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NEWS CONFERENCE

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 12:20 P.M. EST

FEBRUARY 10, 1976

TUESDAY

MR. NESSEN: Let me just go through the schedule here briefly.

You know about the economic meeting this morning. That was, basically, to discuss the veto of the public works bill.

Q Did they say when they are going to?

MR. NESSEN: It will be this week, but the date was not settled upon.

Q Will it be today?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Friday?

MR. NESSEN: Friday we will be away, so that would seem to narrow it down. I just don't have the time. The time has not really been set.

Art Fletcher came in to see the President this morning, or will shortly. As you know, he has just come aboard here and the President wants to discuss with him his duties.

The swearing-in of Bill Usery, as you know, is in the East Room at 2:00. That is open for full coverage.

The President will be giving David Bruce the Medal of Freedom this afternoon at 3:30.

Q Is this open for coverage?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Late in the afternoon, 5:30, a number of representatives of organizations, such as the Air Force Association and the Amvets, the American Legion, those kinds of military-related organizations, are coming to the White House for a full afternoon of briefings by Secretary Kissinger and Secretary Rumsfeld and by the President. The President's participation is at 5:30, and that is open for full coverage.

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Then there will be a reception after that, and I guess we will have the social coverage rules in place for that.

The Secretary General of NATO, Joseph Luns, is coming in this afternoon at 3:00. As you know, he has recently been in Ottawa to talk to Prime Minister Trudeau, also in Philadelphia to receive a peace award, and afterward we will have a report on the meeting with the President.

Also, we are announcing today that the President has invited the President of the Commission of the European Communities, Francois-Xavier Ortoli to meet with him at the White House on February 24.

Q What is his title?

MR. NESSEN: He is President of the Commission of the European Communities. It is one of the bodies involved in the European community. The meeting, I think, demonstrates the importance that the United States attaches to its relationship with the European community, and they will discuss the various issues involving the United States and the European community.

I heard a story on the radio today that said that Sheila Young, one of the Olympic medal winners, had returned a call from the President and had to pay her own phone bill. What happened was that the President called Sheila Young yesterday at 3:10 in the afternoon, our time. He called her in Innsbruck, and she was out. She called back at 4:30, and there was some confusion on the switchboard here.

The fact was that she did have to pay the call, which was 300 Austrian shillings, which is \$16.50. She did talk to the President for a couple of minutes, about four minutes, and he congratulated her. I think she has won three medals so far.

The White House will reimburse Don Miller, who is an official of the U.S. Olympic team, and will pay him back the \$16.50.

Q What happened? Did she just return the call to the White House and the White House wouldn't accept the charges?

MR. NESSEN: No, the White House switchboard apparently did not know who it was. There was some confusion about where the call was coming from.

Q In other words, did she call collect and they would not accept the charge? Is that what it was?

MR. NESSEN: I think that is about right.

Q Ron, on that subject, could I raise the question of the fact that we were told about this and were not told at all it was in a return call that the President could not get her, and I would like to see that sort of stuff is corrected.

MR. NESSEN: Okay. That is why I am doing it.

Q I know, but I mean at the time we were not told that was a call back telephone conversation.

MR. NESSEN: The President also sent telegrams to each of the medal winners on the United States team so far. If you want to see the telegrams, I have copies of the ones that have gone already, and then there will be a couple more going to the latest winners.

Let me tell you a little bit about the Florida trip. You know the cities and the order of the cities and where we are staying overnight. The one event that is pretty firmly locked in so far is Friday in Fort Lauderdale at the Bahia Mar Hotel.

At 8:00 that evening the President will go to the ballroom of that particular hotel, where he will have a budget briefing, similar to the one he did in New Hampshire, with about 450 elected officials from Broward County, Dade County and Palm Beach County.

There will also be some members of the Chambers of Commerce of those counties. It will be a short briefing and a question and answer session and will last about an hour or so. Then the President will overnight there at that same hotel.

As the week goes on, I will try to get other details for you of the trip.

Q Do you have any details on Orlando?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have anything firmly yet on Orlando.

Q What time is he supposed to get there?

MR. NESSEN: At the present time, it looks like the President will be leaving toward the early afternoon, like in the 1:00 area.

Q Will this meeting with officials allow you to pro-rate the expense of the trip between Government and the campaign committee?

MR. NESSEN: No. As you know, this is a campaign trip for the President.

Q Is this format a campaign format that you described -- this budget briefing -- is this going to be part of the campaign format?

