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NEWS CONFERENCE

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 12:22 P.M. EST

JANUARY 6, 1975

MONDAY

MR. NESSEN: I am sorry to be late, I was attending a meeting.

Nice to see you back, Les. I missed you all last week and at Vail.

Q Thank you very much; I have a question about Vail. (Laughter.)

MR. NESSEN: Do you want to go through the announcements first and then come back to that?

Q Sure.

MR. NESSEN: The President came in shortly after 7:30 a.m. this morning to the office and met with the various members of his staff. For each day this week, the President will spend a couple of hours a day working on his State of the Union speech to Congress.

For instance, a meeting has just broken up of the Domestic Council, which is what kept me, to discuss some aspects of the message. Vice President Rockefeller attended that meeting.

At 12:15 p.m., the President is meeting with Fred C. Ikle, who is Director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, to discuss matters involving that agency.

At 12:45 p.m., the President meets James Edwards, the newly elected Governor of South Carolina. He is the first Republican Governor since 1876 in South Carolina. Governor West will bring in the new Governor to introduce him to the President.

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At 2:00 o'clock, the President will meet with his energy advisers to continue their discussions on the proposals the President will announce soon. I think we could probably have cameras and film in there at the beginning of that meeting.

The President has signed a memorandum establishing the Domestic Council Committee on Illegal Aliens. I think that is the paper you just received. In a special message to Congress, on September 12, the President stressed the need for passage of the Illegal Aliens Act in order to establish clear guidelines regarding the laws governing employment of these aliens. The President feels it is important to have this committee he is establishing look into the situation and develop guidelines in this area. I think you have that.

Q Congress did not pass the bill, I take it?

MR. NESSEN: One house passed it. The House passed the bill, but the Senate didn't.

We have only a few announcements today, so I will take the questions.

Les?

Q Ron, my question is based on the transcript of your December 23 press briefing that reveals you said to Phil Jones of CBS that he would dearly love to be White House Press Secretary, which statement you explained later is an example of your sense of humor, but you refused to answer Phil's request for an explanation of this sense of humor.

Now, my question is this: is this what you mean by civility, and does President Ford approve of this use of this kind of humor and does he use it with the Vice President? Could you give us the explanation that he rightfully requested and that you denied him?

MR. NESSEN: Phil and I talked about this afterwards, Les, and I think that is probably all that needs to be said.

Q Did you apologize to him?

MR. NESSEN: Oh, yes.

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Q Good.

MR. NESSEN: Publicly -- you probably didn't read the next day's transcript, did you?

Q I must have missed it.

MR. NESSEN: Then, let's get on with the questions.

Q Ron, what did the Domestic Council discuss this morning?

MR. NESSEN: As I say, some elements that will be in the State of the Union speech, Russ.

Q Could you be more specific?

MR. NESSEN: I really can't, I am sorry to say.

Q Is there a first draft, or is there any way of --

MR. NESSEN: No, there is not a draft of the speech yet.

Q Ron, have you ever announced the 20th on that?

MR. NESSEN: We have not announced any date for the speech because it has not been set yet.

Q Someone told me you were reported as saying it would be the 20th. All I remember you saying is it would be about a week after the Congress convenes. Have you been more definite than that? Somebody apparently quoted you as saying the 20th.

MR. NESSEN: If so, I was quoted incorrectly, because the date has not been set yet.

Q Do you think it will be later than the 20th, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Is there a plan for national television coverage of it, to give it in person and so forth and so on?

MR. NESSEN: Certainly he would give it in person, and where the networks saw fit to cover, it would be up to the networks.

Q It will be in person. Will it be during the day or evening, the presentation?

MR. NESSEN: That has not been decided yet.

Q Ron, on Saturday, in announcing the President was forming this Commission on the CIA, you said there would not be any members of the panel who are currently employed by the Government. Vice President Rockefeller is on the panel, and he obviously is employed by the Government. Were you simply misinformed there?

MR. NESSEN: No, when the question was asked, I was thinking that whoever asked the question -- I forget -- meant Cabinet officials or sub-Cabinet officials or officials of that type. I just didn't focus on the Vice President falling into that category.

Q Did you know, at that time, he was going to be Chairman of it?

MR. NESSEN: I knew the people the President was considering for the Commission.

Q And he was among them?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Is that why the Vice President and the President were staying late after the energy-economic meeting Saturday?

MR. NESSEN: It is one of the things they talked about.

