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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 11:35 A.M. PDT

OCTOBER 5, 1976

TUESDAY

(San Francisco, California)

MR. NESSEN: There is a sign-up sheet for White House press who want to go to the theatre tomorrow night.

There is a modification of the proclamation concerning sugar, a modification of the President's proclamation concerning sugar and molasses, and Margaret Earl can give you a little guidance as to what this means.

There are some appointments, some more appointments, the statement I mentioned to you yesterday--the President's statement on the conclusion of this session of Congress, and more appointments.

Q It is for these who have signed up to attend the debate? Where and when was the sign-up?

MR. NESSEN: If you are signed up for the trip, Jim.

Q It is automatic?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q You will have credentials?

MR. NESSEN: Just go and pick up your credentials.

Q You didn't announce it but do you have a report on the MAYAGUEZ and the President's reaction to that?

MR. NESSEN: We haven't seen the report.

Q The President has not seen the report?

MR. NESSEN: He has not.

Q Has the President seen the news account? He is an avid newspaper reader so I assume he read that.

MR. NESSEN: I didn't know it was in the newspaper.

Q It is here. It says "lives wasted" --

MR. NESSEN: I assume he may have read it.

Q I thought you said he hadn't seen it. Now you say it was in the paper and he probably has.

MR. NESSEN: That is right. If it was in the papers he has probably seen it.

Q I thought you said you didn't have a comment because he hadn't seen it.

MR. NESSEN: I don't have a comment either way.

Q You haven't talked to him about it?

MR. NESSEN: I have not.

Q Will you see him this afternoon?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Will you talk to him?

MR. NESSEN: I just don't think we will have any comments on the report.

Q Will you have a comment after you get a copy of it?

MR. NESSEN: Probably not. I don't think we will get a copy of it. The GAO is an arm of Congress, as I understand it.

Q How about telling us about this trip?

Q The White House does have a news monitoring operation --

MR. NESSEN: That is right.

Q -- on flashes of important news stories to you. You wouldn't have any comment or make no effort to find out what it was?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know what comment there could be on it.

Q You are accused of wasting lives, so I would think you would have a comment.

MR. NESSEN: I, myself, am not familiar with the report but, if the conclusion is as Phil states it --

Q Just a minute -- not what Phil says. The paper says: "A Congressional study of the 1975 MAYAGUEZ seizure by Cambodia concludes, in essence, that 49 American lives were lost unnecessarily because of hasty U.S. decision-making and poorly coordinated intelligence."

MR. NESSEN: We disagree with that completely, if that is the conclusion.

Q You are disagreeing or have you talked with the President?

MR. NESSEN: You know, as always, Phil, I speak for the White House and the President.

Q What is the basis of disagreement? What are the facts --

MR. NESSEN: Jim, I am not going into a long discussion of the MAYAGUEZ case at this point. We disagree.

Q Why?

MR. NESSEN: I am not prepared to go into a long dissertation of the MAYAGUEZ case.

Q Tell us about the President's day and how long this trip will last. There are varying rumors as to whether he will go back to Washington Saturday night or go back on Sunday.

MR. NESSEN: As I told you, there is the possibility of staying Saturday night in Dallas. That has not been completely arranged yet and, when it is, I will let you know.

Q Ron, I am not clear whether you have in fact discussed this GAO report with anybody or you are just reacting.

MR. NESSEN: I would not react off-the-cuff, Bob.

Q So, you have discussed this?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Would you tell us who with?

MR. NESSEN: I speak for the White House and the President, and our reaction is we disagree with that conclusion if it is the conclusion.

Q A minute ago you said you had not talked to the President. Who did you discuss it with?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think you need to know who I discussed it with. I am giving you the White House reaction to the GAO report.

Q You are saying this is the White House reaction without your having discussed it with the President?

MR. NESSEN: As always, I never go into who I discuss what with.

Q You said you had not discussed it with the President.

MR. NESSEN: I am giving the White House reaction to the newspaper account of the GAO report.

Q Does the President agree with Mike Duval that the Butz issue has no place in this week's debate?

MR. NESSEN: I think whatever the reporters on the panel care to raise, Phil, you will have to ask them. They ask the questions.

Q Mike Duval said he talked to Mr. Scranton earlier and he said it had no place in the foreign affairs debate. Does the President agree with this?

MR. NESSEN: I am not familiar with Mike's remarks.

Q Did the President talk to Scranton about it?

MR. NESSEN: No, not to my knowledge.

Q What is the President doing today?

MR. NESSEN: The President -- as you know, we have part of the morning schedule. After Dr. Hayakawa left, the President expects to spend the day preparing for the debate mostly by himself with the reading materials, papers and so forth.

Q How many briefing books does he have?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think it is a question of how many books. Some papers are in folders, some in loose-leaf books, some stapled together, various documents.

Q When will you update us?

MR. NESSEN: My plan would be, if we have anything further to say or report, it would be at 5 o'clock.

Q We can expect no more functions today with the President?

MR. NESSEN: That is right.

Q No more pools?

MR. NESSEN: That is right.

Q When the President met last week with Butz and reprimanded the Secretary, did they discuss whether or not the Secretary would resign and, if so, to the extent to which it would depend on the reaction?

MR. NESSEN: You know that question was asked about three days ago, Jim. What I said then was --

Q It wasn't answered then.

MR. NESSEN: It was a private meeting then and still is a private meeting. I didn't sit in on it, and there is no way I could retroactively have sat in on it, so the answer is the same as before.

Q Has the White House asked Butz to campaign for the President?

MR. NESSEN: I think Bill Greener can tell you the answer to that.

MR. GREENER: Jim Baker talked to him yesterday but I haven't had a chance to talk to Jim yet.

Q The question was, has he been asked by the White House?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think there is anything further than what we said yesterday.

Q Ron, have you been asked -- I am sorry to repeat the question -- have you been asked whether or not the White House invited James Schlesinger to talk to the President after he returned from China?

MR. NESSEN: I think when the matter came up about a month ago I was asked and I said then, obviously, the appropriate people would like to talk to Jim when he came out of China. That is still true.

Q Schlesinger indicated in Plains that he hadn't talked to the President because he hadn't been invited, is that correct?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. I will have to check. We said about a month ago the appropriate people would certainly like to talk to him.

Q He hasn't talked to the President?

MR. NESSEN: He hasn't, so far as I know.

Q Did he talk to anybody on the White House staff?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. I said I would check.

Q Do you know on the same thing whether the appropriate people told Mr. Schlesinger that it is a requisite?

MR. NESSEN: I will check and see.

Q Outside giving Mr. Butz a severe reprimand and accepting his resignation, would the President want him to campaign for him during the rest of his campaign?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have anything to add on the Butz matter beyond what the President said in his own words yesterday.

Q Why is that?

MR. NESSEN: The President speaks pretty clearly --

Q He didn't deal with this issue. It seems like it is a fairly simple question to answer yes or no.

MR. NESSEN: For any details on what campaigning Earl Butz will do, you need to talk to Bill.

Any views the President may have beyond yesterday, I don't know.

Q Doesn't he decide who will campaign for him?

MR. NESSEN: You will have to ask Bill. For the President's view, I don't have anything further than what he said yesterday.

Q Are you suggesting the campaigning is up to the campaign committee?

MR. NESSEN: Bill can give you any details on campaigning.

Q I am curious about what seems to be a new policy here about the White House; that is, keeping the President away from the press. We have the instance on Sunday where ropes were brought in for the first time I remember to keep the press and the public away from him as he left church. We had a situation yesterday where some of the staff people stepped in to prevent press people from getting close to him. Why this new policy?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think it is a new policy, and I don't think it is an adequate description. Helen chatted with the President, the pool folks and I guess Tom was there. Everybody was, I guess, about six feet from the President. Helen chatted with him. I don't know what the ropes were doing there Sunday. I didn't have anything to do with putting up ropes. I think Connie has pulled together a list of the interviews and news conferences the President has had. It runs, I guess, literally into the hundreds, so I just don't agree with your characterization.

Q Since we have had the Butz affair, we have not had a chance to ask the President any questions where he would stand still and answer them. We are either yelling them from behind ropes and he is running off or there is just a total isolation.

MR. NESSEN: Helen didn't have trouble talking to him this morning.

Q You know it was still in a manner of banter and you wouldn't have like it if I asked a Butz question. You did bar us yesterday from approaching him. Why? What is this business of restricting questions?

MR. NESSEN: I don't agree with your characterization.

Q You have put a cordon around the President for about three days, literally.

Q Does the President agree that Butz' remarks will jeopardize relations with black Africa?

MR. NESSEN: Jim, I haven't talked to him about that particular aspect.

Q Why did it take three days for the Secretary of Agriculture's resignation and its acceptance to jell after he was reprimanded?

MR. NESSEN: You will have to ask the Secretary.

Q The White House must have some thoughts about that.

MR. NESSEN: Nothing beyond what was said.

Q Do you dispute the statement of Jimmy Carter that you were waiting to see how severe the reaction might be?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think you were there Sunday, Jim, but there was a long discussion with about 20 reporters who were there, and I said then that that was not a correct statement.

Q Do you make it a point not to ask the President questions you think we might ask you?

MR. NESSEN: I think you know it is just the opposite.

Q These are obvious questions you, as a former newsman, would know we would be interested in. Why don't you ever ask him?

MR. NESSEN: It is not my policy to discuss my own private discussions with the President.

Q To get back to the MAYAGUEZ thing for a minute, I am at a loss to understand your reluctance to state why you disagree with this conclusion that the GAO has reached?

MR. NESSEN: I haven't seen the GAO report, no one here has. As I mentioned to Phil, it is in the newspaper, and people here read the newspaper.

Q You say you won't ever have a comment on it?

MR. NESSEN: I don't anticipate we will.

Q You disagree but you will never have a comment on why you disagree with the conclusion; is that correct?

MR. NESSEN: The President, as you know, carried out the actions in the MAYAGUEZ situation. You heard him speak about it before. I don't see any reason --

Q That is why I am asking. The President has over the course of many months, especially at the outset, made quite a thing out of the MAYAGUEZ action. He has referred to it many, many times and pridefully. Why now, when he is questioned, does the White House simply say we don't agree with the conclusion but no longer defends the action?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know why you say no longer defends the action, Jim. What I am saying is I can't quite get the drift of why, on this particular Tuesday morning, I need to go back and recount to you the history of the MAYAGUEZ, and why the President took the actions and what the situation is, was, and what the results were. You know that. It is on the record, and it hasn't changed, and is not going to change, and I just don't feel that this morning -- you know, I can't see the reason why this morning I need to stand here and give you a very lengthy defense of the MAYAGUEZ.

Q Two specific questions -- does the President still believe the MAYAGUEZ action was justified in light of what the GAO report has said?

MR. NESSEN: I think that is what I was trying to get at when I said we disagreed with the conclusion.

Q Secondly, will this report cause the White House to take any further look at the procedures of the MAYAGUEZ action?

MR. NESSEN: Not to my knowledge, no.

Q Ron, has the White House ever done a study --

MR. NESSEN: Look, I am not going to do this number. You know we talked about it. When was MAYAGUEZ -- a year and a half ago? I think the thing was examined minute-by-minute, half-a-minute-by-half-a-minute in every newspaper, magazine, and television show. The interval of time has not affected the analyses that you made, that we made. Nothing has changed during this particular period.

Q Ron, my recollection is the President asked for a study after the MAYAGUEZ affair to determine why the intelligence had not been better.

MR. NESSEN: I don't recall that was the purpose of it. As I recall it -- Bill maybe can help, he was there, I think, at the time. In any case, I think it was just a normal report that is made on any important international incident or problem.

Q What was the result of that study? I don't think it was ever made public.

MR. NESSEN: I would have to look it up to give you whatever unclassified portions of it there are. I don't recall.

Q Is it the feeling of the White House that this GAO report might be partisan politics?

