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NEWS CONFERENCE

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 11:30 A.M. EDT

AUGUST 6, 1975

WEDNESDAY

MR. NESSEN: The meeting with Miki ran a little late so I think I will start and then when Phil Habib is through, he will come down here and we will just go right from there. Then, of course, there is the 12 o'clock signing ceremony, and if there are any further questions from me, we can come back after that, but I would hope we can dispense with it quickly.

The only announcement I have from what you got in the regular packet is the President has accepted a request from the Public Broadcasting System to appear in an interview tomorrow night with Paul Duke, and I don't know all the others involved, one other anchor man apparently. It will be broadcast from eight to nine tomorrow night on the Public Broadcasting System. It is going to be taped tomorrow morning. We will have a transcript for you, I guess, available on the broadcast of the program. PBS asked for the opportunity to interview the President on the occasion of his first anniversary, and the President decided this morning to do it. Other than that, I don't have anything to announce.

Q Is this going to be a panel-type show?

MR. NESSEN: Paul and one other person will ask the questions.

Q What are the prospects of getting the transcript by sometime in the afternoon for later release?

MR. NESSEN: We will transcribe it, and I would guess we could get it.

Q Will there be an embargo on it?

MR. NESSEN: I think we will have an embargo on it until the broadcast. I would think we could get it about as fast as a Presidential News Conference, if you wanted it a page at a time or all in a lump, whatever.

Q Do you have anything to say about the Jack Anderson column from this morning, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: No, I don't.

Q Ron, there were some scientists this morning who held a press conference. They are concerned about various dangers connected with nuclear power. They said they requested several months ago a meeting with the President and received no response of any kind from the White House.

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Would the President, his schedule permitting, be willing to meet with them?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know what group it is. I never heard of it until you just mentioned it.

Q They call themselves the Union of Concerned Scientists.

MR. NESSEN: I never heard of it, but will look into it.

Q What date will the President veto the extension on?

MR. NESSEN: Tom, my understanding is Congress decided not to send it here until about the 25th of the month. I believe their theory is they want to avoid a pocket veto. Obviously, he can't veto it until it arrives. It will not arrive until late in the month.

Q Can they just hold it up there? They are not in session.

MR. NESSEN: Howard, I don't know what the parliamentary rules are. That is my understanding of what their strategy is.

Q Did he receive the letter requesting he not veto it, and is he now considering not vetoing it?

MR. NESSEN: What letter, the letter from Mansfield?

Q Mansfield and eight others requesting a six-month extension.

MR. NESSEN: He did receive the Mansfield letter, and his plans as far as a veto have not changed. He responded to that question on the plane the other day, and I think his answer is on the record.

Q But that was prior to the letter.

Q He left one-tenth of a percent possibility that he might not veto it. Has that widened?

MR. NESSEN: No, his position is precisely the same.

Q Is this the end of your briefing?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, I don't sense there are any burning issues for me to address today.

Phil Habib has been in the meeting with the President and Prime Minister Miki. I believe you have received the joint communique, have you not?

Q No.

MR. NESSEN: I saw it on the wires.

Q There aren't enough copies to go around.

MR. NESSEN: Phil will talk to you about the meeting and take your questions.

Q I have one question. If you don't have the answer to it, you may get it, that is, the Evans and Novak column today talked about an economic report given to the President two weeks ago that was very pessimistic about inflation and recession.

MR. NESSEN: I will check it. I saw the column. I don't have anything, but I will get the information.

Q Is there open coverage of the signing of the Civil Rights Act?

MR. NESSEN: That is right. That is why we ought to move on.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

(AT 11:35 A.M. EDT)