Q Ron, there has been some criticism of the makeup of the Council by Senator Proxmire and others, saying it does not represent enough civil libertarians on the Council. Does the President have any reaction to the criticism?

MR. NESSEN: The President does not have any reaction. I must say that I read the different accounts in the newspapers and I was somewhat confused because some of the accounts I saw seemed to suggest that the members were too heavily in favor of the CIA and other accounts seemed to suggest that the members didn't know enough about the CIA to investigate it. Some accounts indicated that the members were anti civil liberties and other accounts suggested they were too pro civil liberties.

Q Where was that account?

MR. NESSEN: There was one account I read which indicated that too many members of the committee had been hawks on the war and opposed to the dissidents, and another account suggested that the members had been too dovish on the war and too favorable to the anti-war dissidents.

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Q Where was that?

MR. NESSEN: If you do share those feelings, however, in the paper, I think you could look at the records of some of the people. Erwin Griswold, for instance, was a member of the Civil Rights Commission for a very long time, and I don't think he would probably care to be characterized as an anti civil libertarian. I don't think Mr. Kirkland of the AFL-CIO would. I don't know anybody on the Commission you could characterize as being anti civil rights, civil liberties.

Q What was the purpose of putting Rockefeller on a citizen's committee, which really should be the outside looking in?

MR. NESSEN: Well, a number of reasons. First of all, I think by having his highest and closest colleague in the Government as the Chairman of the Commission, the President is clearly demonstrating his interest in that Commission's duties.

Secondly, I think that Vice President Rockefeller has had a certain knowledge of the CIA's workings through his service on the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, and it was felt that it would be good to have someone who had some knowledge of the workings of the CIA.

Q Did he have any knowledge of the abuses over the periods that he has been on the Intelligence Board?

MR. NESSEN: That is the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, Helen, and this Commission is going to look into activities within the United States of the CIA.

Q So, he was not aware?

MR. NESSEN: As far as I know.

Q Ron, can I ask you a way-out question about Vice President Rockefeller that is prompted by Gaylord's pointing out that Vice President Rockefeller is a salaried Government official?

There have been a few instances when very wealthy men who were in Government did not accept their Governmental salary, turned it back. Would you, by any chance, happen to know whether Vice President Rockefeller is doing that?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that, Jim. I know that Vice President Rockefeller is here and Hugh Morrow is around. I think they are getting set up in their office now and are beginning to accept phone calls.

Just to put this in some little perspective, it is not at all unusual to have a Government official serve on an investigation of the CIA. I think the last major investigation was in 1967, and I believe at that time it had to do with stories saying that the CIA had secretly financed the students, if I am not mistaken.

The chairman of that was Nick Katzenback, who at that time was Under Secretary of State. The other members of it included HEW Secretary Gardiner at that time, and the CIA Director at that time, who was Richard Helms.

Q Was that a citizen's committee?

MR. NESSEN: Clearly it was a three-man Government committee, but what I am saying is it is not unusual to have a Government official serve on a commission to investigate the CIA.

Q Ron, was Senator Ervin or former Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski considered and rejected by the President?

MR. NESSEN: They were not considered by the President.

Q Did anybody on the White House staff offer their names to the President?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know what names may have been thrown into the hopper, but I know that they were not seriously considered.

Q Ron, can you explain how these names were developed? Did the President solicit names or what?

MR. NESSEN: No, the President basically has been in Washington a long time and in public life a long time, and most of the names came from the President.

Q Do we have any idea what the duration of this Commission will be; that is, the duration of the investigation?

MR. NESSEN: The Executive Order requires that the report come back by the 4th of April and that the Commission go out of business a month after that.

Q Ron, on Saturday you said that the President's conversations with the various Secretaries and the examination of the Colby report indicates that enough questions have been raised to have this Commission investigate the CIA.

Can you give us any guidance on what areas those questions were in?

MR. NESSEN: I can't, really.

Q Do you intend to make any further statement on the CIA and the report he received?

MR. NESSEN: Not until after the Commission turns in its findings and recommendations.

Q Who is going to be the Executive Director?

Q You would not rule out if there are further disclosures or stories, would you?

MR. NESSEN: I would think from now on the proper place to address those would be to the Commission.

Q Ron, will the Government permit CIA officials to testify before Congressional committees that are going to look into it?

MR. NESSEN: I am not sure that question has come up, Peter. The President said, I believe the other day, that he looked forward to cooperative efforts between the Executive Branch and the Congress. His whole motive--and I think he says he is aware of the plans--he has ordered that the committee's findings and recommendations be sent to the committee so I certainly know of no plans to stand in the way of the CIA officials testifying.