MR. NESSEN: I am not going to assess in any way that aspect of it.

Q Ron, what is the President's reaction to the Senate subcommittee report that says Mr. Callaway exerted pressure on Government agencies on behalf of the ski lodge?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have anything to report on that.

Q Do you expect to?

MR. NESSEN: I will check.

Q Can we file our bulletins now?

MR. NESSEN: I wonder what kept you so long, Frank.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
6 PM EDT October 9, 1976

OCTOBER 8, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Lawton, Oklahoma)



THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The debate on foreign and defense policy revealed a number of fundamental contradictions and inconsistencies in Mr. Carter's positions. In addition, he simply dodged a straight answer to many questions.

Therefore, we know almost nothing more about Mr. Carter's foreign policy and defense positions than we did before the debate.

Mr. Carter's rhetorical assertion of toughness toward the Soviet Union cannot be reconciled with his intention to cut the defense budget by billions of dollars, to withdraw U.S. troops from overseas, and to scrap major weapons such as the B-1 bomber.

Mr. Carter's professed wish to strengthen foreign alliances clashes with his stated views on accepting communists in European governments, withdrawal of U.S. troops and his high-handed attitude toward dealing with our allies on nuclear proliferation.

On Thursday, Mr. Carter told a group of labor leaders that he made no mistakes in the debate. That is not true. In his 18 opportunities to speak during the debate, Mr. Carter made at least 14 errors.

Attached is a detailed fact sheet listing the factual errors and misrepresentations made by Mr. Carter, either from ignorance of the facts or deliberate misstatements.

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FACT SHEET

A compilation of statements made by Mr. Carter during the debate, and the actual facts contradicting Mr. Carter's statements:

Carter: "As a matter of fact, I have never advocated a cut of \$15 billion in our defense budget."

Facts: The Savannah Morning News on March 18, 1975, in a story by Richard Green, quoted Mr. Carter as telling the Savannah Rotary Club,

"The Federal budget...could and should be cut, especially the defense budget. Approximately \$15 billion could be cut from the defense budget and not weaken this nation's military capability..."

On March 20, 1975, the Los Angeles Times reported that Mr. Carter told a Beverly Hills news conference that "he thinks the Ford defense budget for this year could be cut by about \$15 billion without sacrificing national security."

This week, after the debate, the reporter for the Los Angeles Times confirmed that Mr. Carter had, indeed, made that comment on a \$15 billion defense budget cut.

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Carter: "Our country is not strong anymore" (page 2 of transcript). "I think militarily we are as strong as any nation on earth." (page 25).

Comment: These statements are contradictory.

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Carter: I never ever advocated a Communist government for Italy. That would be a ridiculous thing for any one to do who wanted to be President of this country."

Facts: On May 18, 1976 Mr. Carter was quoted as saying: "I believe we should support strongly the democratic forces in Italy, but still we should not close the doors to Communist leaders in Italy for friendship with us. It may be that we would be better off having an Italian Government that might be comprised at least partially of Communists tied in with the Western world rather than driven into the Soviet orbit irrevocably."

(The European Edition - Newsweek,
May 10, 1976)

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Carter: "We are not respected anymore."

Recent quotes from foreign leaders:

Prime Minister Cosgrave of Ireland

"...the ties that were forged between us (the U.S. and Ireland) in the early years have not lessened with time. On the contrary, I believe they are today stronger and firmer than ever."

March 17, 1976

President Giscard d'Estaing of France

"I do not think there has ever been a time when contacts between our two governments have been more frequent, consultation more sustained and cooperation more good-willed."

May 17, 1976

Chancellor Schmidt of the Federal Republic of Germany

"This is the third time in the past two years that I have come to the United States for talks with you, Mr. President, and I am not counting the meetings in other places. You, yourself, have made several trips to Europe, one of which was an official visit to the Federal Republic of Germany in July 1975, and I mention this because these frequent visits are a manifestation to the outside world of our mutual bonds and the closeness of our relations.

"I don't think I am exaggerating when I say that at no time during the past 30 years have the relations between our countries been closer and has been cooperation between our two governments more trustful and direct than today."

July 15, 1976

Secretary General Luns of NATO

"First of all, the situation in the United States itself, all of the allies have noted the improvement in the economic posture of the United States, which well compares to nearly all the allies. Secondly, if I may use the word, the recovery from the sense of disaffection which you felt two or three years ago in the United States and the fact that the Bicentennial was such a signal of success and this country has regained its unity of purpose.

"Then, of course, the voices which were so loud two or three years ago about withdrawing troops of the United States from Europe have become very muted indeed, and the United States' commitment to the defense of the United States and the whole Alliance on the first line in Europe has been underlined by the fact that two combat brigades have been added to the strength of the allied troops in Germany."

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Carter: "As a matter of fact, Iran is going to get 80 F-14's before we even meet our own Air Force order for F-14's."

Facts: The Air Force has never ordered F-14's. The F-14 is is a Navy plane.

F-14 deliveries have been and are scheduled as follows:

| Calendar | 1974 | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <u>Year</u> | <u>& prior</u> | <u>75</u> | <u>76</u> | <u>77</u> | <u>78</u> | <u>79</u> | <u>80</u> |
| USN | 148 | 73 | 50 | 36 | 36 | 36 | 24 |
| Iran | - | - | 24 | 36 | 20 | - | - |

The delivery as divided between the United States and Iran meets the U.S. Navy's programmed requirements for the F-14.

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Carter: "In the case of the Helsinki agreement, it may have been a good agreement at the beginning but we failed to enforce the so-called Basket 3 part which ensures the right of people to migrate to join their families to be free to speak out."

Comment: The Helsinki Accord is not a treaty to be "enforced" upon a given date. It represents a standard of conduct against which Soviet behavior can be measured over time. Progress has been made. A recent West German-Polish Treaty provides for emigration of 125,000 ethnic Germans to West Germany from Poland.

Modest numbers of families are being reunited.

Carter: "He has been in office two years and there has been absolutely no progress made toward a new SALT agreement."

Fact: Totally wrong.

In November 1974 President Ford and General Secretary Brezhnev made a historic agreement at Vladivostok, for the first time putting a ceiling on the nuclear arms race at equal numbers of systems and MIRV's. This agreement received the strong endorsement of the U.S. Senate in May 1975.

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Carter: "I understand that both the Department of State and the Defense Department have approved the accuracy of today's GAO Mayaguez report..."

Facts: Simply not true. The only approval given was that the report be released with no security classification.

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Carter: "Now we went into South Africa late, after Great Britain, Rhodesia...We did not go in until right before the election..."

Facts: We began discussions with African leaders on the events and trends in Africa over a year ago, first with respect to Angola and subsequently concerning the problems in Rhodesia and Namibia.

The President sent Secretary Kissinger on a formal fact-finding trip in April, 1976, at a time when many political observers noted its possible damage to the President's political standing. This was certainly not election politics.

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Carter: "During this current year we are shipping..to Saudi Arabia about \$7.5 billion worth of arms."

Facts: In FY 1976 we shipped \$429.4 million of defense articles and services to Saudi Arabia. Weapons constituted 2.2 percent of that, or \$8.4 million.

In FY 1976 we signed Solan Agreements to sell \$2.5 billion of defense articles and services to Saudi Arabia. Weapons constituted \$247 million or 10 percent. Some of these goods and services, including weapons, may have been delivered in FY 1976.

Non-weapons included such things as \$150 million for construction and \$100 million in aircraft maintenance services.

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Carter: "...during this current year we are shipping to Iran, or have contracted to ship to Iran, about \$7.5 billion worth of arms."

Facts: In FY 1976 we shipped \$1,232 billion of defense articles and services to Iran. Weapons constituted 41 percent of that, or \$509.8 million.

In FY 1976, we signed Sales Agreements to sell \$1.3 billion of defense articles and services to Iran. Weapons constituted \$419 million or 32 percent. Some of these goods and services, including weapons, may have been delivered in FY 1976.

Non-weapons sales include such things as maintenance and technical services.

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Carter: "He has put pressure on the Congress, and I don't believe Mr. Ford would even deny this, to hold up on non-proliferation legislation until the Congress agreed for an \$8 billion program for private industry to start producing enriched uranium."

Facts: Wrong on all counts.

Far from holding up legislation, the President pressed and personally worked with members up to the closing minutes of the Congressional session for passage of constructive non-proliferation legislation.

The President's proposed legislation for enriched uranium included a proposal for expansion of Government-owned enrichment facilities.

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Carter: "...if the Arab countries ever again declare an embargo against our nation on oil, I would consider that not a military, but an economic declaration of war, and I would respond instantly and in kind."

Comment: To be effective such a counter embargo would have to be joined by the industrialized democracies. Otherwise the Arabs could go elsewhere for arms, machines, food, etc.

Assuming that were possible, is it in those countries' interest? Would the Arabs be more harmed by a loss of industrial goods and food than industrialized nations by a loss of oil?

What effect would it have in driving the Arabs back to the Soviet Union?

Needless to say, it would shatter any hope of a Middle East peace settlement.

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Carter: "Under the last Democratic Administration, 60 percent of all weapons that went into the Middle East were for Israel. Nowadays, 75 percent were for Israel before, now 60 percent go to Arab countries and this does not include Iran. If you include Iran, our present shipment of weapons to the Middle East, only 20 percent goes to Israel."

Facts: Carter is correct when he says 60 percent of all weapons (sales) that went into the Middle East were for Israel under the last Democratic Administration.

Carter is wrong when he says nowadays 60 percent goes to Arab countries. The actual figure is 39 percent in FY 74-76 weapons sales.

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Carter: "The grain deal with the Soviet Union in 1972 was terrible, and Mr. Ford made up for it with three embargoes, one against our own ally in Japan."

Comment: It is important the American farmer continue to be able to sell to foreign markets.

It is important to assure that we do not allow high surges in foreign demand to drive up the price of bread in this country.

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To meet both aims requires a predictable market, so that farmers can plan and we can be confident of being able to meet foreign and domestic demand without price fluctuations.

We achieved this with the 5-year agreement which went into effect October 1.

It brings stability to the market by assuring the constant sale of at least 6 million metric tons of grain per year and requiring consultation before seeking to purchase above 8 million metric tons.

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Carter: "This (Chile) is a typical example maybe of many others, where this Administration overthrew a united government and helped to establish a military dictatorship."

Facts: The Chilean government was overthrown by a military coup in September, 1973, almost a year before President Ford took office. Besides not knowing his chronology, Mr. Carter is totally wrong, as confirmed by Senator Frank Church's Committee of the U.S. Senate, which found the U.S. Government was not involved in the overthrow of the Allende Government.

Mr. Carter's sinister suggestion that this government habitually overthrows other governments is unworthy of comment.

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Carter: "I have also advocated that we stop the sale by Germany and France of reprocessing plants to Pakistan and Brazil."

Facts" This brazen and unenforceable threat stands in contrast to Mr. Carter's comment that we must cooperate more clearly with our allies. In fact, President Ford is working with Germany and France and the other nuclear suppliers in a cooperative effort to resolve the reprocessing issue.

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Carter: "The Arabs have put pressure on Mr. Ford -- and he has permitted a boycott by the Arab countries of American businesses in trade with Israel who have American Jews owing or taking part in the management of American companies."

Facts: Boycott practices first took place in 1952.

No actions of any kind were taken by the Federal Government to deal with the problem until 1969.

President Ford is the first President to have analyzed the problem comprehensively and taken corrective actions.

In November of 1975, the President directed the Commerce Department and all Federal agencies to prohibit compliance with discrimination practices in foreign trade.

The Justice Department has launched the first anti-trust suit in a major boycott case.

The President on Monday, October 4, signed the tax bill, which had severe penalties against U.S. firms that participate in the boycott or discrimination.

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On Thursday, October 7, the President directed the Department of Commerce henceforth to disclose those companies that participate in the Arab boycott.

