is sort of a negative power of Congress. They can override deferrals and rescissions, as I understand it. The legislative action I was speaking of is legislative action beyond Congress' role in the rescission and deferral process.

Q Was a Pentagon list submitted today?

MR. NESSEN: There is no department or agency in the Government which is exempt from the process which began this morning.

Q You did not really answer the question. Did they come up with some programs too, today?

MR. NESSEN: The Pentagon?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: I say there were no departments or agencies exempted.

Q Can I go back to Norm's question. I am puzzled as to how much money we are talking about in any respect. I thought you said earlier when you started this discussion to cut below \$300 billion. Now are you saying he is trying to get below \$300 or to \$300?

MR. NESSEN: I think we always said below \$300.

Q Then how much money -- what is the President's goal in all this?

MR. NESSEN: Below \$300 billion.

Q How much below? How much money are you talking about, potentially?

MR. NESSEN: We are talking about a figure below \$300 billion, Dick.

Q And you are at \$305 now?

MR. NESSEN: \$305.4 was the last thing I saw.

Q Bill Seidman said the day before yesterday, when asked about the \$300 billion goal, he said, "Yes, we hold out hope of it. It is not a certainty."

MR. NESSEN: I did not see Bill's remarks along that line, and I certainly would not want to contradict them. The President is firmly determined to cut the budget this year below \$300 billion.

Q Ron, that is a little different than what you said. You said when you get through all the paperwork the total will add up to less than \$300, which is a little stronger than "firmly determined". You can have all the determination in the world, but sometimes the figures just do not add up that way.

MR. NESSEN: As you know, the President proposes and Congress disposes, and that brings me back ---

Q Can we quote that?

MR. NESSEN: Did you like that, this literary allusion?

Q We are not talking about ---

MR. NESSEN: When the President sends his package of proposals to Congress, they will reduce the budget below \$300 billion. Now some of these can be done, as I say -- wherever possible, they will be done-- wherever possible, they will be done -- where they can be done by administrative action. Others will be done by deferrals and recissions, and some will require Congressional legislation. Now if Congress will not go along, obviously the President might not be able to meet his goals. The President's package will bring the budget below \$300 billion.

Q When you speak of legislative actions, do they include the enactment of revenue raising measures?

MR. NESSEN: In this context we are talking strictly about the budget total.

Q Will the burden be distributed somewhat equitably, or will there be unusual cuts in, let's say, the Pentagon, or unusual cuts in the Health and Welfare package? Can you give us some idea as to the formula?

MR. NESSEN: There is no percentage across the board formula. Remember, now we are talking about a very early stage in this process. One of the underlying philosophies of the process that is now beginning is to distribute the cuts equitably, and no departments or agencies are exempt.

Q When the President asks for these cuts by departments and agencies, did he give them a percentage of their budget goals or dollar goals that he expected individual departments and agencies to come in with?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Since you have not taken a total, then how do you know that everything they brought in today even adds up to \$5 billion? It is impossible as you describe it. If they did not have a goal to reach, they brought in their recommendations, nobody made a total, then how can you possibly know that if the President picks and chooses it is 3, 5, 7, 9?

MR. NESSEN: I have to take Mr. Ash's word for the fact that -- and the President's determination -- the cuts will add up to enough to reduce the budget below \$300 billion.

Q What did Mr. Ash tell you?

MR. NESSEN: He did not tell me. He told the President.

Q He told the President that everything that was brought in today exceeds or adds up to \$5 billion?

MR. NESSEN: No. He said that here are some of the marginal programs that the departments and agencies offer to you for consideration for reduction. That was one aspect of it. The ultimate goal or the ultimate package will bring the budget below \$300 billion.

Q Ron, is the President concerned that this budget stringency might cause a deepening of the recession?

MR. NESSEN: There is an awareness that some of the cuts suggested by the departments and agencies could have an impact on the economy --

Q A negative impact on the economy?

MR. NESSEN: -- but also don't forget --

Q Did you say "an impact"?

MR. NESSEN: An impact on the economy. Don't forget his economic package to Congress was based on the assumption that the budget would be cut below \$300 billion dollars. The package of bills to Congress, the economic package to Congress, is a balanced package with items in there that deal with inflation and other items which deal with the lag in the economy.

Q Ron, anything he does is going to have an impact on the economy. Do you mean a negative impact on the economy? Is that what we are talking about?