MR. NESSEN: I do not know what you mean by "campaign format"?

Q This will be the second one. Is this going to be part of the format, just like they are doing with Republican officials in various States?

MR. NESSEN: It is a way of communicating his policies and proposals to local people and local officials.

Q He likes it. He feels comfortable with this?

MR. NESSEN: Apparently the local officials like it.

Q Whose idea was it? His or the local officials?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. I will have to check and find out.

It appears at this time, because the President is moving around rapidly from city to city down there, that Mrs. Ford will not make the trip to Florida this weekend.

Q What does that mean? I don't understand that.

MR. NESSEN: I was asked the other day by Fran, or somebody else, if Mrs. Ford was going along, and I was providing an answer to the question I was asked the other day.

Q He is going to be moving around fast so, in other words, she is not able to keep up with him?

MR. NESSEN: Sheila can give you a fuller explanation, but Mrs. Ford will not be going this weekend.

Q Will he come back Saturday night or Sunday?

MR. NESSEN: The President will return on Saturday night.

Q And return to New Hampshire possibly on the 21st? Is there anything new on that?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Can you give us the order of cities again?

MR. NESSEN: Orlando, Fort Lauderdale on Friday, overnight in Fort Lauderdale, then on Saturday St. Petersburg, Fort Meyer and Miami, returning home from Miami.

Q I think it is the St. Petersburg visit that coincides with a protest rally there on behalf of some professor who was jailed for participation in an anti-Nixon rally.

MR. NESSEN: I have not heard that.

Q Is there any change in the schedule because of that?

MR. NESSEN: I did not even know there was such a demonstration planned.

Q Do you have a rough idea what he is going to do in Orlando?

MR. NESSEN: I would rather wait for the schedule to be locked up and give the events out as they are firmed up.

Q Do you have anything on Sunday here?

MR. NESSEN: On Sunday, he has some sort of an annual brunch, kind of a prayer brunch, I guess, for athletes. But, I don't have the details.

Q In the White House?

MR. NESSEN: It is here.

Q Will Susan be making another one of her enjoyable campaign trips?

MR. NESSEN: This weekend?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. I have not heard anything about it. Sheila can probably help you.

Q What sort of athletes is the Sunday thing?

Q Athletes in Action, it is called.

MR. NESSEN: Regular football and baseball and basketball players; hockey, maybe.

I can't seem to find anything else to volunteer, so I will answer your questions.

Q Why was the visit of the Turkish Foreign Minister postponed, and when will it be?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know yet. You have to ask the State Department.

Q Is Hampton quitting?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I know of.

Q It says the Civil Service Commissioner -- according to the Star today -- is resigning at the end of the year.

MR. NESSEN: I have not heard of it.

Q Has the President read the Brookings Institute study on the B-1 bomber, one, and two, what is his reaction to it, whether he has read it or been informed of it?

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MR. NESSEN: As of yesterday he had not read the full report but he is aware of it -- the situation on the B-1. I think for the technical kind of details they got into, you should talk to the Pentagon, but generally speaking, I think you know the budget contains funds to purchase the long lead-time items of the B-1, although the decision to go ahead with production or not go ahead with production will not be made until November of this year.

I think, generally, the President feels that the only long-range bomber we have at the moment is 20 or 25 years old and the cost of maintaining a plane that old rises every year. He believes that the decision-making process on whether to proceed with the B-1 is being conducted in a very proper manner. The decision whether to produce it or not, as I say, will be made on November 1st and for the specific kind of technical comparisons that the Brookings people made I think you should talk to the Pentagon.

Q I don't know. Does the President agree with the Pentagon theory or concept that all of the major branches should be prepared for full-scale nuclear war. If I am describing that concept accurately, it is a concept which has led to charges of duplication of missile roles, duplication of nuclear roles and so forth. Does he agree with this Pentagon concept?

MR. NESSEN: Jim, that is a subject I don't want to answer off the cuff, so to speak, without knowing a lot more about it. You are asking a very broad question and I need to get myself briefed up a little.

Q I asked you whether the President agreed with, apparently, a fundamental concept of the armed services?

MR. NESSEN: I am just not familiar enough with the concept to answer intelligently.

Q Can we get a transcript of the talk to the Sperling group.

MR. NESSEN: No, the people who were there will.

Q Did he tell that group he thought Congress was -- he used the word gutless -- for not getting involved in Angola.

MR. NESSEN: No, he said Congress had lost its guts.