The President has worked closely with the Congress to find an acceptable legislative formula for addressing the problem.

President Ford has recognized that the ultimate solution to the Arab boycott issue is an end to the Arab-Israeli dispute. He has, therefore, moved responsibly to end discrimination against American citizens while avoiding any unilateral actions which would jeopardize the Middle East peace process.

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Carter: "One of the most embarrassing failures of the Ford Administration, ...is his refusal to appoint a Presidential Commission to go to Vietnam...Laos...Cambodia...and try to trade for the release of information about those who are missing in action..."

Comment: This is a basic disagreement over policy. To "trade" for information on our MIAs can only mean trafficking in human lives and allowing Hanoi to play on the anguish and suffering of the survivors for economic and political gain. We will not do this.

The Vietnamese have an obligation to provide a full accounting for all our missing and the President insists that they do so.

We are willing to talk and that is why a U.S. negotiator has been designated for exchanges with the Vietnamese in Paris.

* * * *

Carter: "He (Ford) and Mr. Kissinger and others tried to start a new Vietnam in Angola, and it was only the outcry of the American people and the Congress when this secret deal was disclosed that prevented our renewed involvement..."

Facts: Mr. Carter is either frighteningly uninformed or knowingly deceptive.

There was never, at any time, any thought of using U.S. forces, as was publicly stated.

Eight separate Congressional Committees were fully briefed on our Angola proposals on 24 separate occasions. More than 24 Senators, 150 Congressmen, and 100 Congressional staff members were kept informed.

U.S. efforts were designed to support majority rule in Angola. Mr. Carter implies he would acquiesce in Soviet/Cuban intervention in other countries' affairs.

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Carter: "We also need to have provided an adequate supply of enriched uranium. Mr. Ford, again, under pressure from the Atomic Energy Lobby, has insisted that this reprocessing or rather re-enrichment be done by private industry and not by the existing government plants."

Facts: Carter seems confused about whether he is talking about enrichment or reprocessing.

But he is wrong either way.

The President has requested approval from the Congress to build an addition to the government-owned Portsmouth, Ohio, plant to increase our capacity to produce enriched uranium.

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Carter: "As far as strength derived from doing what is right, caring for the poor, providing food, becoming the breadbasket of the world, instead of the arms merchant of the world, in those respects we are not strong."

Facts: By any standard of measure, we are the breadbasket of the world, both in terms of commercial sales and of food aid to the world's needy.

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Carter: "Only in the last few days with the election approaching has Mr. Ford taken any interest in a non-proliferation movement."

Facts: In the Spring of 1975, the President called the first of a series of meetings with the nuclear supplier nations, the countries whose cooperation is vital to any non-proliferation efforts. In the summer of 1974, the President ordered a comprehensive review of the entire subject in order to determine what further steps could be taken to strengthen non-proliferation policies.

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OCTOBER 8, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Lawton, Oklahoma)



THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The debate on foreign and defense policy revealed a number of fundamental contradictions and inconsistencies in Mr. Carter's positions. In addition, he simply dodged a straight answer to many questions.

Therefore, we know almost nothing more about Mr. Carter's foreign policy and defense positions than we did before the debate.

Mr. Carter's rhetorical assertion of toughness toward the Soviet Union cannot be reconciled with his intention to cut the defense budget by billions of dollars, to withdraw U. S. troops from overseas, and to scrap major weapons such as the B-1 bomber.

Mr. Carter's professed wish to strengthen foreign alliances clashes with his stated views on accepting communists in European governments, withdrawal of U. S. troops and his high-handed attitude toward dealing with our allies on nuclear proliferation.

On Thursday, Mr. Carter told a group of labor leaders that he made no mistakes in the debate. That is not true. In his 18 opportunities to speak during the debate, Mr. Carter made at least 14 errors.

Attached is a detailed fact sheet listing the factual errors and misrepresentations made by Mr. Carter, either from ignorance of the facts or deliberate mistatements.

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 11:55 A.M. EDT

OCTOBER 11, 1976

MONDAY

MR. NESSEN: Good morning. Welcome back.

There will be a printed readout on the Allon meeting with the President very shortly after this briefing.

The President goes over, as you know, to the Columbus Day observance. The President leaves here shortly after 1:00.

Q Will there be a prepared text on that?

MR. NESSEN: We didn't have one, Helen. He will speak only briefly. He has been working on his remarks this morning and we haven't had time to get a text on that.

Q We will go over there independently?

MR. NESSEN: There will be just a travel pool. It will be piped back here through the mult.

Let me give you a couple of things about New York now, and then the other trip later in the week. We didn't have much time to leave a sign-up list up, so we actually didn't post one. What we did was ask people on the press plane coming back from Texas yesterday to sign up for this trip. If you have not signed up for the New York trip, you won't see a sign-up list. What you need to do is call Ray Zook directly at the Transportation Office. His telephone number is 456-2690. If you could do that by 3:00 today, you will get yourself on the trip.

Here is the way I see the thing unfolding. Tomorrow, the President leaves late morning -- somewhere around 11:00, a little after 11:00 -- and the press plane would leave about an hour ahead of time.

The President will fly into JFK and go by motorcade to a meeting with Jewish leaders of the area at the Yeshiva Flatbush High School. The President will speak there and then will meet with Jewish leaders there.

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Q Is that the full, proper name of it?
I doubt it.

A Why don't we check out the exact name of that school, John.

MR. CARLSON: It is the Yeshiva of Flatbush High School.

Q Could you give more specific times for check-in, luggage and so on?

MR. NESSEN: We will post that this afternoon.

The President will be also in the Bureau Park and Bay Ridge areas of Brooklyn in the afternoon after the appearance at the high school.

Q You mean walking around?

MR. NESSEN: No, he will drive from place to place.

Q Are these street corner rallies? Is that what you are suggesting?

MR. NESSEN: Public squares, street corners, and so forth.

Q About how many?

MR. NESSEN: In addition to the Yeshiva of Flatbush High School, Bureau Park is the second one and Bay Ridge is the third one.

Q Will Buckley be campaigning with him?

A I don't know if he plans to. We don't know yet what the group will consist of.

After the meetings in Brooklyn, the President will go to his hotel, which will be the New York Hilton, for the night. The press will stay at the Essex House. We couldn't get enough rooms at the Hilton for the press.

At the hotel, at 5:00, the President will meet with editors and publishers of New York State newspapers. At 6:30, the President will attend a reception and then a dinner. This is the Salute to the President dinner. The Vice President will be there. This is a fundraiser for the New York Republican Party. This is just for the New York Republican Party. That is at 5:00 p.m.

Q Is that open or closed?

MR. NESSEN: I think it is a private meeting with the editors and publishers.

Q Is it an interview? Will it be published?

MR. NESSEN: I think it will probably be Q&A with the editors and publishers.

Q You say New York State as distinguished from New York City?

MR. NESSEN: New York State and City, I think.

Q Will we get a transcript that night? What are your arrangements?

MR. NESSEN: We haven't arranged that, yet.

Q Where is the dinner?

MR. NESSEN: The dinner is at the New York Hilton.

Wednesday, the President will go to Yonkers at 9:30 in the morning.

Q Is that a \$1,000 a plate affair again?

MR. NESSEN: We will check the price.

Yonkers, New York on Wednesday morning. That will be at the City Hall, and he will speak briefly and sign the general revenue sharing extension at the City Hall in Yonkers, New York.

At 11:00, White Plains City Hall; noon, the Rockland County Courthouse; at 2:15, motorcade to the Garden State Plaza. That is a shopping center at Paramus, New Jersey, in Bergen County. That is a rally and remarks. At 4:30, a public rally in Union, New Jersey. It is like a square.

Q Where is the Rockland County Courthouse?

MR. NESSEN: That is in New City, New York, west of the Hudson.

As I said, at 4:30, Union, New Jersey, a public rally there. And then, a reception for PFC officials from that area. Then, at 6:00 approximately, the President will leave from the Newark Airport to come back to Washington.

These times are a little bit loose and tentative, so stick with us if there are any changes.

Q Does he have anything in Washington the night he returns?

MR. NESSEN: Wednesday night? No, not that I know of.

Q What is the cost of that dinner?

MR. NESSEN: \$1,000 a plate.

Q What was the name of the place in Union, New Jersey?

MR. NESSEN: It is called Town and Campus.

Q Does he return from Newark Airport?

MR. NESSEN: On Wednesday night, yes.

Friday, the President will leave about mid-morning for Des Moines, Iowa. He will go by car to Ames, Iowa. At noon, he will speak to the students, faculty and guests at Iowa State University. It is just for people to come see the President.

The President will then go on a tour of parts of the campus and then travel to Boone County, Iowa.

Q Boone, like Daniel?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, with an "e" on the end. There, he will have lunch with farmers and visit a farm and watch them harvest the crop. It must be corn out there or it could be soybeans.

At 6:00, the President will leave Iowa. We go back to Des Moines, we think, and fly to O'Hare International Airport in Chicago and motorcade to Joliet, Illinois. He will spend the night at the Joliet Sheraton Hotel.

Q What time does he arrive there?

MR. NESSEN: It is a very short flight. I think it is 40 minutes. He will arrive somewhere around a quarter of seven.

Q How long is the drive to Joliet from the airport?

MR. NESSEN: Joliet is toward the southern -- it is about 30 miles.

Q Ron, once again, as we have discussed before, could I ask why this can't be posted to save a lot of time and questions?

MR. NESSEN: We can. I just thought I would run through it and answer some of your questions.

Q Anything in Joliet?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have anything to announce yet.

The President will board a whistle stop train known as the Honest Abe on Saturday morning at about 8:30.

Q Is that a new name?

MR. NESSEN: The train is actually called the Abraham Lincoln. It follows a regular run.

Q Who calls it Honest Abe?

MR. NESSEN: We do. (Laughter) It is the nickname of the train.

Q What time Saturday morning?

MR. NESSEN: At 8:30 we will leave from Joliet.

Q This is a scheduled train or laid on just for the trip?

MR. NESSEN: The train is laid on for the trip, but it follows a scheduled route.

Q Does the Abraham Lincoln run every day?

MR. NESSEN: It is a regular daily train called the Abraham Lincoln.

Q What line?

MR. NESSEN: Wabash.

The stops are Joliet at 8:30; Pontiac, Illinois at 10:15; Bloomington, Illinois at 11:30; at 1:00 p.m., Lincoln, Illinois -- the President will have lunch there and that will be a filing time, too -- Springfield at 3:00; Carlinville at 4:15; at 5:30 p.m., Alton, Illinois. That is the end of the train ride, so that would be 8:30 to 5:30, nine hours.

The President will motorcade from Alton, Illinois, to Lambert Field in St. Louis, Missouri, where there will be an airport public rally at 7 o'clock. After the rally, which will take about an hour, the President will leave at 8 o'clock to come back to Washington. That will be Saturday night.

Q Getting him back at what time?

MR. NESSEN: It is probably about a two-hour flight, and an hour ahead, so it is probably 11:00, roughly.

Q Ron, for reporters who want to cover it out of Chicago, local press and all that, what arrangements -- who do they have to call, see, or what do they have to do, or what?

MR. NESSEN: To get credentialed locally?

Q Yes, Chicago papers.

MR. NESSEN: I think we have already put a note on the City wire out there explaining credential details.

That takes us right up through the weekend. I don't foresee any other immediate travel after that prior to the third debate.

Q You think he will stay home most of the week before the debate?

MR. NESSEN: I just said I don't know of any other travel before the debate.

Q Sunday he will definitely be here?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Do you have specific times for leaving tomorrow?

Q What is check-in time?

MR. NESSEN: That is what I think we will post later in the afternoon.

Q What is the date of the third debate?

MR. NESSEN: The 22nd of October.

Q Is the President looking forward to it?

MR. NESSEN: The third debate? He looks forward to all of them.

Q Does that mean the President won't be able to watch the Vice Presidential debate on Friday evening?