MR. NESSEN: Well, in what sense do you mean a negative impact? The President believes that his --

Q You said there is an awareness that some of the cuts suggested would have an impact on the economy. Any time you do anything it is going to have some sort of impact. I would like to know if we are talking about a negative impact in view of the fact the question stated involved a recession.

MR. NESSEN: I just have to say again that the budget cut was part of the whole economic proposal, and some parts of it are aimed at fighting inflation. The cuts in the budget are aimed at fighting inflation. There are other parts in there which --

Q Then this will increase unemployment.

MR. NESSEN: The choices have not been made yet. It is very difficult. It has not reached the point yet where the choices have to be made.

Q When you said the budget would amount to \$300 billion, I heard some figures that due to Congressional action and inflation the current budget would be something like \$307, \$309, \$311, meaning it would take a much bigger cut than \$5 billion to actually get it down to \$300 billion.

MR. NESSEN: As I say, the last figure I heard was \$305. As you know, the Treasury is constantly changing the expenditure portion, but at the moment that is the budget figure I have seen, and whatever is required to get below \$300 billion he will propose.

Q Ron, could you tell us who else was in that meeting?

MR. NESSEN: The President and Bill Seidman, and Bill Timmons, and Dick Chaney, the deputy to Don Rumsfeld, and Bob Hartmann, and Roy Ash, and a number of his assistants from the OMB who deal in specific areas of the Government spending, and myself, and that is all I remember.

Q Ron, since we are in the midst of the fiscal 75 period, when does the President expect to have these deferrals, recissions, or whatever, before the Congress, when it returns on November 18?

MR. NESSEN: Or shortly thereafter. As soon as they can be finished. This is a difficult process, Peter. It just started this morning. In terms of bringing it to the President's attention.

Q He will have something ready for them when they come back?

MR. NESSEN: Or shortly thereafter if it can be done.

Q This will coincide then with his budget proposals for the following fiscal year?

MR. NESSEN: No, I think when you say when Congress returns you mean from the election recess, don't you?

Q The lame duck recess.

MR. NESSEN: Yes, they will be placed before the lame duck session.

Q Ron, has Senator Goldwater contacted the President and asked or suggested either in person or by telephone or by letter that the President withdraw the nomination of Nelson Rockefeller to be Vice President?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know of a direct communication between the two. I know the President is aware of Senator Goldwater's published remarks.

Q What is his reaction?

Q Is the President still firmly supportive of the Rockefeller nomination?

MR. NESSEN: Absolutely.

Q What was the President's reaction to Senator Goldwater's statement?

MR. NESSEN: The President firmly stands behind his nomination of Governor Rockefeller.

Q Ron, a question concerning what appeared in the Anchorage Alaska Times on September 6th, and that was the President's heartiest endorsement of CR --

MR. NESSEN: Did somebody from the Press Office provide you with an answer?

Q No.

MR. NESSEN: I was told they did, Les. Larry, I believe gave you the answer after the briefing last time.

Q He did not give me the answer. Send it to me after this briefing.

I want to ask this question because it was the President's heartiest endorsement of this member of the Council of the John Birch Society. I am wondering why if the President will endorse a Bircher, why he won't endorse Mrs. Petty?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know -- I think we have given you the position of the President on Mrs. Petty's race, Les.

Q There has been no endorsement though, Ron.

MR. NESSEN: Well, I leave that up to your judgment, Les.

Q Well, he heartily endorsed the Bircher. He has not heartily, or any other way, endorsed Mrs. Petty. Is there any explanation for this?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that I can explain beyond what we said.

Q Did he endorse a member of the John Birch Society?

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MR. NESSEN: As I say, I thought the answer had been provided after the last briefing.

Q We would like to know.

MR. NESSEN: He endorsed Mr. Lewis, I am told.

Q The John Birch Society, incidentally, recently referred to the President as a hustler for Chairman Mao. (Laughter)

Q Ron, has the President received a report on the health of former President Nixon, and the second part, I know you said yesterday there were no plans for Mr. Ford to see Mr. Nixon in California, but I am wondering if he is considering that.

MR. NESSEN: No, and he has not received a direct report on the former President's health.

Q What do you mean, a direct report?

MR. NESSEN: He has seen what has been printed in the newspapers.

Q Does this mean there is a breakdown in the communication system? I thought Dr. Lungren was going to keep Dr. Lukash informed.