Q You say there is nothing to stop anybody from the CIA testifying?

MR. NESSEN: Certainly not.

Q He would not invoke, for example, Executive privilege in the case of Mr. Helms being called?

MR. NESSEN: I have certainly heard nothing to indicate that, Peter.

Q Who is going to be the Executive Director, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: He has not been chosen yet, Norm. The procedure will be that Vice President Rockefeller will recommend someone and the President will appoint him.



Q And that will be announced here?

MR. NESSEN: Yes. It is a Presidential appointment.

Q Ron, when the Commission makes its final report in April, I believe you have said that it will be made public.

MR. NESSEN: What I said was that the findings and recommendations will be sent to Congress and I assume that they will also be made public.

Q Also, whether Mr. Colby's report which led to the appointment of this Commission will be made public at that time?

MR. NESSEN: That has not been decided yet. The Commission will get the Colby report and in part, it may be their recommendation whether to make it public or not.

Q Ron, in the Executive Order setting up the Commission, did the President also order Government agencies and individuals to cooperate with the Commission?

MR. NESSEN: Certainly; absolutely. We talked about that a little bit the other day.

Q Ron, what is going to happen at the energy meeting this afternoon? Is there any special agenda?

MR. NESSEN: I think they will continue to go through the ideas and proposals and let the President make some decisions.

Q Please forgive me if this question was asked on Friday -- I was not here -- but is the President planning to have a news conference or press conference before the State of the Union Message?

MR. NESSEN: It is possible.

Q Do you expect him to make some of these energy decisions public before the State of the Union?

MR. NESSEN: There are no firm plans for that.

Q Ron, now that the supplemental appropriations bill has been signed with the money for former President Nixon's retirement and what not, how long are people like Ron Ziegler going to remain detailed on the White House payrolls?

MR. NESSEN: The transition period runs out February 9.

Q Are all the people who were on the White House payroll and detailed there still detailed?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think so. I think there are very few detailed there now. We have not looked into that for a long time, but the transition period does end on February 9, and after that, the former President would need to decide who he wants to pay out of his own budget.

The detailees are reduced way down now -- I think it is Ziegler and not more than a half dozen -- but we could get the names for you.

Q Does the President still expect to have a summit meeting with Brezhnev in June or thereabouts in Washington?

MR. NESSEN: I have heard nothing to change that.

Q Has the White House received any information to the effect that Secretary Brezhnev is suffering from leukemia?

MR. NESSEN: The White House knows about the press reports, but has no information like that.

Q No information to confirm it or deny it?

Q Ron, on Cabinet changes, is it your plan to announce them one at a time or announce all the changes at once?

MR. NESSEN: As they occur.

Q Ron, you may have answered this question over the weekend, but you were going to get the time when the budget is due at the printers.

MR. NESSEN: Yes, I did get the time. You don't take it over there in one big lump, Peter. There are various stages it goes through. It has to get punched into a computer. About January 20 is the date when they will need to have it pretty much locked up.

Q Is that the deadline for printing?

MR. NESSEN: That is about the deadline, yes.

Q Ron, on that question, one of the wires has a story today saying that the budget message will be sent to Congress February 3. Can you confirm that?

MR. NESSEN: That is not far, I think. It is in about that area.

Q Ron, did anyone reject appointments with the Commission on the CIA?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I am aware.

Q Ron, can I follow it up a moment? Can you discuss the rationale for General Lemnitzer's appointment, since he himself was the target of the CIA investigation during the Kennedy Administration?

MR. NESSEN: That might be a high degree of incentive for him. You know, that is just a flip remark.

Why would that disqualify him, Dave?

Q I am not suggesting that it would. I just wonder if that was considered, the fact that he was a principal in the Bay of Pigs post mortem investigation conducted by Bobby Kennedy and Admiral Burke and Max Taylor.

MR. NESSEN: As I said, the investigation we are talking about in the Commission is centered on domestic activities by the CIA, and will not get into foreign operations at all. I don't see where that would disqualify him.

Q Ron, I understand that Mr. Goodell said this morning he was in favor of continuing the amnesty board, but he didn't know how the President felt about it. Is there any position the President takes?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know either, but I will check it. I knew that he had a conference.

Q Ron, can I get back to Secretary Brezhnev? You said in answer to Jim's question the White House knows about press reports but has no information on that.

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Do you mean that the White House has no information on the condition of Mr. Brezhnev's health?