MR. NESSEN: No. I think one of the reasons for there not being any scheduled events at this time in Joliet was deliberately planned so that he would be able to go to his hotel and watch the debate. I expect him to watch the debate from his hotel in Joliet; that is, the Vice Presidential debate.

Q Ron, has he forewarned Senator Dole on his behavior during the debate?

MR. NESSEN: No, I think Senator Dole has proved himself to be a very capable campaigner and I am sure will be a very capable advocate of the important issues in this campaign.

Q Ron, does the decision not to do any campaigning next week prior to the debate have anything to do with the observation that was made generally to the press that he got in hot water as soon as he got out on the campaign trail last week?

MR. NESSEN: No, I think the pattern has been that he does take some time before the debates to review his material.

I think the other big reason is at the moment we have 122 bills here awaiting a decision. Some of them are tough calls, too, so he is going to need --

Q How many?

MR. NESSEN: 122 at the moment, and more coming.

Q Why doesn't he face them this week?

MR. NESSEN: He is facing them this week, Marilyn.

Q Ron, are you pressing for any changes in the debate format for the third debate?

MR. NESSEN: I mentioned out in San Francisco the idea of a requirement that the answer to the question and the rebuttal be responsive to the question. I think we probably concluded that the best way to accomplish that would be to have the questioners and the moderator keep that in mind as they go through the debate.

Q Keep what in mind?

MR. NESSEN: The possibility of calling it to the candidate's attention that he didn't answer the question or didn't rebut the answer.

Q Ron, the President was apparently very pleased with Dr. Criswell's endorsement or saying that he is going to vote for him, as well as the sermon. I was wondering if you could tell us who it was that arranged for him to go to the First Baptist Church? Was it the Baptist Minister that is on the staff? And is the President aware that on July 4, 1960, Dr. Criswell announced if Senator John Kennedy is elected it will sound the death knell of religious liberty in the United States?

MR. NESSEN: To answer the first part of your question first --

Q The President, you are going to say, is not aware of this?

MR. NESSEN: The invitation to attend the service was given by Reverend Criswell when he was here on September 30 to attend a meeting with a number of evangelical leaders. As you know, the trip originally was supposed to end Saturday night and return here Saturday night, and the President stayed over to accept the invitation from Reverend Criswell to attend the church.

The other part, Les, that is the first I ever heard of the quotation.

Q Surely the President looked up the background of Dr. Criswell before he accepted the invitation, didn't he? Did he not know that Criswell was a known baiter of Catholics, he was for segregation, for the Vietnam War and things like that?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know first whether that is an accurate --

Q Don't you people look up the background of people that ask you places?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know whether that is an accurate description.

Q Don't you look up the background of people who invite you places before you go there? The Secret Service always is giving us this bit about how they investigate people. Maybe they didn't do their job this time.

Q Ron, the Dallas Morning News -- and I have interviewed Criswell, I have him on tape on this -- the Dallas Morning News reported that after the Houston Ministerial Association, Dr. Criswell charged that Kennedy is lying, and if he is a good Catholic he shouldn't be President. You are saying the President was not aware of this?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know whether he was or not.

Q Would it be possible to check?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know whether it is an accurate quote, and I don't know whether he was aware of it.

Q It is in the files of the Dallas Morning News. I spent three hours going over it before I interviewed Dr. Criswell.

Q A Dallas paper yesterday also confirms the reports of his segregationist leanings.

MR. NESSEN: I don't accept any of these descriptions since I have not had time myself to look at them.

Q Aren't you Press Secretary to the President? Why didn't you look into this yourself?

Q Has the President stepped up arms aid to Israel for political reasons -- the election?

MR. NESSEN: On the question of arms aid to Israel, the publicly announced commitment to Israel is for \$1 billion in arms aid this year. Of course, that has been announced before and it is the case -- \$1 billion in arms aid, that is for fiscal 1977.

That has been previously announced. There has been no increase in that.

Q It is not \$1.5 billion?

MR. NESSEN: No, that was fiscal 1976. Fiscal 1977 is another \$1 billion. There has been no increase in that. The President has approved certain additional items of military hardware which Israel requested.

As I say, these don't affect the overall commitment at all, the total amount. There has been an agreement in principle on this matter and the details have yet to be worked out.

Q What are these extra items?

MR. NESSEN: As always, I am not prepared here to list the items. I will tell you that they do not include the Pershing missile -- do not include the Pershing missile.

As the contracts for these items go forward, they are, as required by law, sent to Congress, and Congress has 30 days in which to disapprove of the sale. That is the normal procedure for making public the specific items, so that is the procedure I think I will stick to.

Q Could you tell us what areas, Ron? Is it missiles for aircraft, electronic sensors, anything at all?

MR. NESSEN: I think I will stick to standard procedures, Bob.

Q Ron, why do you deliberately and specifically disclose the Pershing missile is not included?

MR. NESSEN: Because I saw stories saying that it was, and I thought I would take this opportunity to set that straight.

Q Since Congress is not in session, how does Congress --

MR. NESSEN: These contracts will go forward over the future months, Helen.

Q How come the deal was made last week? Does it have anything to do with the American election?

MR. NESSEN: That is just unworthy of an answer, Helen. That is silly. It is just not something that I even am going to deny.

Q Ron, when do you expect the first of these contract offers to be sent up to Congress so we can begin to identify what they are?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have a date for you.

Q Ron, when you say they approved certain additional items of military hardware requested, that infers, and I assume you mean, these were not previously supplied to Israel?

MR. NESSEN: The item, whatever it is -- they are new items that have not been on the list before or increases in some items that have already been --

Q They are both kinds of arms that have never been sent, and what?

MR. NESSEN: When we say approved additional items, we are talking about new items in the sense of items that have not been sold to Israel before as well as additions to previous sales of that item to Israel.

Q This is all within the \$1 billion figure? That is not affected?

MR. NESSEN: That is correct.

Q Where do you get that kind of detail?

MR. JANKA: That is the kind of detail that has to be worked out.

Q This includes both types?

MR. NESSEN: It includes both new items never been sold before and increases in items previously on the list. The \$1 billion is all military. There are additional categories of aid, economic aid, and so forth.

Q But you are not giving them more economic aid and more military aid?

MR. NESSEN: The \$1 billion in military sales remains.

Q Did the President tell Mr. Allon about that today?

MR. NESSEN: No, Mr. Allon knew about that before.

Q When was the approval? You say the President has approved it?

MR. NESSEN: Last week.

Q But this is being announced today? It has not been announced before?

MR. NESSEN: I wouldn't say this is a formal announcement.

Q Has it been disclosed before?

MR. JANKA: It was disclosed to Israel.

Q What is the rationale for all this new stuff?

MR. NESSEN: The same rationale for all military sales, Helen.

Q Which is what?

MR. NESSEN: That it is in our interest to sell these goods to Israel.

Q Can you give us a ball park figure within the \$1 billion, how much of the \$1 billion?

MR. NESSEN: It is an agreement in principle, but the details have not been worked out yet.

Q You can't say it is an additional \$300 million within that \$1 billion?

MR. NESSEN: I really can't break it down.

Q Within the time frame, when did the Israelis make the request for these specific items? And number two, when did the President make the decision to supply them? And three, when were the Israelis told?

MR. JANKA: It is part of an ongoing discussion for arms sales and, simply, the decision was made last week. You have to remember the fiscal year started October 1, to start this clock running on the \$1 billion.

Q When did the Israelis make the request?

MR. JANKA: I don't know. It is part of an ongoing discussion. There are new requests and revisions of the requests all the time.

Q When was the decision transmitted to the Israelis? Last week?

MR. JANKA: These were both made last week.

Q The decision was made and transmitted last week?

MR. JANKA: Yes.

Q Ron, it is not true that the Israelis said the Pentagon was holding up things and they wanted them to speed it up?

MR. NESSEN: Are you asking me did the Israelis say that?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: I don't know whether the Israelis said that.

Q Was anybody for the Pentagon at these discussions?

MR. NESSEN: Of course.

MR. JANKA: I don't know what discussions we are talking about. The ongoing discussions, the Pentagon is always represented.

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Q Mr. Allon said there had been some concern in Israel, or at least on the part of the Israeli press, that the U.S. may not be living up to its commitments.

MR. NESSEN: The billion dollar commitment?

Q The commitment to supply arms to Israel, yes.

Q It has been \$4.4 billion the last two years.

MR. NESSEN: As the President said the other night in the debate, 40 percent of all the aid to Israel, since its birth in the 1940s, has been in the last two years.

Q Ron, there is no connection between the meeting today and this announcement, or whatever you want to call it, and the President's meeting tomorrow with the Jewish leaders?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think I am even going to deny that because I don't think it is obvious.

Q Ron, is he going to discuss more economic and military aid now?

MR. NESSEN: I think you have to understand the process, Dick. I mean, the contact, the communications, the dealings between our country and Israel are continual. They go on 365 days a year, except on the sabbath, of course.

Q They haven't bought the limit yet, though, have they?

MR. NESSEN: The billion dollar limit?

Q Yes.

MR. JANKA: We just started the fiscal year.

Q So, there are ongoing discussions?

MR. NESSEN: There are always ongoing discussions.

Q Ron, would you describe these more sophisticated weapons?

MR. NESSEN: I can't really characterize them, Fran.

Q Would you describe them as offensive or defensive?

MR. NESSEN: I just can't describe them.

Q This transition quarter money the Congress wanted and the President did not want, is this related to that?

MR. NESSEN: There was a small amount put in, about \$250 million or \$300 million, maybe.

Q \$275 million -- \$75 million economic, \$200 million military.

MR. NESSEN: Thaanks, Jim.

Q This is fiscal 1977?

MR. NESSEN: We are talking about a billion dollar commitment of credit sales to Israel in fiscal 1977.

Q Ron, since this is totally nonpolitical and not involved in the Presidential election, I presume the President won't talk about it tomorrow, he won't mention it to the Jewish leaders?

MR. NESSEN: I would be surprised if he did.

Q Ron, if they are going to have to take less of some of the weapons they are going to get in order to get these new ones --

MR. NESSEN: I don't know if that is a correct assumption.

Q How else can it be? That was my earlier question.

MR. NESSEN: There was a commitment of \$1 billion in military credit sales this year. Now the list that you add up, at the bottom you get \$1 billion had not been made up, and it is being made up now.

Q The rest of the question was, if they find money and don't have a requirement for credits, could they buy those other items that might be excluded by the new items?

MR. JANKA: It depends on whether they have to come under FMS, under the kind of equipment they do buy commercially outside our military channels.

Q Ron, on 60 Minutes yesterday, Alex Butterfield said when Nixon left the White House he left certain conditions, one of them that Butterfield was to be fired, or was to leave the White House. Is that correct, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: As I told Mike Wallace when he called me about it two weeks ago -- but he forgot to quote it last night -- that is just ludicrous.

Q What is ludicrous, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: The suggestion by Mike Wallace or Alex Butterfield or whoever that somehow Nixon left behind an instruction that Butterfield was to be fired by a certain date.

Q Why was Butterfield fired, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: I think we went over this at the time, Stan, and I think all involved agreed that it was a matter of wanting to improve the administration of the FAA. And, as I understand it, most of the reporters who cover the FAA understand exactly that goal.

Q Ron, I wasn't here at the time. Does that mean that the administration of the FAA was inadequate under Butterfield?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think it is fair at this time to talk about Alex Butterfield's administration of the FAA, but as we said at the time, there was a desire to improve the administration of it.

Q If I can get back to this Israeli discussion, there is something troubling me. Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon said that he and the President discussed the supplying of arms and were promised including certain new ones that were under discussion, a long time ago. Now, a long time ago on its face sounds longer than a week ago.

MR. NESSEN: I said in response to the initial question that these were items that the President has approved which Israel has requested.

Q We didn't say they requested them last week.

MR. NESSEN: I didn't say the request was made last week.