MR. NESSEN: That is correct. That is the system, and Dr. Lungren has not been in touch with Dr. Lukash.

Q Ron, as long as we are in that area, are there any other Nixon holdover resignations that you wish to announce today?

MR. NESSEN: Let me have a conference with my counsellor here. I am going to have to take the Fifth Amendment on that question.

Q Why? What does that mean?

MR. NESSEN: I am joking. Goodness sakes, what happened to the sense of humor in this group?

Q It ended yesterday.

MR. NESSEN: Why did it end yesterday?

The President has accepted the resignation of Raymond K. Price, Jr., as Special Consultant to the President, effective November 8. In accepting Mr. Price's resignation, the President praised his dedicated service to the former President and to the Nation.

We will have the exchange of letters available to you after the briefing.

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Q How about Ken Clawson?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have any other announcements on personnel today.

Q What is Clawson's status now? Is he still employed by the White House on the White House payroll, and if the answer to that is yes, can you tell us what at the moment he is doing?

MR. NESSEN: I have nothing else to say on personnel today, Jim.

Q We did not miss a Clawson resignation though, he is still working for you, right?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have anything else to say today.

Q Ron, when did Ray Price resign?

MR. NESSEN: I said effective November 8th. The letters will have the date on them, Phil. I don't have them in front of me so I don't know.

Q Is Clawson still on the payroll?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have anything else on personnel today.

Q You are leaving open the impression not only that there is something in the wind with respect to Ken Clawson but even that it may have happened already, and you for some reason or other are not ready to put it out. Do you mean to leave that impression?

MR. NESSEN: No, I don't mean to leave that impression.

Mr. Clawson is still on the payroll, and I don't have anything else to say on him.

Q Is the plane still taking briefing material to former President Nixon?

MR. NESSEN: The last flight was October 11th, and there have been none since then.

Q Will there be?

MR. NESSEN: Flights have been deferred.

Q Why? For reasons of health or --

MR. NESSEN: While the White House explores alternate methods of providing the former President with briefing materials.

Q What alternate methods?

Q Is he getting briefing materials by some other means, and if so what?

MR. NESSEN: He received a report last Friday.

Q How?

MR. NESSEN: I am not able to tell you.

Q But it was not by courier plane?

Q Was it by a member of his family?

MR. NESSEN: It was not by courier plane.

Q Ron, was it a direct telephone call from Mr. Ford to Mr. Nixon?

MR. NESSEN: I am not able to tell you beyond that, Russ.

Q Why not?

Q In this open Administration.

Q Has President Ford talked to former President Nixon recently?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Ron, why are you not able to tell us, because you don't know or because you are prohibited from telling us?

MR. NESSEN: Because alternate methods are being explored for providing briefing materials.

Q It appears you already found one alternate method because you said he received a briefing a week after the flights were stopped. Can you tell us how that was done?

MR. NESSEN: I cannot go beyond what I have said.

Q Was it a personal briefing by some members of the White House staff going out there or --

Q Do you mean you cannot tell us for reasons of security, or because you do not know, or what?

MR. NESSEN: I just cannot go beyond what I have said.

Q Ron, does the President intend to meet with Herb Klein today, who is in the White House right now?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I know of.

Q To discuss Mr. Nixon's health.

MR. NESSEN: Not that I know of.

Q Ron, where will the President be on election day? Will he vote in Michigan?

MR. NESSEN: He will vote by absentee ballot.

Q So he will be in Washington.

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Will the President go and see the former President in San Clemente on this trip to California, and if not why not?

MR. NESSEN: I think I have said a number of times there are no plans for that, Les.

Q There are no plans?

MR. NESSEN: That is correct.

Q Ron, I don't understand your answer on this courier plane situation at all. We are now talking about classified information being provided to the former President and you won't tell us how it is being done.

MR. NESSEN: I can't go beyond what I said.

Q Is this your way of handling an open Administration?

Q Are secure telephone lines still in effect between here and San Clemente?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that, Frank.

Q Ron, is it a matter of communications security or --

MR. NESSEN: I just cannot go beyond what I said.

Q Ron, is any staff member in charge of liaison with the former President?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, there is.

Q Who is that?

MR. NESSEN: Jack Marsh.

Q Is there any Presidential comment on Secretary Kissinger's conferences with the Soviet leaders in Moscow?

