

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 11:15 A.M. EDT

JUNE 14, 1976

MONDAY

MR. NESSEN: I wanted to come out and do a few quick schedule things more than anything else.

At 11:30, the President will come down and read a statement on the subject of the fact sheet that we have just given out, and there will be a longer statement by the President and then a shorter version of that statement which he will read here. That will be followed immediately by Elliot Richardson, who will be here to answer your questions in detail about the proposals dealing with payments to foreign Governments and foreign people, so that is why I am starting a little early today.

Just to back up a little bit, at 11:15, which is about now, the President is making a phone call to the dedication of the Science and Technology Exposition at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. I understand that this is being amplified over loudspeakers at that end. For those who are not there, we will give you both a transcript and play a tape recording for you here. You may recall, we announced this some time ago, it is called the Science and Technology Exposition at Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Then, we will have the statement by the President here in the briefing room, the briefing by Elliot Richardson, and then this afternoon at 2 o'clock, as you know, the President is meeting for an hour with Roy Wilkins and other leaders of the civil rights movement, and I believe we have either distributed or will distribute a list of participants.

As many of you requested on Saturday, some or all of the participants will be available here in the briefing room to answer your questions.

Q     Approximately what time will that be?

MR. NESSEN: The meeting lasts approximately an hour, and that would mean the briefing will start here around 3:00.

Q     You don't mean the President will be available?

MR. NESSEN: No, the participants, the civil rights leaders.

There were only a few here on Saturday after the Saturday luncheon with various people from the academic community and from local school boards who held a rather long briefing here on their views and the statement they made to the President. We have transcripts available of that Saturday briefing and, just as a personal opinion, I found this to be one of the most articulate explanations of the position held by these people concerning busing that we have had here perhaps ever, and for those of you who were not here Saturday to hear it in person, again, just as a personal view, I would think you might want to get this and read it both for background and for possible recycling today in connection with this afternoon's briefing.

Tomorrow, as you know, --

Q Before we leave that, is this the last of the meetings with outside groups today on busing?

MR. NESSEN: No, there will be some really throughout the rest of the week.

Q What types of people will be coming in?

MR. NESSEN: There will be some Congressional leaders, among others, Members of Congress, and I think some who are involved -- what are some of the other groups, John?

MR. CARLSON: Constitutional experts.

MR. NESSEN: That is right, Constitutional experts and Members of Congress are two of the groups, and perhaps others.

Q Before we get off that subject, also, was your personal statement intended as an expression of dissatisfaction with the stories that were written either in terms of the amount of coverage or the type or the substance of the coverage?

MR. NESSEN: No, I just felt that this was really some articulate people who have done some thinking about this subject and have been personally involved in it and just was strictly what I said it was. It was a personal expression on my part.

Q You are not expressing the dissatisfaction with the content?

MR. NESSEN: No, I felt the stories were long and detailed and reflected these views.

Q As long as you have personal notes, do you think that the views expressed by those gentlemen on Saturday reflect pretty accurately what President Ford thinks?

MR. NESSEN: I think President Ford has said what his views are and these folks have said what their views are, and those this afternoon will say what their views are.

Tomorrow, the President goes to Norfolk, as you know. We have a summary schedule which either has been or shortly will be passed out. It shows that the press check-in at Andrews is 12:30. I think we will pass and not have any briefing tomorrow. As I said, the press check-in is at 12:30 and the press plane departs from Andrews at 1 o'clock.

The President departs from Andrews on Air Force One at 1:45. The President arrives at the Norfolk Naval Air Station at 2:25. The speech is at 3:30. It is to the Southern Baptist Convention and it is at the Scope Convention Center in Norfolk.

On the return, the President departs from the Norfolk Naval Air Station at 4:25 and will arrive at Andrews at 5:05.

The outlook for the text is tomorrow morning, at the earliest.

Q We will have one before we leave town?

MR. NESSEN: Hopefully, yes.

Q Release on delivery, I assume?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Will he have any other little meetings with other people while he is down there, or will he go strictly --

MR. NESSEN: No, he is going to make the speech, get on the plane and come home.

Q Ron, does the President have any plans at this moment to go to any of the other convention States?

Q Question?

MR. NESSEN: The question was, does the President have any plans at this moment to go to other convention States?

At the moment, there is just nothing decided on that subject.

Q It is being considered?

MR. NESSEN: Yes. I said that before, that it is being considered but there is nothing definite.

Q Does he have any political meetings today, that a decision might be made today or tomorrow?

MR. NESSEN: I don't really know when the decision is going to be made.

Q Is he meeting with Stu Spencer today or any of the campaign people?

MR. NESSEN: I am told that the PFC has a news conference at 1:30, at which they might discuss some of the matters of interest.

Q I was interested in whether the President is meeting with any of those people?

MR. NESSEN: I have not seen it on the official schedule.

Q Did he meet with any of them yesterday, talk with them?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I know of.

Q Who did he meet with last night when he got back from Camp David?

MR. NESSEN: I think Elly Peterson came in for some reason, didn't she? Some women's group, and Elly Peterson came in.

Q More of a social thing?

MR. NESSEN: More social than anything.

Q As far as you know, he is not seeing Morton today?

MR. NESSEN: I have not seen anything on the official schedule about him meeting Morton.

Q Is he going to talk with him on the telephone?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know, Phil.

Q Are there any plans today to discuss the overall future strategy?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. I have not seen anything on the schedule.

Q Would you let us know if there is? Can we check back with you later?

MR. NESSEN: I think this is probably the answer, that I have not seen anything on the schedule that looks like that kind of a meeting.

Q Anything Saturday?

MR. NESSEN: I will let you know.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

QUESTION: Has he been asked about Missouri reactions? You know, what is the President's outlook now on these conventions? Does he feel depressed about the loss?

MR. NESSEN: As I said, the PFC has a news conference at 1:30 at which both Jim Baker and Rog Morton will answer your questions. I think John talked to you over the weekend about the immediate reaction to Missouri, and as for the overall outlook it remains the same, that the President expects to win the nomination on the first ballot.

Q Even at the risk of getting the same answer, I do want to ask, what, if anything, does the President plan to do in order to try to avert defeats in convention States such as the one in Missouri?

MR. NESSEN: Well, I am just not that much up on politics, Ted, and I think it is something you need to address to his campaign officials who are having their news conference at 1:30.

Q I was not sure, did the President expect to do better than this? Did he expect to win? Did he expect to get just a few? I never was sure where --

MR. NESSEN: I think John said yesterday the President was disappointed, which would indicate that he expected to do better than he did.

Q Was there a number?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. You have to ask Rog and Jim. That is their area.

Q I wanted to know what the President thought since he is the candidate?

MR. NESSEN: They are the folks who are into that level of politics and I don't have the answer myself, and one of the reasons for having the news conference is to get into those kinds of questions.

Q That seems to leave the impression that the President is leaving these matters entirely up to campaign aides. Is that the case?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know the answer to these detailed political questions myself, and that is why at 1:30 you will have an opportunity to ask them.

Q Will they be able to answer for the President?

MR. NESSEN: I think they will be able to answer these questions that you raise.

Q Do you know where he is going next, if anyplace?

MR. NESSEN: I think earlier I said there is nothing decided on another trip.

THE PRESS: Thank you again.

MR. NESSEN: So, in five minutes or so we will have the President come down.

END (AT 11:27 A.M. EDT)