I think you have to think of this as something --

Q Was it as long ago as 10 months ago, as some of the Israeli press has been reporting?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know.

Q Do you think this gets into Carter's claim that we have become an arms merchant of the world?

MR. NESSEN: I think the President answered that very well in the debate, Helen.

Q Ron, does the President believe that people living in Poland are under domination of the Soviet Union?

MR. NESSEN: Let's not go around that track again, Ted. It was handled pretty well last week, I think.

Q I don't think it was, because I think it is still not on the record any place.

MR. NESSEN: I think the President was asked that direct question by Annie or Tom Jarriell, one or the other. I will get you the transcript and you can --

Q He said that he had talked about domination, if any.

MR. NESSEN: No, I think you missed perhaps one of the events on Saturday(Friday), which was a news conference in the parking lot of the City Hall in Glendale in which that question was asked, and the President answered it. I will get you a transcript of it.

Q In connection with this, does the Administration still believe that the three Balkan Republics should have their freedom and national liberties?

MR. NESSEN: I will have to look up what our position is on that. I don't want to wing it, Joe.

Q Can we have a transcript of that press conference in the parking lot at Glendale?

MR. NESSEN: I will be glad to get it for you.

Q If the President cares so much about anti-boycott legislation, why didn't he contact John Tower during the last week of Congress when Tower five times raised objections to appointing conferees to work on this Export Administration Act and tell him that this was important legislation he wanted to go through?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know the details of the last days, but I do know the Administration had a responsible compromise which it advocated and pushed in those final days, and Congress failed to take any action on the matter, as the President mentioned --

Q It was the action of John Tower that prevented Congress from taking any action on it.

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that, because I don't know the details of the conference activities. I know the Administration did push a compromise on this, which didn't get done because Congress went away without doing it.

Q Ron, since, as you noted, in the Savannah Morning News and the L. A. Times, they both disapproved Jimmy Carter's very strong statement "As a matter of fact, I have never advocated any cut of \$15 billion in our defense budget," I am wondering if you believe Governor Carter is a liar or if it is just that he is merely forgetful when it comes to defense billions?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. I think the facts speak for themselves and don't need any comment from me.

Q What is your opinion? Do you feel he is just forgetful or deliberate?

MR. NESSEN: You saw the fact sheet I put out on Saturday.

Q I saw that, and I wonder if you could possibly answer the question. Do you think he is forgetful or deliberately lying?

MR. NESSEN: I think that is probably a question you need to direct to Governor Carter.

Q Ron, given what you know today, you mean you would have to look up the position on Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia, the three Balkan Republics, to say whether or not they are under Soviet domination?

MR. NESSEN: I am just not going to wing that answer from here, Bob. I am going to find the answer and give it to you.

Q Ron, this gentleman over here asked why the President didn't contact Tower during that period when Congress was considering the Arab boycott matter. My question is, did the President contact Tower at any time during that --

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. I know we had a compromise which we advocated and pushed through the Congressional Liaison Office.

Q That came later, Ron. As some people have charged, they say that was not much more than what we already had on the books.

The point I am asking you is very vital. Did the President -- was he in communication with John Tower at any time about the Arab boycott status on the Floor?

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

Q You ought to be able to find that out very easily. Will you do that?

MR. NESSEN: I will check into it.

Q Ron, on the Butterfield matter, I think maybe four or six months, or maybe more than that, elapsed after Butterfield was fired and a new FAA Administrator was brought on. Why, in the absence of anything outstandingly bad, didn't they wait until they had another Administrator? It seems strange that he would be fired and then for months and months and months there was no Administrator and people were asking why. I asked here once and there was no answer, no reason.

Q Especially given your desire to improve the administration of the FAA.

MR. NESSEN: I haven't looked at that period for quite a while. I will check back and find out what I can about it.

Q On the Arab boycott, isn't it true that you said here that the President is opposed to legislation dealing with the boycott?

MR. NESSEN: Overall, the position was that the President was opposed to legislation because he had already taken effective action, I guess in November 1975, it was. But, it appeared at one point anyhow that Congress did want to pass legislation in that area and so the President advocated what he believed to be a responsible compromise. As it was, Congress walked away without doing anything.

Q The point is, of course, that Senator Tower did say he would not give unanimous consent to the appointment of Senate conferees and if the conferees were appointed, he would conduct, what was reported as saying, an educational process to stop the bill between the filibusters.

The question, of course, that remains unanswered is whether or not the Administration tried to persuade Tower to change his mind, which we don't have an answer to.

MR. NESSEN: I don't know what direct contact was made with Senator Tower, if any, but I do know that the Administration did advocate a compromise and Senator Tower, in whatever approach he may have taken in the conference, was acting on his own and not for the White House.

Q As Chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee, it puts him in a position of representing the Republican Party in the Senate.

MR. NESSEN: I think if you ask Senator Tower he will tell you he was asking for his own and, as I said this morning, he is not acting for the White House.

Q Could you give us a readout on the Allon --

MR. NESSEN: There will be a printed readout available shortly.

Q Ron, the President has said on a number of occasions that he had to stay in Washington in order to oversee what Congress is doing. Now you are telling us that you don't know whether he had contact with the head of the Republican whatever thing on a very important issue. These don't seem to fit together and it is rather confusing.

MR. NESSEN: I think your confusion is coming from the fact that I say I don't know, because I have not researched the matter. I don't know how that fits into the other part of the equation. I think it is probably unrelated.

Q Why wasn't Butterfield given some other job in the Government, because he served with distinction for over 20 years?

MR. NESSEN: As I say, I have not looked into that period for a long time. I will have to check my records and the White House records and sort of reconstruct it if there is that much interest in it.

Q Ron, when the White House criticizes Congress, it is by implication criticizing the Democratic leadership, or the Democratically-controlled Congress. Do you think it is entirely honest to blame Congress for failure to do something which resulted from an action by the Republican leader, or one of the Republican leaders?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. I will let you make those interpretations.

Q Ron, has the President ever rebutted to your knowledge Governor Carter's description of Dr. Kissinger being as far as foreign policy is concerned the President of this country and, if not, why not?

MR. NESSEN: I will have to look up the transcript, Les.

Q Do you know if he has ever rebutted this? I don't recall that he has, and I just wondered if you know?

MR. NESSEN: I will have to look up the transcript.

Q Ron, can we assume, since the President wanted to have a reasonable compromise, as you called it, on this Arab boycott legislation, can we assume he was not in favor of Tower's actions, he did not like Tower's actions on this?

MR. NESSEN: I say John Tower was not acting for the White House.

Q Was the President opposed to his actions?

MR. NESSEN: The President wanted the reasonable compromise.

Q The President has a lot of influence on Tower. Did he not call Tower to get him to change his mind?

MR. NESSEN: Now we are back to where we started a few minutes ago, and the answer again is that I will check for you.

Q Will you answer my question? Was he opposed to Tower's actions?

MR. NESSEN: John Tower did not act for the White House. The President wanted the compromise to pass.

Q Then he was opposed to Mr. Tower's actions?

MR. NESSEN: Right.

Q Is this political meeting this afternoon to try to pick up the pieces?

MR. NESSEN: What pieces is that, Helen?

Q Is there some feeling that things might not be going right?

MR. NESSEN: No, I think Jim Baker gave you an excellent characterization of where we all feel the campaign is now in terms of accelerating momentum. This meeting will be to give the President really their views and to assess where the campaign is now and the remaining three weeks of the campaign.

Q What is the President's mood at this stage?

MR. NESSEN: I think Jim Baker, who had just come out of the President's cabin when he came back to talk to you yesterday, was giving a very accurate reflection of the President's mood yesterday.

Q Ron, the Washington Star reports that on Friday night you had what they termed "a shouting encounter" with angry reporters. Since the transcript doesn't indicate volume, I was just wondering, is this accurate, and who shouted first? Can you tell us something about this and how many times have you had shouting encounters? (Laughter) I gather this was over the Polish situation. Could you tell us just what that was and did you start it or did they start it, or what?

MR. NESSEN: Let's see now--or what.

Q Ron, I mean, could you --

MR. NESSEN: I thought that was a choice you offered.

Q Who started it, and why was there a shouting encounter? You have never shouted at us in this room, that I can recall.

MR. NESSEN: Rarely ever.

We have about six minutes before the pool has to leave.

Q That means no comment, I gather?

Q On the boycott matter, as I understand it, what he signed last week was an Executive Order permitting --

MR. NESSEN: It was a memo, I think, really, Charlie.

Q But perspectively rather than retroactively, which goes back to the Commerce Department and the Administration previously, which was that these things would be held to 12 months and then to some extent, released.

But why -- never mind his language in the debate, I am not talking about that -- but why does the Administration oppose the retroactive release of the names of American corporations that have complied with the Arab boycott?

MR. NESSEN: I think Elliot Richardson has been explaining the position right along since last week and I don't really have anything to add to his explanation of it.

Q Ron, with respect to the Rhodesian Constitutional Conference, did the President, in a conversation with Callaghan, discuss that matter?

MR. NESSEN: Which conversation with Callaghan?

Q You said he talked with him by phone concerning the British pound.

MR. NESSEN: So far as I know, the phone conversation last week was primarily about the pound and the economic situation.

Q What I am getting at is, are you aware of any pressure that may have been applied to Great Britain to go ahead with these constitutional talks in light of the crisis that is pending over Rhodesia?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know what pressure would be needed and I don't know what crisis it is that would interfere. So far as I know, the British are on track --

Q Ron, what kind of campaign travel schedule is being planned for the period after the third debate, the final ten days? Will that be moderate, light or what?

MR. NESSEN: I wouldn't characterize it with one of those words. There will be travel during that period, obviously, but I don't have anything to tell you about it today.

Q Ron, Jimmy Carter says that the Ford Administration is what he terms less open than the Nixon Administration because, among other things, the President hasn't held a full-scale White House press conference since February. My question is: Since this is your field of expertise --

MR. NESSEN: Thank you, Les, that is the nicest thing you have ever said.

Q What is your answer to this questionable charge and has there been a full-scale -- I don't recall that it has, but I don't think it is less open than the Nixon Administration certainly, and I just wondered, what is your feeling on it as the President's press officer?

MR. NESSEN: As you know, I make it a practice never to respond to campaign stump speeches.

Q Ron, will we be able to see Senator Dole this afternoon following his meeting with the President?

MR. NESSEN: I think I can make him available and perhaps some Steering Committee people, too, if you are interested.

Q Yes, we are.

Q What time?

MR. NESSEN: Let's see, the Steering Committee meeting starts at 2:30 and the meeting with Dole at 3:30.

Q Is the Steering Committee staying for the meeting with Dole?

MR. NESSEN: No, it is the other way around. Dole is coming to attend the meeting of the Steering Committee and then meet with the President.

Q So, the Steering Committee will come out first?

MR. NESSEN: Yes. I would be around about 2:00 or 2:15 if I were you.

Q Is James Baker going to be here this afternoon?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, he is.

Q What time?

MR. NESSEN: He is attending the Steering Committee meeting.

Q What time will you bring these people out, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: After the meeting.

Q You said we should be here before they go into the meeting?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, I think so.

Q Do you expect new positions on the campaign as a result of this meeting?

MR. NESSEN: No, I don't know of any that I anticipate --

Q You say you are bringing these people out before they go in?

MR. NESSEN: No, but I said I would be here before they go in just in case.

Q Does the President think the campaign is on the right track?

MR. NESSEN: I think Jim gave just a great summation of where we are last night, Tom, and it certainly reflected the President's view of where we are.

Q I am confused. What are you expecting at 2:00?

MR. NESSEN: I am just suggesting that you be here at 2:00.

Q When is the list going up for Friday?

MR. NESSEN: The sign-up list? I will find out.

Q Would the President, if elected, sit down with the Senate and House conferees, who have been the conferees on the boycott, and work out a compromise for this legislation on the boycott?