MR. NESSEN: No.

I have got to go meet with your editors and publishers now.

Q Did Jack Marsh go out there last Friday?

Q Will you come back and brief us on that?

MR. NESSEN: Jack will be here to step right in.

Q On the ASNE meeting.

MR. NESSEN: If you are interested I suppose I could.

Q It does have to do with the Freedom of Information Act, doesn't it, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: I believe -- Jack, I think, can take you through that. They did request the meeting.

Q Ron, can you tell us what Clawson is doing now before you leave?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have anything else to say on that.

Q You say he is still on the payroll. You can surely tell us what he is getting paid to do.

MR. NESSEN: I cannot say anything more about Ken Clawson today.

Q Don't you know why he is getting paid?

MR. NESSEN: Jack will take up where I left off.

Q Is Clawson the secret courier between here and San Clemente?

MR. HUSHEN: No, and I don't think anybody raised a question of any secret courier.

Q Is there a secret courier?

Q . Is a member of the family a courier?

MR. HUSHEN: No to both questions.

Q Seriously, he never did say why these new methods were being looked into or why -- he did say the courier flight was deferred until they looked for alternative methods, but what decision was made to look for alternative methods, and did he say why the courier plane was knocked out and these other methods looked into.

MR. HUSHEN: As I think Ron said, a decision was made to try to explore alternative methods of supplying the former President with the briefing materials.

Q The question is why are they looking for alternative methods. Is it because of the high cost?

MR. HUSHEN: I don't know all the background that went into it, but I do know that alternative methods are being looked at.

Q Would the cost have something to do with it, Jack?

Q . The same type of thing was used for Johnson, and that was the reason given for the courier plane in the first place. This simple question of this is why they are looking for alternative methods for Nixon.

MR. HUSHEN: Well, I just can't go beyond that.

Q Jack, when was the decision made to look for alternative methods? We were told the last flight was two weeks ago, and the first papers were given to him by an alternate method one week ago. Can you pinpoint a little closer when it was decided to stop the courier plane?

MR. HUSHEN: Some time between those two dates.

Q Can you tell us exactly what Jack Marsh's role as liaison is with Mr. Nixon?

MR. HUSHEN: He is in overall charge of the liaison between President Ford and the former President.

Q He is also, Jack, is he not, in charge of handling or coping with --

MR. HUSHEN: Let me say for the White House. In The General Service Administration also is involved.

Q Has he been taking briefing papers out there?

MR. HUSHEN: No. I think the answer to your question about him going out there is no.

Q If I remember correctly, a Member of Congress -- it may have been John Moss -- raised a security question relative to Mr. Nixon receiving these briefing papers. Is that at all involved in the decision to change the method of briefing?

MR. HUSHEN: Not that I am aware of.

Q Can you just give us some little insight into why all this mystery?

MR. HUSHEN: The briefing papers, as you know, are classified.

Q But the method?

MR. HUSHEN: The method of transportation may also be classified.

Q But if an Air Force jet is not classified, is a commercial jet any more classified?

MR. HUSHEN: I am not ruling out, and I don't think Ron did, the possibility of announcing what the alternative method is, but there are other forms that it could take.

Q What?

MR. HUSHEN: It could take, for instance, a nonscheduled flight. As I said, we are just exploring the alternate methods. But those are classified papers.

Q Can we go along on the assumption that they have been delivered by hand and not by telecopier, for example?

MR. HUSHEN: I cannot answer that.

Q Does Marsh decide what papers go or what material is sent?

MR. HUSHEN: No, that is a function of the National Security Council. They prepare the briefing.

Q John, has Marsh been in touch directly with the President?

MR. HUSHEN: I just don't know the answer to that. I am doubtful of it, but I just don't know.

Q He deals with Ron Ziegler?

MR. HUSHEN: I don't know what kind of contact there is by Mr. Marsh. There is still contact in the Administration through the General Services Administration, possibly through the Military Assistance Office, that kind of contact.

Q His job is a little broader than just the liaison, isn't it, Jack? Isn't Marsh also in charge of handling or coping with whatever problems exist or develop in the Administration that had their origins or that stemmed from the previous Administration; that is, in Mr. Nixon's Presidency? If the answer to that is yes, I would like to ask whether that also includes overall supervision of legal work by Mr. Buchen and Mr. Areeda in connection with the former Administration?