Q Why?

MR. NESSEN: For backing down in the face of the Cuban and Russian armed intervention in Angola which is preventing the Angolan people from deciding on their own form of Government.

Q Will a transcript of the AMVETS briefing be made available later this evening?

MR. NESSEN: It is open for coverage.

Q Will the transcript be made available?

MR. NESSEN: A Presidential transcript?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: Of course.

Q Has the President decided to hold off on asking for open aid in the Angola crisis?

MR. NESSEN: He said that decision has not been made yet. He also said time is running out, that Congress is not even here now, will be gone for, he said, a week or ten days and when they get back there will have to be a review of how seriously the situation has deteriorated in the face of their previous refusal to help the Angolan people and a decision made at that time.

Q Did he say Ronald Reagan would not be able to get along with Congress?

MR. NESSEN: He referred to, I think, the ex-Governor as a person who has not had any Washington experience. I believe he used the expression "a stranger to Washington and to the people in Washington who do cooperate and coordinate and consult in order to get things done."

Q In other words, his theme, I think, from what I heard, was that you need some experience to know how to get things done with the Congress.

MR. NESSEN: I think that would be a good paraphrase of his thought.

Q I wonder, in view of what he just said about Congress, what would you cite as the things he thinks successful in getting along with the Congress?

MR. NESSEN: Many things, Bob. I don't know how far back you want to go, but we have a compromise energy bill that contains, I think, four of his thirteen proposals. Going back over a year, you had a compromise tax cut bill. You had a re-written and revised housing bill, a revised and re-written jobs bill. You had the railroad aid bill that certainly looked like it was headed for a veto until there was the kind of cooperation which produced a \$6 billion aid bill for the railroads. It is fairly extensive. Those, I think, might be some of the highlights. I am sure I have forgotten some. Certainly the restoration of Turkish aid after Congress had made a mistake by cutting it off, and then through cooperation and consultation and a series of meetings here at the White House, you probably remember Congress reversed itself on that.

Q Has the President told Members of Congress that they lost their guts? Has he told them that personally in that language?

MR. NESSEN: Probably not.

Q Probably not? Does the President think that Congress was reflecting the views of the people in their decisions on Angola, not to act in Angola, or does he think they were arbitrary?

MR. NESSEN: It is really hard to know, I think, what the public view of Angola is. The President feels certainly in the long run, if not now, the American people will come to see that it was a mistake to deny help to the people who were simply trying to determine their own form of Government and we are denied that by Russian military arms and by Cuban troops.

Q You may have been asked this question before, but if you have not, Secretary Kissinger has opened the possibility, at least, that the Administration will ask for open -- overt aid to Angola?

MR. NESSEN: The question was asked. What I said was time is running out. The situation is deteriorating. Congress is not even here. They are off on another holiday.

Q The House is in session, Ron.

MR. NESSEN: For what, for two days and then they go away, but in any case, the President told the meeting this morning that when Congress returns the situation would be reviewed at that time since it is deteriorating, and he would make a decision on that at that time.

Q Is the President aware of the firing squad shooting of the mercenaries in Angola?

MR. NESSEN: He is aware of the reports, yes.

Q What about the reports there were two American special service troops seen over there by one of the mercenaries that came back to London?

MR. NESSEN: There are no Americans in Angola who are in any way connected with the Government or the American military.

Q You were mentioning all the areas where the President had gotten along with Congress. You did not mention vetoes and I have lost track. How many vetoes has the President had?

MR. NESSEN: Forty-five. Thirty-eight of those Congress agreed with the President. Forty-six would be the public works bill. Forty-five already. Forty-six contemplated and out of the forty-five Congress has agreed and gone along with the President in all but eight.

Q The President is approaching the records set by his predecessor Cleveland and possibly Truman in the number of bills he has vetoed. Does he consider this almost record number of vetoes as an example of his contention he can get along better with Congress than someone with no experience in Washington?

MR. NESSEN: Jim, each and every one of these bills is judged on its own merits.

Q I am sure of that. I am asking whether he would have you cite this as an example, as you cited other examples --

MR. NESSEN: You have to go on and take that as one factor and then you have to go on and sit down with the list and look at how many of those -- after all, the purpose of the veto in the Constitution is to give Congress a second chance to look at legislation, to take a second look at legislation and to come up with something. This is the President's view of the constitutional foundation of the veto -- to give Congress a second look at legislation, a second chance to pass something different. And I think you should look at the list of 45 and see in how many cases they did take a second look, prepare a bill that the President considered more responsible, sent it back and had it signed.

