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N E W S C O N F E R E N C E

#524

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 11:50 A.M. EDT

JUNE 30, 1976

WEDNESDAY

MR. NESSEN: We have a lot of schedule information about the July 4th period. I don't have a readout on the meeting yet, but we will have a readout on the meeting between the President and the Prime Minister.

Q What time do you think, Ron? After lunch?

MR. NESSEN: No, I think before lunch.

Now, as you know, the President is giving a lunch for Prime Minister Miki beginning at 1:00. We have pool coverage of the arrival of the Minister at the North Portico. The pool has been posted, and the pool for that should assemble here at 12:45. That is for the arrival pictures.

At 1:15 the President and the Prime Minister will be photographed at the staircase in the Residence, and that is the same pool which covered the arrival. They will just go straight in from the portico to take that picture.

At 2:30, approximately, there will be toasts in the State Dining Room. The photo pool for that has been posted. You should meet here about 2:00 to go over for the pool pictures of the toasts. The toasts will be piped here to the press room.

Q Same pool?

MR. NESSEN: No, the pool that has been posted. The toasts will be piped into the press room through the mult so you can record them.

When the extension of the withholding rates arrives sometime today, the President will sign it, and he plans to make a short statement at the time he signs. His position is that he is only signing this as an expedient so that the withholding doesn't increase in people's paychecks, but what he really is doing is giving Congress time to finally come to grips with the issue of cutting income taxes, and especially to deal with his proposal that taxes be cut an additional \$10 billion.

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Q Does he have a realistic hope that Congress will do that?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, he certainly does. He believes they should, and he will give you his views on that this afternoon.

Q Is he going to do this for cameras?

MR. NESSEN: If you want it, he will.

Q He is running the show. If he wants to do it, we are here.

Q It would be helpful.

MR. NESSEN: If you want it, we can probably arrange it.

Q What time?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. It partly depends on what time the legislation gets here, but I would say mid to late afternoon.

I think you may know the President is meeting tomorrow with Mr. Mohammad Naim of Afghanistan. He is in the United States as a special envoy of the head of State, and Prime Minister of Afghanistan, President Daoud, and that will be late tomorrow afternoon.

Now, I really have quite a lot of information to give you on the President's plans and on coverage plans of all the Bicentennial events, beginning tomorrow at the Air Museum. I don't know if you want to go right to that or try to clear up on other questions first.

Q A question, first. Does the President have a comment on Senator Goldwater's endorsement today?

MR. NESSEN: Only, Marilyn, that he is pleased.

Q Would he say that for cameras?

MR. NESSEN: I doubt it.

Q Ron, when did he find out about it?

MR. NESSEN: My understanding is that last evening, or late yesterday afternoon, there was this meeting, which I think you know about, of Cheney, Stu Spencer and Rog Morton, sort of a periodic routine meeting on the campaign. During that meeting, Dick Cheney was called out of the meeting to receive a phone call, and it was in that phone call that he was advised that Goldwater had sent this letter.

Q Who made the phone call?

MR. NESSEN: I am not entirely clear who the phone call was from. I think it was from somebody on Goldwater's staff. Then Cheney went back in the meeting and told the President. After the meeting, the President phoned Goldwater shortly after 6:00 and thanked him for the endorsement.

Q Ron, was Mr. Ford very active in the Goldwater campaign in 1964?

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

Q Is it possible to find out? Is there someone you would recommend we could check to see how active he was in campaigning for Senator Goldwater in 1964?

MR. NESSEN: I will look into it.

Q How valuable does he think this endorsement will be?

MR. NESSEN: I haven't had that much time to talk to him this morning about it.

Q The endorsement seemed to indicate that Senator Goldwater doesn't really see a dime's worth of difference between Mr. Ford and Mr. Reagan as far as their political philosophies are concerned. He didn't use that phrasing, but he said they both had conservative philosophies toward Government.

Does the President agree with that, that there is that much similarity between the two men?

MR. NESSEN: I think he has spoken on that very point before, Phil.

Q Where was that?

MR. NESSEN: I will have to look it up.

Q You don't recall what that was?

MR. NESSEN: I really don't. I know he has spoken on it before. We can find out what he said.

Q Does the President still think the nomination of Reagan would lead to a debacle like Goldwater's? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: I don't know exactly what his wording has been on that question. I will check on it.