MR. HUSHEN: I don't think it extends to the legal aspect of it.

Q Does it include other problems other than legal problems?

MR. HUSHEN: I think we will leave it stand that he is kind of in overall charge.

Q Could you take a question on what security status Mr. Zeigler has at this point also? We have asked about the former President before, and I am wondering if you could find out.

MR. HUSHEN: All right.

Q Can I change the subject?

MR. HUSHEN: Yes.

Q Has the President asked Mr. Colby to give him a report on the furnishing of Senator Javits with information about former Attorney General Clark? It sounds an awful lot like domestic politics.

MR. HUSHEN: From what I understand of that, it is a request under the Freedom of Information Act, which is like any other citizen making the request. As to whether or not the President has asked for any report on that, I don't know.

Q Any citizen can make a request for information?

MR. HUSHEN: Well there was a broadcast over Hanoi Radio which was monitored here and ---

Q Not by a ham radio operator though, but by the Central Intelligence Agency.

MR. HUSHEN: It was under the Freedom of Information Act, as I understand from reading the story. Beyond that I can't help you.

Q Does that mean if I want to call the CIA and ask if they have a file on Bob Schieffer they are required by law to tell me whether they do or not?

MR. HUSHEN: I can't answer that. I don't know.

Q Jack, can I just get one thing straight? Are we safe in assuming on the briefing situation for Nixon -- you are still talking about providing material as opposed to a personal conveyance of information, is that right?

MR. HUSHEN: Yes.

Q Jack, I would like to raise the issue of lack of coverage yesterday of the President in the public appearance, in Southern Illinois, or wherever it was. It seems to me when the President of the United States is out campaigning, as he was yesterday, we, members of the press corps, ought to be wherever he appears in public. The idea of simply sending a limited pool off to see him appear somewhere in public I think is a very bad precedent, and I would like to know why we were not allowed to cover it yesterday.

MR. HUSHEN: It certainly was not a matter of not allowing you to cover it. It was a matter of trying to most equitably divide up the seats in the helicopter. We felt the networks could send crews down from Chicago to cover the Melvin appearance because of the proximity to Chicago, whereas on the trip to Mexico, when it would have been very difficult for you to send crews from somewhere else, we took the television crews.

Q I am not just speaking about television crews, I am speaking about the general idea of the press not being allowed to go down with the President from O'Hare Field. All it took was another helicopter, which for the last 15 years we have been provided, and for some reason yesterday we were not, and I hope this is not the beginning of a situation in which we are going to have limited pool coverage whenever you have to use helicopters.

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MR. HUSHEN: I certainly doubt it. We tried to accommodate everybody, as I said, on the Mexican trip. I am not exactly sure why we did not have the second helicopter to provide space.

Q I have to take issue with your statement that you tried to accommodate everybody on the Mexican trip. Out of that very large pool that was taken down there, 17 or 20 people, there were actually only three writing reporters out of some 17 or 20. So that we did not feel there was adequate representation of the writing press at all on the trip to Magdalera.

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Q Jack, it is not a case of representation. I think what Bob was saying, and certainly what I think about it, is people on the trip ought to be able to make all the stops. And the cost of those helicopters, as I understand, goes on the bill so it is not a case of costing the taxpayers.

MR. HUSHEN: Let me say, I certainly sympathize with your desires. I will try and find out why we could not get all the helicopters we need. I do know we have had trouble trying to scour them up from the Army, but I could not agree with you more that you should be with them all the time.

Q There seems to be a trend here. We are spending an awful lot of time in places where the President is not. Yesterday, for example, at that Val Air Ballroom, we could not even get into the hall until after the President was in there. It is just a series of these things. I know these are housekeeping matters.

Q And at Magdalena de Kino we were three hours on the bus going down, three hours on the bus going back, and some of us saw the President for about 45 minutes the whole day, although we were theoretically supposed to be covering him.

MR. HUSHEN: We will get an answer to the questions because it is one I don't agree with, either.

Q Jack, back to the business on the former President's briefing, did President Ford personally order a halt to the flights and a study into the matter?

MR. HUSHEN: The President directed the deferral.

Q Why?

MR. HUSHEN: While these alternative methods were sought.