MR. NESSEN: That is very hypothetical. I can't tackle that.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END (AT 12:40 P.M. EDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 18, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary



THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The President has reviewed the material made public today by the Defense Department concerning General Brown's interview. The President also has discussed the matter with Secretary Rumsfeld. The President made it clear to Secretary Rumsfeld that he does not agree with the General's poor choice of words in portions of the interview.

Based on General Brown's statement issued today and Secretary Rumsfeld's news conference, the President considers the matter closed.

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 11:40 A.M. EDT

OCTOBER 19, 1976

TUESDAY

MR. NESSEN: You know we have this presentation of the AMVETS Golden Helmet Award to the President in the Rose Garden at 12:15.

Q Is he going to wear it?

MR. NESSEN: It is a military type helmet as opposed to a football helmet. The President will speak there, in the Rose Garden.

Q He will speak?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Do you want to hear about travel plans?

About noon on Friday, the President will travel to Williamsburg. This will be a flight to Patrick Henry Airport in Newport News, and then drive to Williamsburg. The press will follow the same path of flying to Patrick Henry Airport in Newport News, and then bus to Williamsburg.

The President leaves about noon, so the press will leave about 11:00. I don't see any need for a briefing on Friday.

Then, as you know, the debate will be held that evening in Williamsburg at the College of William and Mary. After that, there will be a drive to Richmond. The overnight stay will be at the Sheraton Hotel in Richmond.

Q Is he making an appearance after the debate?

MR. NESSEN: We haven't gotten those details. The President will stay at the Governor's Mansion as a guest of Governor and Mrs. Mills Godwin.

MORE

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On Saturday, the President at 9:00 in the morning will deliver a speech on the capital grounds in Richmond. At 10:40 approximately the President will fly from Richmond, leaving Richmond at 10:40, to the Raleigh-Durham Airport in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Q There will be advances on all the speeches, of course?

MR. NESSEN: Probably not.

Q Are you going to have an advance for Thursday night?

MR. NESSEN: Thursday night's speech is the Al Smith speech?

Q Will we have an advance text?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know.

At noon on Saturday the President will speak at the North Carolina State Fair in Raleigh. At 1:45 the President leaves Raleigh to go to Columbia, South Carolina, where he will attend the second half of the Notre Dame-South Carolina football game, which hopefully will end in a tie. (Laughter)

After the South Carolina event, the President will fly to the West Coast. At the moment, I can't tell you the exact details of the West Coast trip except it will involve the States of Washington, Oregon and California. In what order, I can't tell you right now.

That West Coast portion of the trip will last until Monday. Then, during the day on Monday, the President will fly back east. Those are all the details I have for you at the moment.

Q "East" meaning East Coast?

MR. NESSEN: Eastward.

Q Which State will he go to first?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have that yet, which of the three States he will go to first.

Q He is coming east on Monday?

MR. NESSEN: Sometime during the day on Monday.

Q East Coast?

MR. NESSEN: Eastward.

Q For Friday, are you going to have a press room set up in Williamsburg before you go back to Richmond at which time people will be made available after the debate?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have all the details for you yet, but we will. It is only Tuesday.

Q Will there be a press room set up?

MR. NESSEN: There will be press facilities in Williamsburg, obviously.

Q A place where Cheney and others will be available afterward?

MR. NESSEN: It will have to be, because of the time problem.

Thursday, I think everybody knows, is really just simply an up and back to New York. It will take a couple of hours total.

Q What time do you think we will leave?

MR. NESSEN: Very late afternoon, like four or five o'clock.

Q Do you have any idea how far eastward the President will fly on Monday?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have the details yet.

Q Texas?

MR. NESSEN: Further east than Texas.

Q It is on abortion, isn't it, the Al Smith dinner speech?

MR. NESSEN: You say it is one or it is about?
(Laughter)

Q It is on, I said.

MR. NESSEN: It hasn't been written yet, so it would be incorrect to say it is about abortion.

Q Is it true Carter is going to duck out of that dinner because of the Catholic issue?

MR. NESSEN: You have to ask Al -- (Laughter) -- you have to ask Jimmy --

Q Ron, seriously, has something happened to you? I have never heard such a string of one-liners. Is that the swine flu shot or what?

MR. NESSEN: It may be.

Q Are you through with your announcements?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Did the President talk to General Brown at all personally?

MR. NESSEN: No, he didn't.

Q Why?

MR. NESSEN: It was handled by Secretary Rumsfeld.

Q Isn't that a little bit odd, that there would not be any personal contact for a matter of that importance?

MR. NESSEN: I think it was handled by Secretary Rumsfeld, who did see the President yesterday.

Q Rumsfeld did see him?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, he saw the President.

Q When?

MR. NESSEN: Either late morning or very early afternoon. It was in the 11:00 or 12:00 area.

Q Was it before the news conference?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Colonel Bran Barber of the British Embassy said this morning the British Armed Services include approximately 295,000 men in the Army, Navy and Air Force. Will the President, as Commander-in-Chief of our Armed Forces, apologize for the description of Britain's Armed Forces as all they have got are "admirals, generals and bands" because as of 11:30 this morning John Smallwood of the Embassy says no such apology has been received at the Embassy.

MR. NESSEN: I think that was discussed in some detail by General Brown and Secretary Rumsfeld yesterday.

Q I want to know about the President, Ron. Will the President, as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, apologize to the British for this description?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have anything to add to what Secretary Rumsfeld said.

Q In other words, the President won't?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have anything to add to what Don and General Brown said yesterday.

Q Yesterday afternoon the Commerce Department put out a list of three dozen or so companies that had complied with requests from Arab countries to participate in the boycott against Israel. Now the President has said on many occasions that public disclosure of these companies is the best approach, rather than fighting them and that type of thing.

Exactly what does the President want to happen? These names have been put out. Are people supposed to not shop? Seriously, what --

MR. NESSEN: I think certainly disclosure was part of the President's action against the boycott, but if you look at the various steps taken through the Executive Order and other actions taken by the President last November, he believes that is the best way to handle the matter.

Q What did President Ford and Secretary Kissinger discuss this morning?

MR. NESSEN: A number of matters, a pretty broad review of foreign policy, but certainly the developing situation in Lebanon was one of the matters and the U.N. General Assembly session was the other matter.

Q Did they discuss the ramification of the boycott since the Secretary was opposed to making those names public?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that is a fact, Dick. I did not attend the meeting, but I know that the two subjects I mentioned to you were among those they intended to discuss. I don't know about the boycott.

Q Was this related to the coming debates?

MR. NESSEN: In the U.N. General Assembly?

Q No, in Williamsburg.

MR. NESSEN: No, I don't believe they discussed that.

Q Did the Secretary also meet with the President late yesterday afternoon?

MR. NESSEN: Late yesterday afternoon? I don't think they did. No. They met yesterday morning, but they did not meet late yesterday afternoon.

Q But he was here yesterday afternoon?

MR. NESSEN: May have been.

Q Ron, did they talk about China and Russia at all, specifically what the Secretary said last Friday at Harvard that is just now coming to light that there seemed to be a warning to the Soviet Union not to take any military action against China?

MR. NESSEN: As I say, I was not in the meeting, Bob. I know the two subjects of Lebanon and the U.N. General Assembly sessions were matters that they intended to discuss, but what other matters may have come up, I wasn't there.

Q Would the President speak at the U.N. before the election?

MR. NESSEN: There are no plans to.

Q Has the President said anything about the conduct of the U.N. General Assembly's current session? He hasn't said anything yet, has he?

MR. NESSEN: There are some issues coming up for debate and the voting that need the President's guidance.

Q Can you check on what they might have said?

MR. NESSEN: About the U.N. session? I think the President's decisions will be revealed as Ambassador Scranton casts his vote.

Q Representative Holtzman said this morning that both Mr. Ford and the American people have a right to have this cloud about Ford's role in the 1972 Watergate investigation in the House cleared up before the election. Does Mr. Ford agree with that?

MR. NESSEN: I think the President gave you his answer last week at the news conference.

Q This is a different question.

MR. NESSEN: From my reading of the wires, it did not strike me as being a new question. I mean, the testimony that the President referred to last week at his news conference was primarily the questioning by Mrs. Holtzman. If you haven't seen the transcript, you ought to. I have some Xeroxed copies here that I would be happy to share with you because I have a feeling that perhaps it hasn't been read and that is why the President's reference to it the other night perhaps did not come across.

But, Mrs. Holtzman questioned the President, I guess, for better than two pages of -- at least it comes across as two pages in the transcript of the hearings -- and as far as I can tell, she raised all the questions then that she is raising now and the President answered them at that time.

At the end of that particular two pages of questioning, she said, "I would like to turn to another area." So, she did not indicate at that time that there were any questions remaining in her mind. That is why the President, I think, indicated the other night that he had felt he had answered all the questions two or three years ago when this matter came up.

Q Is it the President's view that he has fully answered this?

Q I have a follow-up. She said during those hearings she asked whether he would be willing to waive Executive privilege on the tapes. He apparently didn't answer directly, but he told reporters afterwards that he would be willing to waive privilege on the tapes for the September 15 to roughly mid-October period. Is he willing to waive privilege on the tapes?

MR. NESSEN: As far as I know, those tapes have been published long ago, and I have seen them quoted.

Q Other tapes?

MR. NESSEN: Mrs. Holtzman asked, as I say, two pages of questions. At the end of that two pages she said, "Let's turn to another area," so I don't know anything I can add three years after that was not explored then. Really, I think maybe you would like to take a look at her questioning, which was certainly very thorough.

I have here, if you would care to read it, the testimony before the Senate Rules Committee in which Senator Byrd asks, really, even a longer series of questions than Mrs. Holtzman did about this area. At the end he also went on to another subject, apparently.

Q Is it the President's view he has fully answered the question and he is not going to make any further statement about this issue?

MR. NESSEN: Lou, I don't know what the need is. If you take a look at the depth and intensity of the questioning, the areas covered, the issues raised, there have been no new questions raised, as far as I know, since this testimony of three years ago.

Q Ron, I don't know what the need is, either. I am asking you, though --

MR. NESSEN: I think that is what the President indicated at his news conference the other night, that all the questions being raised now were answered three years ago and the questions three years ago came from Mrs. Holtzman, came from Senator Byrd, but certainly came from Mrs. Holtzman. He answered them then and, of course, the answers remain the same today.

Q Ron, since you have reviewed this testimony, is there anything in the questioning on whether he had talked to Cook at all?

MR. NESSEN: I will let you review the questions because since the President has referred to this, I would think you would want to see what he said.

Q I do want to see what he said, but do you know offhand?

MR. NESSEN: I will let you look at it, Helen.

Q The answer he gave the other night was not a direct answer to the question that was put.

MR. NESSEN: Because these questions were answered --

Q Did he have conversations with Cook? That question was not answered the other night.

MR. NESSEN: I think Cook has said no to that.

Q Ron, there is new evidence now that has come to light --

MR. NESSEN: Mr. Ruff apparently does not think so, Bob.

Q I am sorry, but I am pointing out that John Dean brought new evidence to light.

MR. NESSEN: What was it?

Q The fact that the President conferred six times at least with Mr. Cook, which was not known at the time.

MR. NESSEN: Mr. Cook said there weren't --

Q Does Mr. Ford say so under oath?

MR. NESSEN: Read it and I think it answers your question.

Q It does not answer the question, Ron.

MR. NESSEN: Have you read it?

Q Yes, I have, and it does not even address itself to that question.

MR. NESSEN: I think if you read it, he is asked a question about Mr. Timmons or anybody else at the White House and he answers the question.

Q He answers that he does not recollect.

MR. NESSEN: No, I think it is a firmer answer than that, Bob.

Q Does he say he does not --

MR. NESSEN: Helen, why don't you read it?

Q Why don't you tell us? We are asking you. I don't see why you can't tell us.