Q When was the last time he talked to Goldwater prior to last night?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. I can't think of what the occasion was.

Q Excuse me, but to return to Jim's question, without being facetious --

MR. NESSEN: Why don't you be facetious? (Laughter)

O I am sure you know the President's words.

MR. NESSEN: I don't.

O The President has said over and over again it was a debacle, a tragedy, and disastrous, and I think that there is really no doubt about what he has said. The question of Jim, I think, was, does the President still share that feeling?

MR. NESSEN: I have to find out exactly what he said in the past.

Q Could you say he still stands by what he has said in the past?

MR. NESSEN: I would like to see what he has said in the past.

Q Come on, you mean there is some question whether he stands by his statements?

MR. NESSEN: There isn't in my mind. I would like to know what you are referring to rather than some blanket statements.

O Do you know, when that word came to Cheney about Goldwater's endorsement, was that news to Morton and Spencer, too?

MR. NESSEN: It was, as far as I know.

Q Since the President had previously predicted he would win the nomination on the first ballot, it is fair to assume, is it not, he does not regard the Goldwater endorsement as crucial or one that would put him over?

MR. NESSEN: He is very pleased with the endorsement, Ted.

Q Why won't you say more than that?

MR. NESSEN: Frankly, I haven't had all that much time this morning to really look any deeper into it, Walt.

O You said he knew about it last night?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, he did.

O Did you talk to him about it last night?

MR. NESSEN: No, I did not talk to him about it last night.

Q Where does the jobs bill stand?

MR. NESSEN: The jobs bill, I think, is here. It just arrived last night, and the last day for the President to take action on it is the 7th of July, and I can't tell you now what his decision will be.

Q Secretary Brezhnev, at the Communist Party summit meeting in East Berlin, said the Ford Administration is stalling on the arms limitation agreement and that the United States is in fact dragging out these talks because of the American election this year. It is on the front page of the Post, if you haven't seen it.

MR. NESSEN: I have seen it.

O Would you like to respond to it?

MR. NESSEN: It is just not true.

Q If I remember the scheduling correctly, the arms limitation was supposed to be signed in Washington in June of this year, and this is the last day of June, so something has obviously gone haywire.

MR. NESSEN: What time is that signing schedule for, John? (Laughter)

Nothing has gone haywire. We are negotiating, we are working on that agreement and working on an agreement. I mean, the only agreement we would accept would be one in the best interests of the United States, and that would offer the best hope of peace throughout the world.

There is no way to negotiate a treaty like that if you set an arbitrary deadline or try to follow an arbitrary timetable.

Q Could you be more specific on what the hang-ups are now on the treaty?

MR. NESSEN: I can't be because it is a treaty in negotiation. The negotiators went back in Geneva on June 1, as you may know, and they have been back on it for about a month, and here in Washington also there is work being done.

But, conventions, campaigns, elections are no factor in the negotiation of this treaty.

Q Did the delegates go back with any formulations or proposals?

Q Question?

MR. NESSEN: Marilyn wanted to know if the delegates went back on June 1 with -- well, I don't think you can conduct those kinds of negotiations if you talk publicly about the position.

Q I am not asking what the position is, I am asking if they have one.

MR. NESSEN: Whether they have a new position?

Q A new formulation of any sort.

MR. NESSEN: I would rather not talk in that much detail about the negotiations.

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Q Is the President optimistic the treaty will be signed this year or completed this year or that the negotiations will be completed this year?

MR. NESSEN: He is hopeful that as soon as the two sides agree on a treaty that is in the best interest of the United States and in the best interests of world peace that we will accept the treaty.

Q That is kind of a vague answer.

MR. NESSEN: You can't read the future, Walt. I mean, we are in serious negotiations on the treaty but I can't tell you when it will be concluded.

Q Ron, three members of the UN's PLO observer group -- Mr. Saleh, Rahman and Al-Hout -- have all violated the State Department rule and are engaging in political activity beyond the 25-mile radius of New York. Mr. Funseth says the only action taken by the State Department is to notify the PLO office in New York. The question is, why, if the President is serious about not recognizing the PLO, doesn't he order the State Department to cancel the visas of these people who keep on violating the regulations.

MR. NESSEN: I am not familiar with the three cases you cite, Les. I know the PLO is accorded certain access to New York City because the United Nations has given the PLO observer status and generally that they are limited to staying within 25 miles of Columbus Circle in New York City.