Q Maybe, as you know, Japanese Prime Minister Tanaka is getting involved in this business of income-related scandal, and there is some strong pressure from within his party against him and for him to explain himself -- do you think it wise of President Ford in this kind of political situation in Japan to go to visit Japan? And do you think there will be some possibility for President Ford to change his schedule?

MR. HUSHEN: I know of no plans for the President to change his schedule. As to the other part of it, I don't think I will comment on it.

How about the Friday announcements? Would anybody care to hear those?

Q We will get to those.

MR. HUSHEN: I know.

Q On another housekeeping matter, the President has been doing a lot of campaigning in the last three weeks and expressing views on politics. Is he going to make himself available to us before the elections for a news conference?

MR. HUSHEN: As I think we have said here before, the President plans to explore several different ways of communicating through you to the public.

Q That sounds rather familiar. I think I asked a very specific question. I would like to have an answer.

MR. HUSHEN: I cannot give you a specific answer. You are asking me does he plan to have another press conference before the election?

Q Does he plan to give us a chance to ask questions about the things he has been saying on all these visits?

MR. HUSHEN: I cannot give you an answer to that. I don't know if we have one. I know you can certainly look at the brief history since we have been here to say that he has a good track record for being available.

Q But we have not had a chance to ask him about all these things he is saying on the road?

MR. HUSHEN: I can't answer that, Dick.

Q Jack, if the President will not specify which Democrats he thinks are big spenders, extremists and legislative dictators, has he considered possibly withdrawing that or specifying -- it leaves every Democratic candidate except Albert smeared.

Do you have any idea who he is talking about by way of Democratic candidates with these very serious charges?

MR. HUSHEN: The President has spoken. I am not going to amplify on it.

Q Do you have any announcements apart from the ones we have?

MR. HUSHEN: Yes. Let me just go through his schedule.

The President was in the office at 8 o'clock this morning. He met with Don Rumsfeld, General Scowcroft, Bob Hartmann, Jack Marsh and Ron Nessen. Then he went into that meeting, as you know, in the Cabinet Room on the 1975 budget reductions and about ten minutes ago he began meeting with the officers of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, and the American Newspaper Publishers Association and also with the ASNE's Freedom of Information committee.

The meeting was requested by the organization before the Freedom of Information Act veto. It was just a request to meet with the President. I think the President will be telling this group that he is transmitting today proposed amendments which, if adopted, would provide an acceptable alternative to H. R. 12471, which is the Freedom of Information Act amendments.

Q Are we going to get some paperwork on these amendments?

MR. HUSHEN: Yes, sir. We will make available to you copies of the amendments, along with explanatory information.

Q When will that become available, Jack?

MR. HUSHEN: I would expect within an hour or so. It is pretty much ready to go.

Q Now, the President is about ready to go into a meeting with a group of black civil rights leaders in the Cabinet Room. There is, as you know, a photo on that.

Q Will they be available afterwards. Are you going to make them available afterwards?

MR. HUSHEN: Someone will be out here to brief.

This meeting will provide an opportunity for the President to hear the views and recommendations of these leaders on problems facing black Americans. I think we posted the list of those attending. Stan Scott set up this meeting at the President's request. There will be some people out here to brief for you.

At about 1:45 this afternoon the President will meet with Soviet Deputy Premier Vladmir Kirillin. He is in the United States as head of the Soviet delegation to the third session of the Joint Commission on Scientific and Technical Cooperation.

Mr. Kirillin is Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and Chairman of the State Committee on Science and Technology. The meeting will provide an opportunity for the President and the Deputy Premier to discuss the current status of U.S.-Soviet scientific and technical cooperation, and the possibility of broadening such cooperation in the future.

Q Will it include a protest from the President over the exclusion of American reporters from the joint moon shot or the joint space venture, I should say?

MR. HUSHEN: I will have to check that, Jim. It is a brief meeting, but I will check and find out.

At 2 o'clock this afternoon the President will meet with the Executive Committee of the Economic Policy Board in the Cabinet Room. This is another of the regular meetings the President holds with this group.

As you know, the President and Mrs. Ford will go to Camp David this weekend. The time of their departure is uncertain, but we will notify you as soon as we get definite information there.

Q Apart from the Reasoner report, will anything be on this weekend from Camp David?

MR. HUSHEN: As far as I know --

Q Church, no?

MR. HUSHEN: I don't know what they do up there in terms of --

Q He would not come back on Sunday to play golf?