MR. NESSEN: I will read you the full testimony if you would like me to.

Q Read me the answer to that question.

MR. NESSEN: I think I will read you the full testimony, since that is what the President referred to.

Q Ron, this is a filibuster.

MR. NESSEN: Helen would like to read it, and you would not like me not to read it.

Q Read what Helen asked you to read.

MR. NESSEN: I will be happy to hand out copies of it, too, either way.

Q Let's read it.

Q Ron, I have read and reread this. Don't waste my time.

MR. NESSEN: Apparently others have not, John.

Q Don't waste my time reading it to them.

MR. NESSEN: I will Xerox copies of the testimony and hand it out.

Q I read that testimony last night, Ron, and it does not say whether he talked to Cook.

MR. NESSEN: Cook says he did not have any conversations.

Q He does not say under oath anything of the kind.

Q Ron, has the President read Clark Mollenhoff's book about this same incident?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think so, Sarah.

Q I wonder if he would read it and say whether or not he disagrees with what Mr. Mollenhoff says. He has quite a bit more in there than Mr. Dean had.

MR. NESSEN: Let me read you one question and one answer and see if that can get us over this particular point until we have a chance to Xerox this.

"Mrs. Holtzman: 'What I wanted to ask you was, did you discuss with Mr. Timmons or with anybody else at the White House whether or not the allegations made by the Banking and Currency Committee had any basis in fact or not? Did you discuss with them, let's say up to the period of November 1?'"

"Mr. Ford: 'I do not remember discussing those allegations with anybody on the White House staff in 1972.'"

"Mrs. Holtzman: 'Okay.'"

Q Does that not say "I do not remember"?

MR. NESSEN: But if he doesn't remember, Bob, then obviously he does not remember.

Q The question he was asked the other night was, does he now remember after Mr. Dean has said he talked six times with Mr. Cook and he refused to answer the question.

MR. NESSEN: Mr. Cook says there were no such conversations and the President said all the answers that he gave three years ago remain the case.

Q He still does not remember then?

MR. NESSEN: That is correct.

Q Mr. Cook is not under oath.

MR. NESSEN: Look, Sarah, a three-year old story is a three-year old story.

Q The fact remains, doesn't it, Ron, that regardless of whether the President talked with Cook or not, that the President did have a part in blocking the Patman investigation, right?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. I wasn't here then.

Q That is the basic question. That is true, is it not?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. I wasn't here then.

Q Does the President deny he was involved in blocking it? He voted against it. He was the leader of the Republican minority in the House.

MR. NESSEN: The Republican minority and five Democrats on the Patman committee voted --

Q He has acknowledged that?

MR. NESSEN: Of course he has acknowledged that. He acknowledged it three years ago, and I can read you that portion, but what I don't understand is why am I standing here today reading you three-year old testimony when nothing has occurred, as the President said the other night to change his testimony of three years ago.

I don't understand that. But, let me point this out, if I may: The Judiciary Committee and its chairman, Peter Rodino, and its members held these hearings and reached conclusions which I assume you have all seen.

They did not even mention this particular part in their final report.

Q Ron, how can you say nothing new has happened when a person who has proved himself credible on some very critical issues has come up with something new?

MR. NESSEN: All I am saying is the President was asked this last Thursday night -- whatever night the news conference was -- he was asked this three years ago under oath by Mrs. Holtzman. He gave his answers then. The answers are the same today and you know, I suppose, we could go around this bush all day and not get anywhere because nothing has changed.

Q Ron, you say the President has always admitted that he had something to do with blocking this investigation. That was the Rodino committee. Now, this matter is before the American people at a critical time of an election campaign and people look at it differently.

Isn't that the reason why we are reconsidering it?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know why we are reconsidering it, Sarah. I know the President was asked all these questions by Mrs. Holtzman three years ago. As far as I can tell, they are the same questions and the same answers. So, I don't know where we go with this now.

Q Ron, is it not a fact that Dean in his testimony before the Ervin Watergate committee testified that everything of substance was said on today except the details of the six conversations with Cook? He named Cook and he named Timmons. Isn't that a fact?

MR. NESSEN: My understanding is that nothing has changed essentially in anybody's story in three years. That is why I do wonder why I am standing here reading you three-year old testimony and watching people take notes, which I don't quite understand.

Q Do you say when the President says, "I don't recollect," that that is a flat denial? Does that constitute a denial to you?

MR. NESSEN: Look, the President was asked all the questions three years ago and gave all the answers. The questions are the same today. The answers are the same today.

Q The questions aren't the same today.

MR. NESSEN: The questions are the same today, and the answers are the same today.

Q Ron, apparently the chairman of the Senate Watergate committee did not think so. Sam Ervin, when he said over the weekend that Mr. Ford -- and I would like you to tell me whether the President had any reaction to this -- said that Mr. Ford for partisan reasons appeared to have blocked the Patman investigation. That is the chairman of the Senate Watergate committee.

MR. NESSEN: Again, read the Senate testimony, read the House testimony in which the President explains why he did work together at the request of Republican Members of the committee, and I think it was five Democrats also who voted against the hearing. I really don't know why we are doing this three years later.

Q Ron, are you saying here to us that the reason those people on that Banking and Currency Committee voted against Patman, are you trying to say that that was not instigated and started by the White House and Mr. Ford and the Republicans?

MR. NESSEN: Sarah, I had a whole different role in life in those days, and I cannot speak for what went on then.

Q Are you trying to say he did not know that happened? You are trying to act like the Members of the committee on their own voted this. I think you will find if you look into this that Congressman Garry Brown and others freely admit that they did it because they were asked to do it by the White House.

MR. NESSEN: As I say, I had a different role in life in those days, so all I can do is call your attention to a Senate hearing transcript, a House hearing transcript, which are available, which I will Xerox for you, a committee final report, which makes no mention of this. You have the President's words that the answers he gave to the questions three years ago remain his answers to the questions. I just don't know where it goes from here.

Q Does the President share Senator Baker's view that the public now knows all there is to know about Watergate?

MR. NESSEN: I have not asked him that.

Q Will the President have any more press conferences before the election?

MR. NESSEN: Possibly.

Q Do you have anything on the GNP and inflation rate?

MR. NESSEN: The GNP growth in the third calendar quarter of the year, as I understand it, went up 4 percent, which was about the same as the second quarter, and was about in line with the expectations I think the President mentioned. In fact, in his news conference last week he said he expected it to be about 4 percent.

Q What about the inflation rate?

MR. NESSEN: Most forecasters outside of the Government, as well as those in the Government, anticipate that the growth rate will accelerate above 4 percent in the current calendar quarter. That is the fourth quarter of calendar 1976.

Q The President said there would be a dip. There was a pause, a dip.

Q In GNP?

MR. NESSEN: I think we have had our dip, our pause. In fact, I think he said we are coming out of our dip or pause.

The inflation rate was 4.4 percent in the third calendar quarter of the year, which was down from 5.2 in the second quarter and, of course, the President is pleased by the drop in the inflation rate. In fact, it was lower than expected. We had anticipated an inflation rate of 5 percent in the third quarter. This was 4.4, which was below.

Q Ron, there is an AP report that was published in the New York Post that quotes Mrs. Ford last week as saying, "President Ford and I have both visited Poland and many of the nations that are supposed to be under Communist rule."

I already checked with Sheila, and no comment, and I would like to know, does the President want Mrs. Ford to clarify this statement like he clarified his on this subject after six days of thoughtful analysis?

MR. NESSEN: I have to look at what Mrs. Ford said and where.

Q When could I check back with you to get an answer on this, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: What are you doing next summer, Les?

Q Ron, I am not clear on the Arab boycott question. Just what is anticipated now that there is disclosure? What is the President's view of what is to happen to these companies or is there any policy that the Administration has as to what steps ought to be taken against the companies that don't comply?

MR. NESSEN: I think you have to look at the whole package of actions that he took last November and together they constitute the Administration's actions against the boycott.

Q What was that? I was not here.

MR. NESSEN: I will dig it up.

Q More specifically, would the President like to see consumers boycott these companies because they are carrying on this compliance with the Arab boycott? I mean, really, what good is disclosure going to do? What does he hope to accomplish through disclosing these names?

MR. NESSEN: I will check and see what further steps we expect to be taken, but Richardson might be able to help you faster than I can.

Q Ron, I don't think the question was about further steps. I think the question goes to what is expected of the American people now that -- we are not talking about any governmental action. We are talking about what is anticipated or what is expected or what can we look for in terms of action by the American people as a result of these names being disclosed?

MR. NESSEN: I will get somebody who can come and talk to you more fully.

Let me go back and quote to you another answer from the President's responses to Mrs. Holtzman three years ago, since I have the feeling that there has been a good deal of discussion and writing about this issue without a very thorough review of the actual transcript.

At one point -- in fact, this is the question just previous to the one I read to you earlier -- Mrs. Holtzman is referring to the President's testimony and other testimony on the Senate side concerning the Patman investigation, and the President said, "I said over there -- and by over there I mean the Senate committee -- that I did not discuss the action that I took, which was to call two Republican meetings of Members of the Banking and Currency Committee, with Mr. Timmons or anybody else."

The key words in there are, "I did not discuss the action that I took," so that is, I think, a notch beyond the next answer.

Q With Mr. Timmons or anybody else in the White House?

MR. NESSEN: I think that is implied.

Q After reading your public schedule, I am still the the dark about what the President is going to do this afternoon. Is there any chance he might elucidate us in more detail on these questions?

MR. NESSEN: He still has all these bills.

Q Speaking of which, is he going to sign the attorney's civil rights bill today?

MR. NESSEN: I am not familiar with that one. He is going over legislation. He will have staff meetings.

Q With whom?

MR. NESSEN: I will have to get the exact schedule for you. I know he is seeing Cheney, as always, in the late afternoon. He has the speechwriters coming in for a session on the weekend speeches.

Q Is he doing anything to prepare for the debate?

MR. NESSEN: It is possible he might do some reading in connection with the debate.

Q Do the White House speechwriters work on the speeches?

MR. NESSEN: As far as I know.

Q Has the President personally approved all the ads that are being run in the campaign, TV and so forth?

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

Q Ron, is any portion of the speechwriters' salaries or any portion of Cheney's salary being paid by the President Ford Committee or the Republican National Committee for that time that they spend on political tasks?

MR. NESSEN: I think the PFC has dealt with that issue. I will have to dig out the ruling for you.

Q Is George Bush going to campaign for the President?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q There was a piece in the paper yesterday indicating he was expected down in Texas. Is that just flat not right?

MR. NESSEN: I saw George in the hall here and he volunteered to me he had read that piece in the paper and he said this was an invitation he had accepted in June to speak to a banker's group and to one other sort of businessman's group and to talk to some college presidents about CIA recruiting on campus and he said he totally avoided the press, totally avoided any political figures in Texas, and that these appearances had absolutely nothing, in even the most vague way, to do with politics and he intended to keep it that way.

Q How about Anne Armstrong? You told us she came back to talk about Southern Africa. Now we find she is going to speak in Chicago, in New York and Houston.

MR. NESSEN: In a political sense or as Ambassador?

Q That is what I am asking you.

MR. NESSEN: I don't know about her schedule of speeches. I know why she was called back.

Q Getting back to Bush, will he be making any more appearances like this in Texas or anywhere else?

MR. NESSEN: He did not indicate he had any further appearances scheduled.

Q Ron, I wonder if I could ask a housekeeping question in your area of expertise, just so we get some idea of what you feel is a proper question or an improper question or a relevant question. Do you feel that it was wrong in any way for Barbara Walters to ask the President if he looks on women with lust?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q It was in order?

MR. NESSEN: I never try to tell reporters what questions to ask.

Q In other words, you would have tried to have gotten an answer if this had come from anybody here.

MR. NESSEN: No. I say I never try to tell reporters what questions to ask.