Q Ron, do you think the President will talk about Angola in this forum at 5:30?

MR. NESSEN: As far as I know, the President intends to use the forum to outline, I think, in some detail his foreign policy, his military policy, his record and experience in foreign policy and that is what he plans to do.

Q This is not a speech then?

MR. NESSEN: It is not a real speech. I think it probably would run about ten minutes, perhaps.

Q Is it a political speech?

MR. NESSEN: No, it is not. These people are coming here because their organizations are interested in military and diplomatic policy and they are hearing from the people who run that on the day-to-day basis and they want to hear from the President what his policies are.

Q Did they ask for this session or did he invite them?

MR. NESSEN: I think it is one in a series of meetings with groups from the private world to tell them and explain to them the part of the budget and the policies which relates to their special interest. There have been a number of these.

Q I am not sure you really answered the question.

MR. NESSEN: They have been invited to the White House as part of a continuing series of private groups which are invited to the White House to hear about their own area, what the Administration's policies and budget recommendations are in their area.

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Q Ron, will the failure of the CIA to have a presence in Angola bear at all on the President's ability to make policy judgments in that part of the world?

MR. NESSEN: You mean to gather information or to have an effect on events?

Q To gather information. You just said we had no officials in Angola. I take it you include CIA as officials?

MR. NESSEN: We have no American Government officials there.

Q That means the CIA is not presently in Angola. Taking that as a premise, does that impair the President's ability to make policy judgments on the Angola situation?

MR. NESSEN: It certainly has impaired the ability of the United States to affect events. Now, I don't really think I can or should get into whether it has hampered the intelligence gathering activities of the CIA.

Q Would you say the President had failed in his attempts to have Soviets withdraw or to lessen their presence in any way since obviously we have been putting pressure on? Kissinger was there and so forth in Moscow.

MR. NESSEN: I would not put it that way. You have the President's own words. I don't think you need more than that.

Q I am asking you, has the White House failed in its attempt to put diplomatic pressure on the Soviet Union to withdraw?

MR. NESSEN: Congress has taken away the ability of the United States to affect events.

Q Would money have meant the difference in the diplomatic pressure? Is that what you are saying?

MR. NESSEN: The denial of the money for people who share our goal of giving the Angolans a chance to choose their own Government--the failure to give that money by Congress has taken away America's ability to affect events in Angola.

Q Did the President say anything about the Lockheed Corporation's inability to --

MR. NESSEN: Do you mean at the Sperling breakfast?

Q Has he had any reaction to it since the news came out?

MR. NESSEN: I would rather give you, if I may, the President's overall views on the whole series of stories concerning the actions of American corporations giving money to foreign officials and others overseas.

Q Would you include, as you answer that, the reports referring to Prince Bernhard, please?

MR. NESSEN: I would like you to take this as not being directed to any specific case. I don't know what the legal standing of some of these specific cases might be in court. I would like to give you the President's general views, if I may.

Q These are on Lockheed or on firms generally?

MR. NESSEN: On firms generally. The President does not condone any illegal activities by American business and industrial firms abroad. In fact, the President condemns in the strongest terms such actions by American corporations. If you would have asked me this yesterday, you would have had it 24 hours ahead of time.

Q Is that a policy in the briefings, that information like this we have to ask to get?

MR. NESSEN: I didn't quite know what to do with this thing yesterday. I wrestled with deciding whether to volunteer it or not.

Q It is controversial.

MR. NESSEN: I know it.

Q Go ahead.

MR. NESSEN: Any American company or individual making unlawful payments to officials of foreign governments will not receive protection from the State Department against legitimate law enforcement actions by either responsible officials in foreign countries or responsible officials in the United States. In addition, I am told that the Treasury Department is announcing this morning that Secretary Simon has directed the Internal Revenue Service to intensify its efforts so that corporations that have given bribes to foreign officials cannot use that bribe to reduce its American tax liability.

In other words, it can't show that as a legitimate business expense and use it as a deduction on taxes.

Q It never could.

MR. NESSEN: It never could, but now they are intensifying the effort to make sure there is no attempt made to do so.

Q What do you mean by that? Are they re-examining the income tax returns?