Now, there has been an occasion in the past -- and they can get waivers to that rule if they don't use their travel for political purposes --

Q I know all of that.

MR. NESSEN: -- and there has been in the past an occasion when at least one PLO representative did violate that agreement and he was asked to return to the 25-mile radius. I am just not familiar with these three cases.

Q There have been four that have done it and just to ask them to return to the 25-mile radius, when they are going back to go home, or where they live anyway, does not suggest the President is serious in not recognizing the PLO. Why doesn't the President take sterner measures to require that these people obey the law, the regulation?

MR. NESSEN: I can't make the judgment on whether they have indeed violated it by participating in --

Q The State Department admitted they violated it yesterday. It has been four times.

MR. NESSEN: They are the ones in charge of enforcing those regulations and I am sure they are.

Q Will the President urge them to be more definitive in enforcing the regulations or not?

MR. NESSEN: As I said, I am not familiar with the three cases but I am confident the State Department is handling them the way it should.

Q At midnight tonight the FEA is scheduled to go out of business. Is the President prepared to sign an Executive Order to keep the thing alive?

MR. NESSEN: I understand Congress just passed the 30-day extension, which will keep it alive for 30 days. He will sign the legislation keeping it alive for 30 days. What he really wants is for them to agree in the Conference Committee between the 15-month or the 18-month extension, the two versions they are trying to reach a compromise on, and send that up so that the FEA can go on and fulfill its duties of overseeing the various legislation on this.

Q Would you anticipate any type of ceremony connected with this signing?

MR. NESSEN: For the brief extension of the FEA?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q No statement?

MR. NESSEN: No, I don't think so.

Q Is the President meeting tomorrow with delegates to the Republican Convention from Delaware?

MR. NESSEN: If he is, I have not seen it on the schedule. I will check, but I am not aware of it.

Q What is the President's position on the so-called Watergate reform bill?

MR. NESSEN: He has asked his Counsel's Office to look into it, into the various provisions, and give him a report on it so he can take a position. So far, he has not.

Q Is he backing the Justice Department's objections to the bill?

MR. NESSEN: I saw Attorney General Levi's -- the position attributed to him -- and, as I say, the President at this point has not received a report on the major provisions of the bill and so he hasn't taken a position.

Q Some sources indicated that his top legal aides here in the White House are opposed to this legislation. Does he know of their opposition?

MR. NESSEN: Where it stands at this point is that he is waiting for a report from the Counsel's Office on their analysis of the bill.

Q Are there any plans for Jimmy Carter to be briefed on the economic summit meeting?

MR. NESSEN: The way it was left when Carter called last week was that his people and the White House people would get back in touch this week and discuss the matter further, but it was agreed he would not receive briefings, the traditional briefings on foreign policy matters until after he was the nominee of his party.

Q Is there any resentment here about the presumptuousness of Mr. Carter about where he is going to be next January?

MR. NESSEN: I wouldn't say there is any -- what was the word you used?

Q Resentment of the presumptuousness?

MR. NESSEN: No, because this has happened in the past, Walt, on a few occasions. You have Kiplinger's magazine of November, 1948, entitled, "What Dewey Will Do, A 32-Page Feature Complete in This Issue."

Q What is the magazine?

MR. NESSEN: It is Kiplinger's. (Laughter)

Q What is the date?

MR. NESSEN: November, 1948.

Q How does it happen you have this out here?
(Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: You know we have a good sense of humor here at the White House. The first page tells "how Dewey was able to win the nomination and then the election." Then, "what he is like, what makes him tick, how he operates, and" --

Q He is an up-State New York peanut farmer.
(Laughter)

Q What was the date?

MR. NESSEN: November, 1948 -- "how Dewey gets the men he wants. What Dewey will do, a preview of the action on many fronts, who will be in his Cabinet, who will be his White House aides, his economic advisers, what he will do in foreign policy and a new department."

Q Are you going to have this reproduced and distributed by any slight chance?

MR. NESSEN: No.

There is a side bar at the end of it called "Sagging White House Floor may compel the Deweys to move." (Laughter) "John Foster Dulles and what role he will play in the Dewey Administration, Dewey's foreign policy."

So, anyhow, to answer your question --

Q Where did you get that magazine?

MR. NESSEN: It belongs to a friend. It is something he thought I would find amusing.