MR. HUSHEN: The President will be back here Monday because he has a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which I was just about to get into. We will try to get some details about what is going to be happening up there this weekend for your coverage purposes.

Due to your balloting, we will not have a briefing on Monday, but as you know, the President will attend the wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. There will be open coverage there, and we will take a protective pool from the White House.

Q What time is that?

MR. HUSHEN: I believe that is 11 o'clock.

Q Is he going to speak right after that?

MR. HUSHEN: He will have remarks there in the amphitheatre. We will try to post this afternoon what you need for that.

On Tuesday, he will go to Grand Rapids to appear at a rally on behalf of Paul Gobell. The President departs from the South Lawn at 3:20, and the press plane departs at 2:45. Press busses depart from the White House about 2 o'clock. We will be returning that night.

We will also post a sheet to get the names and phone numbers of those who are staffing Camp David so we can find you because nobody will be up there from this office. We will cover it from down here.

At 2 o'clock Wednesday the President will meet with approximately 19 leaders of the livestock industry, including representatives of the dairy, beef cattle, hogs, sheep and poultry industries.

The purpose of this meeting is to hear their views on the problems they face and the recommendations that they have to make.

Q Who asked for that?

MR. HUSHEN: The President said at Sioux Falls that he would be meeting with the livestock producers and feeders shortly to find out about their problems, and it is just kind of an outgrowth of that.

Then he met with the cattlemen, as you know, down in Oklahoma City.

Q Will Senator Bellmon be here after that meeting to explain the --

Q Who will issue the clarification, that is what Tom is trying to find out.

MR. HUSHEN: If he is, Ron Nessen will be here too.

Q Did we ever get clear what kind of cows they were going to put the quotas on there? Whether it was dairy or eating cows? (Laughter)

Q That is a serious question.

MR. HUSHEN: I am not prepared to go beyond whatever was said there that day.

We have already announced the cities in which the President will be appearing from Thursday, October 31, through Saturday, November 2nd.

In addition, on his way to Los Angeles next Thursday he will make an afternoon appearance in Sioux City, Iowa. Just to recap for you there will be a fundraiser in Los Angeles Thursday evening.

Q The Sioux City appearance, will that be an airport appearance, or is that --

MR. HUSHEN: An airport rally, no fundraiser.

Q Is that Wiley Mayne? Is that why he is going? That is his district.

MR. HUSHEN: Yes. It is an invitation by Mayne's committee.

Q What time is that plane going to leave?

MR. HUSHEN: I don't have a specific time on it.

Q When are we going to leave here?

MR. HUSHEN: Prior to this addition the President was scheduled to leave about 2:00, so it is obviously going to be backed up by a couple of hours now.

Q You mean earlier?

MR. HUSHEN: Yes.

Q The time is a bit critical for us, Jack.

MR. HUSHEN: We will post the schedule as soon as we can.

Q He will be there about what time?

MR. HUSHEN: He needs to be in Los Angeles for a dinner that night.

Q Do you know what hotel that will be at, or what place? Century Plaza?

MR. HUSHEN: We can get that information. I don't have it yet. I don't have it here anyway.

Q But you don't know what time he is going to get to Sioux City, Iowa. I am just saying for planning purposes.

MR. HUSHEN: We will have that information available here later today.

Q Early afternoon or late afternoon?

MR. HUSHEN: I would suspect it would be early afternoon. It is still a couple hours flight out to the coast and you have to allow some time for him to change clothes and clean up.

Q Jack, the West Coast trip I presume is the last trip out of town he will make on the campaign before the election.

MR. HUSHEN: Let me just go through and I will answer that question in a second.

You know he has the fundraiser Thursday night in Los Angeles. On Friday he will go to Fresno, California, and then to Portland, overnight in Portland. On Saturday he will go to Salt Lake City, Grand Junction, Colorado, and Wichita, Kansas.

Q Grand Junction for Dominick. Is it for a local Congressman? Is there something other than Dominick we should know about out there?

MR. HUSHEN: His general philosophy is to appear on behalf of all the candidates. I will have to check and see if this is specifically for Senator Dominick or not, and after Grand Junction, Wichita, Kansas.

Q Did Senator Dole ask the President to stop in Kansas?

MR. HUSHEN: I don't know.

Q Could you find that out for us in view of what Senator Dole has said on this matter previously?

MR. HUSHEN: We do not have a firm time on Sioux City yet.