MR. NESSEN: I am told that Bill Rhatigan is prepared to give you more details on this at the Treasury Department. In addition, the President discussed, with a number of advisers this morning, what further action he can personally take. He asked for recommendations. He is leaning toward an idea of establishing a Cabinet level committee to review the practices of American corporations in this area and to review the applicable American laws which apply to it. That is one idea that he discussed this morning.

Let me emphasize that he has asked for a review of how he could get more directly involved and this was one idea discussed. It has not been adopted, but it is an idea and he asked for other ideas of what he should do and precisely what he will do has not been decided yet. This was one idea discussed.

Q This was a meeting with the economic advisers?

MR. NESSEN: No, this was in a separate meeting.

Q Is he re-examining the policy of lending money to Lockheed?

MR. NESSEN: I did not get into that much detail with him, Mort.

Q I am confused by your reference in your prepared statement to "the State Department will not give protection to any company or individual that is subject to legitimate law enforcement proceedings abroad." It seems to carry the implication that the State Department will, in some circumstances, afford protection to American citizens who are indicted or prosecuted abroad. What is that protection that they afford now?

In other words, what I am asking is what change is there? I don't know of any practice where the State Department tries to protect someone who is legitimately accused of a law violation.

MR. NESSEN: I think they provide assistance to Americans who are in trouble abroad.

Q What kind of assistance is that?

MR. NESSEN: We will have to get that, Jim.

Q Whatever it is, we are not going to do it here, is that right?

MR. NESSEN: Not protect them from law enforcement action if they give unlawful payments --

Q That is what I am trying to get at. You are implying that they now protect them in some way against proceedings abroad.

MR. NESSEN: Let me make clear, Jim, this is not a policy that has been adopted this week. The views of the President -- and I am passing them on to you -- they are a reflection of a policy statement that the State Department made, I think, last May, if I am not mistaken. In the middle of May the State Department ran down this same statement of American policy. I am relating to you the President's views which are really solidly based on policy that the State Department mentioned last May.

Q Let me ask what I hope will be a simple question. Should your statement read "protection" or should it read "assistance?"

MR. NESSEN: Protection.

Q If so, what do you mean by protection?

MR. NESSEN: I want to get together with the State Department legal people or put you with the State Department legal people and find out what protection is provided now.

Q What does it mean by "responsible officials in the United States?" What is that a reference to?

MR. NESSEN: The Justice Department. I believe that the SEC also is conducting an investigation of alleged bribes to foreign officials.

Q Would the State Department be involved in some protection or assistance?

MR. NESSEN: I want to get from the legal office over there precisely what they do in such cases.

Q Obviously, Ron, one option you have to enforce good corporate behavior would be to exclude such corporations for competition for Government contracts. Is that an option that was discussed among the options?

MR. NESSEN: I think when the President talked this morning of wanting to get more involved himself and set up some kind of review of American Government practices and laws as well as corporate practices, I think that is one area that would be certainly looked at.

Q Who did he meet with this morning?

MR. NESSEN: A group of advisers.

Q Who?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think I will spell out who was there.

Q Why not?

MR. NESSEN: Because it is not formal practice.

Q Yes, it is.

MR. NESSEN: No, it is not.

Q Can you tell us what departments they were from?

MR. NESSEN: Various.

Q Ron, was this a meeting called specifically for this purpose?

MR. NESSEN: No, it came up in the context of another matter.

Q What was the context of the other meeting?

MR. NESSEN: Staff meeting.

Q Does the President consider these actions by American corporations as being damaging to American foreign policy?

MR. NESSEN: I am not answering that question.

Q Ron, was your answer when you said "I think that is one area that would certainly be looked at," were you referring only to eliminating them from defense contracts or Government contracts generally?

MR. NESSEN: I can't stand here and include or exclude what the review that the President wants to undertake will cover. But he wants to review, as I say, Government practices and laws and corporate practices in the light of the stories. I think it is premature to lay down the agenda of what this review will be. The format has not been agreed to.

Q In responding to the question, were you referring only to defense contracts?

MR. NESSEN: No, I think speaking very broadly and saying that this is one area they probably would want to look into, Government contracts.

Q Can I get straight now at which meeting this was discussed? Was it an economic meeting?

MR. NESSEN: No, a staff meeting on another subject and this came up in the course of that meeting.

Q There was a staff meeting, but it also had other people from other departments. It was not just a White House staff meeting.

MR. NESSEN: No. There was one person from one other department there.

Q Ron, is there any kind of cooperation of the Government with at least two other countries trying to investigate the Lockheed pay-off?

MR. NESSEN: I have to check State on that. I don't know.