Q It was not in the White House archives?

MR. NESSEN: No, it is a friend's copy that he brought from home because he thought I would be amused by it.

Q Would you answer the question now?

MR. NESSEN: What was it?

Q The question is, was there any resentment here, and apparently from your answer, if there is no resentment, is the President as amused with Mr. Carter as you appear to be?

MR. NESSEN: I wouldn't say amused; I would say the President remains confident that he will be elected President in November.

Q Had Governor Carter not called, would the President be prepared to have volunteered such briefings in due course?

MR. NESSEN: You know, I don't know how you answer that question. The call was made. As far as I know, all along the President has planned to offer the traditional foreign policy briefings to the Democratic Presidential candidate, whoever he turned out to be.

Q He was prepared?

MR. NESSEN: He was prepared. It is a tradition, I believe.

Q Has there been a judgment on Carter's request that he be given briefings by the CIA rather than the State Department?

MR. NESSEN: I am not clear he was that specific in his phone call and I don't know what the format of the briefings will be.

Do you want to go on and talk about the Fourth of July plans?

Q Did Carter talk to Ford?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, he talked to the President.

Q What day was this?

MR. NESSEN: We announced it at the time. It was one day last week.

Q He didn't say anything about the possibility he might take a trip to San Juan, did he?

MR. NESSEN: He didn't mention that.

Q Let me clear up one thing. In regards to Carter's apparent request for information on the summit, your position is, until he is the nominee he doesn't get that kind of stuff?

MR. NESSEN: That is the traditional way these briefings have been given.

Let's see if we can do this as quickly as possible. Who should we assign to answer any further questions on the July 4th period? Larry? All right.

Q Is there any reason this can't be mimeographed?

MR. NESSEN: It will take a while for us to get it all together and it involves a lot of helicopters and so forth.

Do you want to hear it?

O Yes.

MR. NESSEN: Why don't I tell you about tomorrow and then we will worry about how to get the rest of it later, except I will tell you that on July 4 all the travel will be by helicopter.

Q Even back from New York?

MR. NESSEN: No, coming back from New York will be in a press plane and the press helicopters will take off on that Sunday from National Airport and you can leave your cars at National Airport, and the press plane will come back to National. There will be three helicopters.

Q What time?

MR. NESSEN: The President will get back about 4:30 and the press plane will be about a half-hour to an hour behind it.

Q I mean take-off?

MR. NESSEN: The first two helicopters will take off at 7:15 and the third helicopter, which is in effect the pool chopper which will fly along with the President's helicopter, takes off at 7:40.

Whoever plans to cover the President at church on Sunday, it will be at St. John's at 7 o'clock, a private communion in the chapel just for the President and Mrs. Ford, and the only coverage would be outside waiting for them to go. If you expect to cover that, you will not be able to get to National to get on the 7:15 helicopter, or the 7:40 helicopter, either, for that matter.

We have about 75 seats on the three choppers -- 70 or 75 seats. The charge for the day will be \$300 to \$350. Some people want to make only one-way trips, but we will have to charge you round-trip anyway because that is the only way we can get the choppers paid for.

I will just tell you about tomorrow. The first event of the President's Bicentennial participation will be at the Air and Space Museum, which is being dedicated tomorrow. The President will go there by motorcade. There will be a travel pool and he will arrive at the Air and Space Museum at 10:20.

Q A.M.?

MR. NESSEN: A.M. He will go on a tour first. There will be a number of pre-positions for reporters and cameras and we have had some of the cameramen go over there and give advice on what the best positions will be. The dedication begins at 11:00. We expect to have the President's speech text out for you late this afternoon, embargoed for 6:00 a.m.

Q What about reporters not in the pool?

MR. NESSEN: You can go over there and get in one of the pre-positions.

Oh, there is an expanded pool. We will have a sign-up list where you can sign up for all these events, so you can go even if you are not in the pool.

We are going to post the list late this afternoon.

Q This is the first of those four speeches?

MR. NESSEN: It turns out to be six speeches, but this is the first. That is right.

From there, the President will drive to the Capitol, arriving there at 11:50, to open the so-called Centennial safe in Statuary Hall, and he will speak very briefly there, about three minutes. There will be no text for that.

There is a camera platform five feet high and a 45-foot throw. He will be there altogether about 40 minutes and will return here, followed by the travel pool.