MR. NESSEN: No information on this report that Jim is talking about like that.

Q Have you any information that he is ill, leukemia or no leukemia?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I am aware of.

Q Have you inquired?

MR. NESSEN: I have not.

Q Has the President?

MR. NESSEN: I will have to check and find out.

Q The President has not been informed of anything like that, is that what you are saying?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I know of.

Q Did you talk to him? Did you ask the President about it?

MR. NESSEN: No, I did not.

Q Well, the President reads the papers, Ron. Would this not be a matter of more than casual interest to him?

MR. NESSEN: I say he knows about press reports on it, Phil, but we don't have any information.

Q Might not he have asked somebody to check that out?

MR. NESSEN: I can find out.

Q I am serious because there was a very warm relationship built in Vladivostok. Has there been any communication between the President and Mr. Brezhnev?

MR. NESSEN: I will check that, also.

Q In line with that same kind of question, in view of the fact that they have had a summit meeting and they are planning another one, would you expect that in the event of something like this being true that the White House would be informed and the President informed by the Soviet Government, partly as a matter of courtesy and partly as a matter of planning purposes and so forth?

MR. NESSEN: Did you say would they be?

Q Would you expect to be informed if Secretary Brezhnev has leukemia?

MR. NESSEN: Jim, why don't I check out some of these other questions. As I say, at the moment there is no information like that.

Q Ron, in the President's interview with Helen he suggested that Mr. Levi is sort of his candidate for Attorney General. Can you tell us if that has changed and if it hasn't, why the delay?

MR. NESSEN: There is no change that I am aware of.

Q Will he wait until probably Congress comes back to nominate him?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that it has to do with Congress coming back so much as it does to the procedure that you know about of going through the complete checks before anybody is nominated.

Q Ron, has the President had very much negative domestic reaction to Secretary Kissinger's rather significant remark about using force as the last extremity? I know there has been bad reaction in the Arab press, but has there been much that you know about here in the United States?

MR. NESSEN: You mean people sending letters and telegrams?

Q Has there been in your survey of editorials and various -- yes, telegrams, telephone calls and so forth. Has there been an outpouring of negative reaction or has it been more or less acceptance?

MR. NESSEN: I am not aware of any outpouring of negative reactions.

Q What was the purpose of the President's meeting today with the Arms Control Agency?

MR. NESSEN: As I say, a general meeting to discuss matters that that agency handles and for the President to tell him that the President is committed to progress in disarmament.

Q Are they going to talk about SALT-II?

MR. NESSEN: Possibly. I don't know the agenda other than in general terms.

Q Ron, from a hypothetical point of view -- I don't care how you answer this -- but from a hypothetical point of view, if anything were to happen to Mr. Brezhnev, would the preliminary SALT agreement reached in Vladivostok still go on or would his successor have the option of changing that?

MR. NESSEN: I really think that is much too hypothetical to touch, Dick.

Q I would like to take you back to the CIA, if I could. Is there any reason why you cannot give us some general description of the problem that the President apparently feels may exist and why he has set up this panel? I mean, we have now got a panel set up, we have got all these distinguished men serving on it, and really, outside of press reports, no clue as to exactly what it is that he is concerned about or what they are going to be looking into.

MR. NESSEN: I can't, beyond what I said the other day, which is that the Colby report raises enough questions to justify this Commission doing the investigation.

Q Can you give us any idea of the time frame of the investigation, how far back?

MR. NESSEN: As I say, Rockefeller's office is in business, and answering questions. He is in charge of the Commission.

Q Ron, you may have dealt with this before. Is the President considering replacing Helms as Ambassador to Iran?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know of any plans.

Q Was this discussed at all in the President's meeting with Mr. Helms?

MR. NESSEN: They were alone, Dave.

Q Can you tell us anything at all about the nature of the meeting?

MR. NESSEN: They were alone, as I said.

Q Ron, I would like to ask you some descriptive questions.

MR. NESSEN: I know that Director Helms was in Washington. I think we said last week or before that he was coming home on home leave that had been arranged in October, I believe, quite unrelated to this. He was not on the President's schedule, and as I said Saturday, Ambassador Helms requested the meeting.

Q Had you said earlier though that there were no plans for the President to meet with Mr. Helms?

MR. NESSEN: There were none.

I have one other announcement about sickness in addition to my own, which I forgot to give at the beginning.

You know General Westmoreland had a mild heart attack the other day, and the President phoned Mrs. Westmoreland in California last evening and promised to call the General when he was feeling better, and also Dr. Lukash will keep in touch with General Westmoreland's doctor and report to the President.