Q Ron, would it be fair to say that President Ford is now looking for sanctions to apply against these companies?

MR. NESSEN: I think that is too strong. I think he is looking for a review. He is planning a review.

Q What does the President think of the revelations by Gulf and so forth of domestic alleged pay-offs? Does he equally condemn those?

MR. NESSEN: He condemns any illegality, Helen. Whether the courts determine that that was an illegality -- the courts are the proper place to adjudicate that. But I think you have known the President long enough to know he does not sanction or condone any illegality.

Q This business of the State Department not providing protection, can we assume from your statement the State Department will continue to supply assistance to American company officials who may get themselves in trouble overseas?

MR. NESSEN: Ed, I need to sit down with legal counsel and find out what they do now and what they exclude.

Q I think they do that now.

MR. NESSEN: I want to talk about how this translates into a day-to-day function.

Q Does protection mean exemption?

MR. NESSEN: I want to talk to them, Jim, and find out how it translates into their day-to-day activities. There is a policy statement and I need to find out how it translates.

Q Does this represent a change in policy for the President then?

MR. NESSEN: Certainly not. The President has never condoned this kind of illegal action by American corporations either here or overseas.

Q Has there ever been a time when the State Department provided protection to companies in that kind of situation?

MR. NESSEN: Ed, I am at a disadvantage in answering these questions because I have not done the research.

Q Your statement used the word "protection." I am trying to find out what the State Department --

MR. NESSEN: I would have to give the same answer. I have to talk to the legal counsel over there and find out.

Q You were asked about enforcement from the standpoint of possibly Government contracts. Let me ask it from another standpoint. Is another option under consideration -- the revocation of passports of individuals who are engaged in illegal activities.

MR. NESSEN: This is very much too premature. What the President did this morning is say, "I want to have a review of actions and laws by the United States Government and by American corporations." The form of the review has not been set yet, much less the format and the areas to be looked into. The question of whether this would include the possible ban on Government contracts, you know I am saying on my own I think that would be an area they would like to look into, but I can't at the moment say these are the things they are considering.

Q Would you think the revocation of passports might be another area?

MR. NESSEN: Jim, I am not going to play guessing games on this.

Q Was there an extensive discussion of this?
How long did the discussion last on this matter?

MR. NESSEN: Enough to cover the areas I am relaying to you. It was not an exhaustive discussion.

Q About ten minutes?

MR. NESSEN: Ten or fifteen minutes.

Q Did the President today order these corporations who were accused be denied legitimate protection?

MR. NESSEN: This is a State Department policy going back to last May.

Q So he did not order it?

MR. NESSEN: He did not order this today.

Q There is nothing today in that statement --

MR. NESSEN: I think this whole discussion, Phil, began when somebody asked me his views and I gave you his views.

Q For our guidance, there is no news in that statement?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know whether you consider news the Treasury Department and its action or the President discussing at a meeting his desire to have a review. That was about a half hour today.

Q In fact, the new element here is he is asking for the review, is that right?

MR. NESSEN: That's right. He asked for suggestions on how to conduct a review.

Q Ron, does he condemn giving money to officials in countries where that practice may not be illegal in those countries?

MR. NESSEN: He condemns anything that violates either foreign law or domestic law by American corporations.

Q But in countries where they do not consider it against the law to give gifts to foreign officials or individuals?

MR. NESSEN: I would rather not give a hypothetical answer to a hypothetical question.

Q Did the President have a reaction to, or did it come up at the meeting this morning, the specific allegation involving Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands?

MR. NESSEN: I said I anticipated some questions on the whole area and we did develop this was his position. It did not come up yesterday at the briefing but it did come up today. So, as I say, this is his reaction and the order of the review and so forth I don't want you to take to mean that he has reached any conclusion on the allegations about Lockheed, but this is his reaction to the whole question of American companies allegedly bribing foreign officials.

Q Could you tell us whether the Securities and Exchange Commission was represented at this meeting?

MR. NESSEN: It started off as a staff meeting on another subject.

Q But you said somebody from another department was there.

MR. NESSEN: No, it was not the Security and Exchange Commission.

Q Was Secretary Kissinger here this morning?

MR. NESSEN: He was not.

Q His car was parked up there.

MR. NESSEN: He was not there.

Q Were you at the meeting?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Did you bring up this issue?

MR. NESSEN: No, I did not. I brought it up yesterday, but not today.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END

(AT 1:05 P.M. EST)