The Archives is Friday evening, but we will get to that later.

I was not planning to brief tomorrow because of the time of the Air Museum and the Centennial safe opening.

Q What is in the safe?

MR. NESSEN: Mementoes of 1876, some photos and a list of people who worked at the Capitol at that time, I believe, and some other things that are sealed and they don't know exactly what is in there. They are wrapped in paper.

Q Will Independence Square be his major speech on July 4?

MR. NESSEN: I wouldn't single out any as major speeches. The six taken together are his views of the Bicentennial.

Q Have there been any additions to Saturday's schedule other than the material you put out?

MR. NESSEN: Saturday, or the Fourth?

Q I mean Sunday.

MR. NESSEN: Sunday will be church, then chopper to Valley Forge, where he will speak.

Q Can you tell me what time he gets in there?

MR. NESSEN: The President arrives at 8:45 at Valley Forge. He will sign a bill there making Valley Forge State Park a national historic site. He will go to Philadelphia by helicopter -- we might as well go through this. Let's go back to Friday.

Friday, the President goes to the Archives by motorcade, arriving there about 9 p.m. That is Friday. He will be met by the Chief Justice, the Speaker and the Vice President, and they will sign a register which will go into a time capsule. Then they go into the Shrine area, which is in the lobby, and each will speak briefly on the historic documents which are there -- the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

We also expect to have a text of that in advance.

Q That is speech number two?

MR. NESSEN: That is speech number two.

They will have an expanded pool in the Shrine area for the coverage of that.

On Saturday, the only Bicentennial event is in the evening. The President will go by motorcade to the Kennedy Center, getting there about 7:20 and first going to a reception in the Atrium. He will be accompanied by a travel pool and there will be travel pool coverage of the reception.

Q What is this you are talking about?

MR. NESSEN: The JFK Center on Saturday night, 7:20 arrival. At 8:00 the President goes into the Concert Hall and goes to the stage, where he opens a show called "Honor America." He will have a statement for that. That is the third speech. We will have an advance text and probably make it for 6:00 p.m. release to help out Sunday papers.

The President will then go to his box and five of the boxes have been set aside for the press, including cameras.

The program that night is the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Bob Hope, Art Linkletter and Billy Graham.

Q Is the President aware that Bob Hope had an Honor American pro-Nixon rally on July 4 several years prior to this at the Washington Monument grounds about three years ago?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know anything about it.

Sunday, just to go through what we have covered briefly already, church at St. John's, a private communion for the President and Mrs. Ford in the chapel at 7 a.m. Whatever coverage you want outside, although those going over there won't make the press choppers.

We have three press choppers -- CH-53s. They will carry about 70 or 75 reporters. They will load at the Butler Aviation Terminal at National Airport. Since you make the last leg back from Newark on the airplane, it will land you there so you can leave your cars there.

Two choppers will leave at 7:15. The show-up time for them is 6:45. The third chopper will leave at 7:40. The show-up time is 7:15.

Q Will breakfast be served?

MR. NESSEN: Not on the choppers.

Q What was show-up time for the first chopper?

MR. NESSEN: 6:45 for the first chopper. The choppers will fly you to Valley Forge. The President will arrive at 8:45. He will walk from the helicopter pad to the site of the speech. It is in an outdoor amphitheatre at the Valley Forge State Park. He will speak there. We will have a text in advance, the embargo to be decided later. That is the fourth of the Bicentennial speeches.

Q One of the things happening there is that Valley Forge State Park is becoming Valley Forge National Historical Site?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q It is being given to the Federal Government?

MR. NESSEN: No, it is concurrent. You can be a State Park and a National Historical Site simultaneously. There will be filing facilities there.

Q When will you have that text? Saturday?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, you have to have it Saturday. Then the President goes by helicopter to Philadelphia, and so do you. The President will arrive at 10:00 and land in a parking lot about three minutes from Independence Hall, and he will go by motorcade to Independence Hall. There will be filing facilities outside the Hall.

The program begins at 10:00, I understand. The President will speak 45 minutes into the program. That is also a text, and we will have an advance text on that with the embargo to be decided later.

Then, the President goes to the Bellvue Stratford Hotel in Philadelphia, by motorcade. It is a three- or four-minute motorcade. We will have more elaborate press facilities there, as well as food.