Jim was trying to start a long chain of questions here.

Q I wanted to ask you a couple of descriptive questions about the Colby report. It has been described as a brief or relatively brief textural statement, and then a batch of -- I don't recall exactly how it was put.

MR. NESSEN: Appendices?

Q -- appendices, but the textual part, the actual report part being quite brief. So, my first question, is that a correct description of how the Colby report physically looks?

MR. NESSEN: Jim, I have not read the Colby report. I have seen it physically in a briefcase, but I could not give you an accurate description of how it breaks down.

Q Then the second question was that I saw an anonymous member of the White House staff quoted as saying that the report was not fit for human consumption, apparently meaning that this report was not satisfactory, that these appendices just recite charges made in the New York Times and apparently don't give a satisfactory reaction.

What is your comment on that?

MR. NESSEN: Jim, it is difficult for me to describe it since I have not read it.

Q I thought perhaps you had talked to some of those who had and could give us an idea of what it was about. You know, you have been asked questions about precisely what issues are raised by the Colby report that require this Commission. Is one of those issues the fact, in short, that the Colby report really does not give satisfactory answers or explanations of these statements in the New York Times and so forth?

MR. NESSEN: I have not heard that.

Q Or to the effect that it is unsatisfactory, and that this is one of the reasons why the President needs this Commission?

MR. NESSEN: That ~~is~~ raises enough questions to justify this Commission's investigation.

Q Is one of those questions the fact that it does not give satisfactory explanations for the charges made in the New York Times?

MR. NESSEN: Well, Jim, I think we have to leave it with what I said, which is that it raises enough questions.

Dick.

Q A moment ago there was a question, "Is the President considering replacing Ambassador Helms?," and you said, "I know of no plans."

MR. NESSEN: Right.

Q Is it being considered though?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I know of.

Q Had not Dr. Kissinger said that they were not considering replacing him?

MR. NESSEN: I thought that is what he said the other day.

Q You left a hinge on that.

MR. NESSEN: At this time.

Q At this time? There was a hinge on Kissinger, too?



Q Ron, are the questions that the Colby report raises about whether there was domestic spying, or whether the domestic spying was illegal, or the extent of domestic spying? What kinds of questions did it leave unanswered?

MR. NESSEN: Mort, I just can't go beyond the fact that it raises questions.

Q Who said that it raised the questions?

MR. NESSEN: The President.

Q We have got all these stories and all the people wondering about what it is that the CIA might have done, all on the strength of essentially one newspaper's reports, and you don't feel obliged to at least give the public some feeling of what it is that may be involved here -- not necessarily to discredit the agency, but at least to put it into some perspective?

MR. NESSEN: The purpose of the Commission, Dick, is to look into these questions.

Q Well, would you set up a similar commission on the strength of any report that you see on paper? I mean, you have had a report from the Director of the agency, and you still feel it necessary to have a commission look into this. Is this a public relations move on the part of the Administration, or what is actually involved?

MR. NESSEN: Well, I think, if you read the President's Executive Order and the statement the other day, you will see what it is he has asked the Commission to do. It is certainly not a public relations effort.

Q Could you say whether the allegations were news to the President and to the Secretary who has been overseeing CIA since 1969?

MR. NESSEN: Were they news to the President?

As far as I know.

Q Ron, have you not been permitted to read the report, or are you not curious to see what is in it?

MR. NESSEN: No, I did not ask to read the report, because if I did, then I would have to answer all these questions.

Q Do you have a security clearance to read it now?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Ron, based on people that you have talked to here, who have seen the report, it seems to me there would be three reasons why the President would want to have this additional citizens Commission. One, the report from the CIA was not responsive. Two, it brings facts into the open which are opened to interpretation; that is, they could be illegal acts, or they could not be, depending on how you interpret the CIA's Charter. Three, the report could have admitted the illegal domestic spying.

If it admitted illegal domestic spying, that does not raise a question? In other words, can we cross out number three?

MR. NESSEN: Well, John, I am just not going to go beyond the fact that the Colby report and the President's meetings raised questions that he wants looked into.

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Q Ron, why did the President give a three-month deadline to this Commission to crack the CIA's secrecy, which is practically their principal characteristic?

MR. NESSEN: You mean it is too short or too long?

Q Too short. I am not saying it is too short, I am just asking if he thinks that is adequate time to do that and why he felt it necessary to give them a deadline of that sort.