Q Could you undertake to find out whether Senator Dole asked the President to come to Kansas and the background of that -- I am asking that question or putting that query too because of what Senator Dole has said publicly about this matter earlier in the campaign.

Q When will he be in Fresno?

MR. HUSHEN: Friday morning.

Q How about the answer to John Herbers' question which you deferred? Anything after that weekend trip, Jack?

MR. HUSHEN: No.

Q Is that the last pre-election trip?

MR. HUSHEN: This appears to be the extent of it.

Q Will he spend election eve in the White House?

MR. HUSHEN: I don't know where he will be, Maggie.

Q Jack, the President made several references in these recent campaign appearances to polls and how they are forecasting rather gloomy results for the Republican Party. Can you give us (a) an assessment of where he now thinks the Republican Party will end up in the Congressional election, and (b) whether he thinks he has improved this situation in the last week or so?

MR. HUSHEN: I think he has addressed himself to that in terms of he thinks he has been of help. As to where the election will end up, I am not prepared to give you any figures.

Q He must have some idea in mind if he keeps referring to polls and saying that he does not believe them.

MR. HUSHEN: I am just not prepared to go beyond that.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END (At 12:28 P.M. EDT)

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 1:07 P.M. EDT

OCTOBER 25, 1974

FRIDAY

MR. NESSEN: On the ASNE meeting, have you seen the bill that went up to the Hill today? It was handed out to all the publishers and editors. And do you have a list of who was there?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: The President went around the table and shook hands with each of the editors and publishers, and they introduced themselves to him. He knew many of them already.

Then he sat at the head of the table and said that -- first, he called attention to his basic philosophy of being open and candid in his relations with the press. Then he spoke specifically on the Freedom of Information Act amendments veto.

He said he tried to work with Congress on this and explained the sections that he objected to and that Congress had made some changes to meet his objections, but when the bill came here, there were three problems that he felt made the bill unacceptable. I don't know that you need for me to go over those sections because I think you probably know them by now.

Then, he invited the editors to ask him some questions, and the first speaker was Howard H. Hays, who is the President of the American Society of Newspaper Editors. He is from the Press Enterprise of Riverside, California.

He said he applauded the President's open relations with the press and the fact that he has had frequent news conferences and the President said that he plans to continue holding frequent news conferences and also plans to have some news conferences and meetings with the press in other settings and other formats and also outside of Washington.

Then, Harold W. Anderson, the Chairman of the American Newspaper Publishers Association from the Omaha World said that he "appreciated your desire to open up the Government, but I am going to wait and read your amendments before taking a position on the new Freedom of Information amendment proposals."

The President said he had vetoed the bill most reluctantly. He was asked whether the amendments that he is sending today met the objections raised by various departments of the Government to the Congressional bill.

The President said he did not think the amendments sent up today would be overwhelmingly approved by the departments, "but if Congress approves these amendments, I will sign them."

He was asked how long this would take, and he said he thought these amendments could get very quick action.

One of the editors asked whether he could go back to the Roosevelt system of having two news conferences a week, not on television, and the President said that he thought since he requires some time to prepare for each news conference, he thought that might use up too much of his time, but that he would certainly think about the idea.

He complimented the editors and publishers on running the application blanks to join the WIN program in their newspapers and told them so far that the White House has received 116,000 requests to join the WIN program from these boxes that were run in the newspapers.

The gentleman from the Honolulu paper, who is George Chaplin--he is the Secretary of the Society, and he is from the Honolulu Advertiser -- asked whether the President still planned to go to Japan in light of the threatened demonstrations, and if so, what did he plan to discuss there?

The President said he does still plan to go. He said that trade would be a very major matter of discussion. He said, "I do not plan to impose export controls, but I do plan to monitor very big sales such as the recent grain sale to Russia and when I am in Japan, I plan to explore the other side of the coin," which he said was encouraging the Japanese to buy American products, specifically beef. He also said the world oil question would be taken up with the Japanese.

The President had this other meeting with the civil rights leaders scheduled, so after about 25 minutes he left the newspaper editors and went to his other meeting, which you will get a briefing on later.

Phil Areeda of the legal staff, myself and Bob Hartmann stayed behind until just now to answer other questions about the Freedom of Information Act, and about the President's press policies and what newspapers he reads and his general attitude toward the press.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 1:15 P.M. EDT)