The President goes to a reception as the guest of Mayor Rizzo in the City of Philadelphia for other people who have taken part in the celebrations there.

Q Are you at all upset about the idea that Frank Sinatra, who has been identified widely as connected with the Mafia, will sign the Star Spangled Banner at Independence Hall?

MR. NESSEN: I don't see that on my schedule.

Q Will Billy Graham be there? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: It is possible.

Q What was the name of the hotel?

MR. NESSEN: Bellevue Stratford.

Q Is Mrs. Ford accompanying him?

Q I have seen that reported, that Frank Sinatra will sing the national anthem.

MR. NESSEN: According to my schedule, you have the welcome by Charleton Heston, the national anthem by the United States Armed Forces Band and Chorus -- perhaps he has joined the Army (Laughter) -- then you have the invocation by Cardinal Krohl, the pageant of the flags, Pledge of Allegiance by a former Vietnamese prisoner of war, former Lieutenant John Vernecci, of the Marines.

Mayor Rizzo has his greetings, Governor Shapp has his remarks, the Declaration of Independence will be read, excerpts of it, by Marion Anderson, a prayer of thanksgiving --

Q Did the White House have anything to do with scratching Frank Sinatra? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: I have never seen Frank Sinatra on any schedule I have ever seen.

Q It doesn't say who sings the anthem.

MR. NESSEN: It does, the United States Army Band and Chorus.

At Bellevue Stratford, the President gets there at 11:30. As I said, there is filing facilities and food for the press, and the President goes to this reception as the guest of the City of Philadelphia and the Mayor.

At 12:30, the President will leave and go by helicopter to New York, landing on the USS FORRESTAL at 1:45, and so do you.

0 All three choppers?

MR. NESSEN: All three press choppers are together at that point, but they will separate soon.

At 2:00 p.m. the President rings the ship's bell, which sets off two minutes of bell ringing all over the country as a celebration of the country's 200th birthday. Also on board will be the Vice President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and other dignitaries, altogether 3,000 guests. The President will speak briefly there, but there will probably be no text of that.

0 That is not speech six?

MR. NESSEN: No, it isn't. Then the President will depart by helicopter, and so do you.

0 What time?

MR. NESSEN: About 2:30. Two of the press helicopters go to Newark Airport, where they will file. The other helicopter will follow the President's, and plans are not yet completely final for this aspect, but it is possible the President will fly over or around the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. That is possible, but not set yet, and also he will do an aerial review of the tall ships.

Then the press chopper and the President's chopper will land on the USS NASHVILLE, a Navy command and communications ship, where he will get a briefing on the tall ships and review the tall ships for a while from the deck of the NASHVILLE.

0 Has the WAINWRIGHT thing been scrapped?

MR. NESSEN: The answer is yes, I think.

0 Will there be any filing facilities aboard the FORRESTAL?

MR. NESSEN: There will not be.

0 What time does he land on the NASHVILLE?

MR. NESSEN: He lands on the NASHVILLE somewhere between 2:30 and 3:00, or say 3:00, in that area.

0 All three press helicopters?

MR. NESSEN: No, two have gone to Newark to file, and one to the NASHVILLE.

Q Will that be an expanded pool?

MR. NESSEN: It will be one chopper full, say 28 press, something like that.

Then the President, after leaving the NASHVILLE by helicopter, flies to Newark Airport in his helicopter, gets on Air Force One and flies to Washington, where it will land at National Airport. He arrives at National at 4:30. It is about a 45-minute flight, so he would be leaving Newark about 3:45.

Q How much time do we have in Newark to file before we leave?

MR. NESSEN: As much time as you want. At that point you get on a press plane and fly back to National from Newark Airport.

Q Will we get a pool report of the NASHVILLE proceedings?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, the people who come off the third chopper will give you a pool report at the airport.

Q He sees the ships from the NASHVILLE then rather than from the FORRESTAL?

MR. NESSEN: From his helicopter and from the NASHVILLE, that is correct.

Q Not from the FORRESTAL?

MR. NESSEN: No, that is not the purpose of the visit to the FORRESTAL.

Q Where is the NASHVILLE?

MR. NESSEN: Somewhere in the river there.
(Laughter)

I haven't seen it. This part of the program is still being put together.

Q The original plan was the President was going to go to the WAINWRIGHT, which was way up by the George Washington Bridge.

MR. NESSEN: I know, but this is still being worked out. This is the current plan.