MR. NESSEN: The Katzenback Commission had a 30-day deadline, and there were no complaints about that as far as I know in terms of not having enough time.

Q The President believes that three months is long enough?

MR. NESSEN: Obviously.

Q Ron, did you say in announcing this Commission that none of these people has any connection whatever with the CIA?

MR. NESSEN: Never had any direct connection with the CIA.

Q What about Rockefeller serving on the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board?

MR. NESSEN: In terms of any domestic activities by the CIA.

Q Well, the CIA is not supposed to have any domestic activities.

MR. NESSEN: That is not entirely true, Mort. I mean, without really answering, specifically the fact is if you look at the CIA charter, you will see that there are perfectly legal things they can do in the United States.

Q Yes, in connection with foreign activities, but Rockefeller has had connections with the CIA; I mean, he has served on this board, which does oversee the activities of the group.

MR. NESSEN: The foreign activities of the CIA.

Q You keep referring to the foreign activities. The allegations that have been made, if I understand them correctly, are that these alleged domestic activities were undertaken in connection with the foreign charter; that is to say, whether these anti-war dissidents were receiving money or support from foreign sources.

So, are you really making a valid distinction here?

MR. NESSEN: I was trying to make a distinction for Mort that Vice President Rockefeller's connection with the CIA had to do with its foreign operations, and as I said earlier, I think having some knowledge of the way the CIA operates seems to me would be helpful for the Commission Chairman rather than harmful for the Commission Chairman.

Q But what you are doing is amending your statement of before. You are saying that none of these people has any direct connection with the domestic activities of the CIA?

MR. NESSEN: Or foreign either, as far as I know. I mean, you could say that Lemnitzer -- somebody did the other day say Lemnitzer obviously as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs must have seen the fruits of CIA intelligence operations overseas when he was there, but --

Q As long as we are getting into this, Lane Kirkland is Secretary Treasurer of the AFL-CIO. Presumably he knows where the money comes from that goes through the AFL-CIO.

MR. NESSEN: Does it go through the AFL-CIO?

Q What?

MR. NESSEN: Money, CIA money.

Q It did.

MR. NESSEN: It did?

Q Right, it did, and presumably he would have --

Q He was Secretary-Treasurer then?

Q Right, and he would have some knowledge of how the CIA money was channeled. Now, that is a domestic activity, I believe. So, can you hold to the remark that you made the other day that none of these people has any direct connection with the CIA?

MR. NESSEN: I think so.

Q Is it established that that money that went through the AFL-CIO was for domestic activity?

MR. NESSEN: I thought it was going to the WLO, the International Labor Organization.

Q Didn't it also go to train foreign labor leaders here in the country?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. That was before my time. But anyhow, all of these people have been checked and an FBI check has been made on them, and obviously they would not have been picked if they had any connection with the CIA that would have hampered them in this investigation.

Q Ron, you continually refer to the role that Rockefeller had as connected with the foreign operation of the CIA. Who oversees the domestic operation of the CIA?

MR. NESSEN: Do you mean within the CIA or as an oversight or what?

Q You continually said that Rockefeller's role was the foreign side of it, implying that there was another side of it, and that someone controlled it.

MR. NESSEN: No, I don't mean to imply that. I am just trying to define what it is that that board does.

Q Actually, isn't it a fact that the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board had a very broad, general, overseeing role in the CIA that would not be rigidly limited to just the CIA's foreign operations at all, it was generally to oversee the CIA and would be broad enough to include almost any activities including domestic? Isn't that the case?

MR. NESSEN: Not as far as I know, Jim. The title of the board is the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

Q Ron, you were probably asked this Saturday, but I will ask it again. Are there any plans to ask Mr. Colby to step down while the investigation goes on?

MR. NESSEN: I have not heard of any.

Q Ron, on the economy for a moment, up on the Hill this morning Alan Greenspan indicated that the recovery from the current recession may take longer than anticipated and that unemployment is likely to remain high for the rest of the year.

Now, the President has indicated on a couple of occasions that he expects an upturn in the economy the second half of this year. Do Mr. Greenspan's remarks indicate that now he is not so sure about that?

MR. NESSEN: No, because the way I read Alan Greenspan's remarks, he says, "Essentially we still foresee a bottoming out in the economic activity by mid-year." So, I don't know that he has changed that.

Q That is not the same as predicting or recovering?

MR. NESSEN: He says that "The timing and the strength of the ensuing recovery is still very uncertain." He says that "these developments should begin to lift total production and the economy during the second half of the year."

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 12:58 P.M. EST)