For those of you who don't know a bark from a brigantine, I have a little visual chart here and we will have a test later. We will cover up the name and see if you can tell --

Q We don't get to see that unless we are in the pool, right?

MR. NESSEN: That is right.

Q Is that from the Kiplinger book?

MR. NESSEN: No, this is from "The Tall Ships I have Known."

Q Why is he landing at National?

MR. NESSEN: Because there is an open house at Andrews and, you know, the runway is filled up with people.

Q Is he going to fly over the crowds in Washington in Air Force One?

MR. NESSEN: No, the purpose is, because Andrews has open house that day and there will be a lot of people on the runway.

Q Will he watch the fireworks from the balcony that night?

MR. NESSEN: The last event of the day is to watch the fireworks from the balcony. We have not worked out the press plans for that yet.

Q What time does he get back to Washington?

MR. NESSEN: 4:30.

Q On the fireworks, I guess in the past, previous Administrations, the press and their families have been brought in to watch the fireworks from the grounds. Will we be able to do that this year?

MR. NESSEN: We haven't worked out who that will be. The President has invited members of the staff to bring their families. It is really a question of space. They will have to find out how many are coming and how many there is still room for.

Q Can we watch from the Dewey balcony?

MR. NESSEN: That is right.

On Monday, the President will depart the White House at 9:40 by helicopter on his way to Monticello in Charlottesville, Virginia. The press will go by plane, however, leaving at 8:15 from Andrews. We expect to get some pool seats in the choppers that go with the President, but not a full pool.

O What time at Andrews?

MR. NESSEN: The press plane leaves at 8:15 on Monday.

Q What time do they arrive in Charlottesville?

MR. NESSEN: A short flight, 45 minutes at the most, so you will get there about 9 o'clock.

Q When he gets back to National Airport, will he come back to the White House by helicopter or car?

MR. NESSEN: Probably helicopter.

Q Check-in at 7:45 at Andrews?

MR. NESSEN: Check-in on Monday? Yes, 7:45.

We will have a text of the Monticello speech in advance. That is the sixth Bicentennial speech. We will determine later what the embargo time will be.

The President speaks at Monticello at 11:30 in the morning. As you know, this is a naturalization ceremony. The exact number of people being naturalized is between 200 and 400. We don't have the exact number.

After the speech and the naturalization ceremony, the President will walk around and talk to the new citizens.

Q Is Potter Stewart in on that?

MR. NESSEN: I am not sure who is going to swear them in.

Justice Powell is from Virginia, and it is Justice Powell.

The President will come back to the White House by helicopter, arriving here at 1:20 in the afternoon. There are six other major naturalization ceremonies taking place around the country that day. The biggest ones that I know of so far are in Miami, where there will be 6,000 new citizens sworn-in, and in Chicago, where there will be 1,776 new citizens sworn-in.

Q The other guys had to do it another day, the extras?

MR. NESSEN: There will be these ceremonies in four other cities, the names of which I don't know yet. The President will send messages to the other ceremonies.

Q Valley Forge, will he speak at Valley Forge?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, he will speak at Valley Forge.

Q How soon will he speak after his arrival?

MR. NESSEN: Almost immediately.

Q What does he do the rest of Monday? Does that complete his Bicentennial activities?

MR. NESSEN: Monday, after the return from Monticello, that concludes this particular portion -- the July 1 through 5 portion -- but, as you know, the Queen is coming and there are certain events related to that.

Q I am talking about Sunday.

MR. NESSEN: After he comes back and watches the fireworks from the balcony, that concludes that.

Q I am sorry, I meant Monday.

MR. NESSEN: After he gets back from Charlottesville, there are no other Bicentennial events that day.

We don't know exactly when that spacecraft is going to land on Mars. That was intended as a Bicentennial event, but there have been some problems there with the landing zone.

Q What time does he return on Monday, please?

MR. NESSEN: 1:20 in the afternoon.

Q Are there any plans to address the Governors in Hershey, Pennsylvania? They meet on Monday and Tuesday.

MR. NESSEN: I don't have anything on it right now.

Q Ron, is he suspending telephone calls to delegates over the holiday period?

MR. NESSEN: If there have been any telephone calls so far -- well, I don't know what his plans are for telephone calls.

Q Is he inviting any delegates to watch the fireworks?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 12:33 P.M. EDT)