Q Suppose this question came from this room rather than from Barbara Walters? Would you have seriously taken it into the President and said, "Do you look on women with lust"?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. That is pretty hypothetical.

Q Ron, what was the President's answer to that question?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. It was on the air, Fred.

Q He said no. He said campaign issues are so much he does not have time for that.

Q I didn't see the show so that is why I wondered what the answer was.

Q He said he doesn't think about those things.

Q Specifically, Ron, what States are we going to between now and the election, do you know?

MR. NESSEN: I have already said obviously Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Oregon, Washington and California.

Q Where else?

MR. NESSEN: The rest of the schedule is not precisely arranged yet, but you can be sure it will be concentrated on the major States with the largest number of electoral votes and where the President believes he has certainly a chance to win.

Q Is he going to all the big eight or the big ten?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know right now, but certainly most of them.

Q Does the President think he is going to win this election?

MR. NESSEN: He thinks it is a dead heat right now and that the last two weeks will determine who will win the election, and he expects to be the winner.

Q Ron, but this is a change. I remember a dozen times you said the President expects to win the nomination in Kansas City and to win again in November. I have heard the President say that dozens of times, "We expect to win."

MR. NESSEN: I thought I just said that.

Q I thought you said he said it is going to be a dead heat. That is a little different.

MR. NESSEN: It is a dead heat now.

Q It is a dead heat now, but by November 2 it will be a winner for Ford?

MR. NESSEN: Right, that is correct.

Q On what does he base this dead heat business? Is there some specific poll that he has access to?

MR. NESSEN: The Yankelovich poll showed a dead heat. There was one 40 to 42. Most of them are within the margin of error of the polling technique.

Q Ron, with this big trip coming up, does the President or the President's committee pay any of the cost of the Transportation Office that the Army personnel handles?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. Whatever is proper. We have handled the expenses properly from the very beginning and expect to do so in the last two weeks.

Q How about putting out an accounting for us so we can make an independent judgment on that concern?

MR. NESSEN: I think the FEC has ruled on most of these issues.

Q That is an incorrect statement. The FEC has not ruled on this issue and has said it will not rule on it unless it gets a formal complaint. It has not received a formal complaint, so it has not made a ruling. I checked on that myself.

MR. NESSEN: The expenses of this campaign are being handled in a proper way, as the President instructed at the very beginning.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 12:15 P.M. EDT)

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NEWS CONFERENCE #596



AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 11:50 A.M. EDT

OCTOBER 21, 1976

THURSDAY

MR. NESSEN: I guess everybody saw the swearing in for the members of the Council on Aging.

Coming up shortly, we have the brief drop-by by the President at a meeting of organizations observing the 20th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution. There will be a pool taken in at the beginning to take some pictures.

Q How did that come about? Do they always meet here? (Laughter)

Q Ron, where is that?

MR. NESSEN: The Cabinet Room.

These groups have celebrated this anniversary over the years. They are having a dinner in Washington tomorrow night at which they invited the President to attend. He wasn't able to accept because he is going to be in Williamsburg for the debate. So, instead, he invited them here and also he is sending a message, which will be read at the dinner.

Q Will we have the text of that before we leave here for Williamsburg?

MR. NESSEN: I will check for you, Ralph.

A number of members of the group, the leadership of the group, are friends of the President, and they urged him to take part in this event.

Q What purpose do they represent? Some organizations or something?

MR. NESSEN: They represent the American Hungarian Federation --

Q Do you have a list of those which you can give us?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

MORE

#596

For the trip to New York this afternoon, the President will depart the South Grounds by helicopter at 3:50 and leave Andrews at 4:10, arriving at JFK at 4:55. The President will go by helicopter from JFK to the Wall Street landing pad and then by automobile to the Waldorf-Astoria.

I think you have seen the press schedule. Upon arrival at JFK, the President will have a statement to make on environmental matters concerning airports and aircraft noise. We hope to have copies of this prepared in advance to give out on the press plane on the way to New York.

Q Will they be available here as well?

MR. NESSEN: Sure.

He will do this when he gets off the plane, if he can be heard over the aircraft noise. (Laughter)

Q Who is he going to do that to? The schedule shows him just being met by a TWA representative. (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: The members of the New York press corps have been notified the President will have a statement to make on this subject when he arrives.

Q So, just to the press?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, and it will be handed out as a press release.

Q On what, again?

MR. NESSEN: An environmental matter concerning airports and aircraft noise.

Q In the New York area?

MR. NESSEN: That is one of the areas his announcement will apply to.

Q Is the other Dulles, where the Concorde lands?

MR. NESSEN: Why don't you wait and see the statement.

Q Can we stick around to hear the other man, an added extra thrill of two-for-one? (Laughter)

Q Isn't there some way we could watch the other man for a little time?

MR. NESSEN: The last shuttle leaves at 10 o'clock. They take cash or credit cards. I don't know what time the last Amtrak leaves but they have Greyhound and Trailways busses every hour. (Laughter)

Q Do you have an advance?

MR. NESSEN: Do you want us to hold our press plane so you can hear Governor Carter?

Q Yes. That is a generous act.

Q It would be a very magnanimous thing.

Q Do you plan an advance of the President's remarks?

MR. NESSEN: No, we don't.

Then we come to tomorrow. I think you pretty much have the schedule for tomorrow. The President is leaving at noon.

There will be a little farewell on the South Grounds, attended by staff from the PFC, the RNC and the White House. We will make arrangements for coverage of that.

Q Are you going to change the rules and let us out there as he departs?

MR. NESSEN: This is an event to cover as opposed to protective coverage of a helicopter takeoff.

Q What time will that be?

MR. NESSEN: They are expected to gather at about 11:30 for departure at 12:00.

Attendance is not mandatory. (Laughter)

Q Will the President speak at this?

MR. NESSEN: He will probably have some farewell remarks as he begins his --

Q What does this farewell mean?

MR. NESSEN: Farewell to his staff as he begins the final campaign trip.

Q You will have copies of the statement available in Williamsburg, I take it?

MR. NESSEN: He is likely to speak off the cuff, but I guess the best thing to do is have a transcript dixed down to Williamsburg.

Q On tonight's dinner, was it the people themselves who decided they wanted Carter and the President not there at the same time?

MR. NESSEN: I can only speak for the President, but as I understand it, we accepted some time ago. From what I hear on television and read in the papers, Carter indicated he would not attend. So, it wasn't arranging anybody's arrival or departure time, except our own. Apparently, at the last minute, some New York Democratic officials told him he better attend if he wanted to win New York, so at the last minute he indicated he would attend. He apparently picked his own arrival time. We certainly had nothing to do with that. I am told that somebody went to the Archdiocese of New York and asked, "Is that in fact the way it happened," and they said, "Yes, that is in fact the way it happened."

Q So, the President's people have no objection if Carter were to be there at the same time as the President?

MR. NESSEN: Certainly not. Why would we?

Q It won't work out that way.

MR. NESSEN: I have no idea when Carter is arriving or leaving. You have to ask Jody Powell.

When we last left the President on the advance schedule, we had gotten as far -- how far had we gotten? I thought he was heading back East.

Q I thought we were on the poignant farewell.

MR. NESSEN: I think it will be a very joyous farewell because the next time they see him he will be on his way to being elected.

Q Did you say the farewell is open to coverage?

MR. NESSEN: Sure.

Q Why don't you say where the President is going to be tomorrow?

MR. NESSEN: He is going to be in Williamsburg.

Q Where?

MR. NESSEN: I thought I said yesterday the press is staying at the Sheraton in Richmond and the President is staying at the Governor's Mansion in Richmond.

Q What is he doing in Williamsburg during the day?

MR. NESSEN: He is going to have mostly time by himself to make preparations for the debate.

Q Where will he be? The Lightfoot House?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have the exact name of the house where he is going to be.

Q Where will the press be?

MR. NESSEN: There will be a big press center.

Q Where?

MR. NESSEN: The League of Women Voters set it up as they did in Philadelphia.

Q Will we share that?

MR. NESSEN: It is one big press center for everybody.

Q But the President will be in a private home?

MR. CARLSON: I think it is called the Presidential Quarters or something like that.

Q Is it in the reconstruction area, some Colonial mansion?

MR. NESSEN: Can we find out, John?

On Saturday, I think I mentioned to you, the President will speak on the State Capitol grounds in Richmond at 9:00, leave Richmond for Raleigh-Durham at 10:40, address the State Fair in Raleigh at noon, and then depart Raleigh at 1:45 to go to Columbia, South Carolina, attend the second half of the Notre Dame-South Carolina football game in Columbia, and then depart Columbia to fly to Hollywood-Burbank Airport, in Hollywood, California, at 9:30 p.m. Pacific Time. The President and press will both stay at the Huntington-Sheraton Hotel in Pasadena on Saturday night.

On Sunday morning, the President will attend church services at the San Gabriel Mission.

Q Is that Roman Catholic?

MR. NESSEN: I think so.

Q Is that in Pasadena?

MR. NESSEN: It is in San Gabriel, California.

Then there will be a PFC reception, and then the President will go by motorcade to a public rally in Fountain Valley, which is in Orange County, California.

Q Will President Nixon be there?

MR. NESSEN: I hadn't heard of that.

Q What time is that rally?

MR. NESSEN: Two o'clock in the afternoon, California time.

Q Is that a motorcade from San Gabriel to Fountain Valley?

MR. NESSEN: Right.

On Sunday evening, the President flies to San Diego, where he will attend a public rally at the Grossmont Mall, in the eastern suburbs of San Diego. The President will stay overnight in San Diego, at Westgate Plaza.

Q What time is that rally?

MR. NESSEN: Eight o'clock in the evening, San Diego time. Then overnight at the Westgate Plaza for the President and the press pool. The rest of the press corps will be at the Town and Country Motel in San Diego.

Early Monday morning, at 8 o'clock, the President will leave San Diego to go to Seattle. He will land at the Boeing Aircraft Company out there. He will then go by hydrofoil -- that is a new campaign vehicle that we haven't had before -- to Harbor Island, where he will tour the Todd Shipyards.

Following that, he will come back by hydrofoil to Pier 57 in downtown Seattle for a noontime speech. I don't have the exact location for you. This is Monday we are talking about.

Q Is he going to have remarks at all these places?

Q Will we overnight in Seattle?

MR. NESSEN: At 2:30 in the afternoon the President will leave Seattle and fly to Portland. In Portland, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon Portland time, he will speak to the National Association of Broadcasters Northwest Regional Conference. This is in the Sheraton-Portland Hotel. He will speak briefly and then answer questions from the audience.

Q Will that be open coverage?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Then, at 6 o'clock in the evening West Coast time, the President will leave Portland to fly to Pittsburgh. The President and the press corps will remain overnight at the Pittsburgh Hilton. Then at 9 o'clock Tuesday morning, the President will address the Economic Club of Pittsburgh and after that will fly to Chicago. I don't have any other details except to say that on Tuesday night we will spend the night in the Chicago area.

Q Ron, are you saying in Portland he is having no public appearances and in Pittsburgh there are no public appearances?

MR. CARLSON: There might be other things. These are the main events.

MR. NESSEN: This is the rough schedule as we have it so far.

Q You don't have anything on Tuesday?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have anything beyond 9:00 Tuesday morning, plus the flight to Chicago.

Q Can you tell us what it is going to be like on Wednesday? Our office is going to be switching people.

MR. NESSEN: John, I didn't bring my overall schedule for next week out. Do you know roughly what we will be doing on Wednesday?

MR. CARLSON: Yes, but I don't think we want to go into that.

MR. NESSEN: We are not far enough along to do that.

Q Can you say whether we will be going back to California after that one visit, or can't you say?

MR. NESSEN: At this moment, there are no plans to go back to California.

Q Is he going to be speaking at Boeing and the shipyard?

MR. NESSEN: I think he will probably speak to the Boeing employees. I don't know whether he will speak at the shipyard or just go on a tour of the shipyard.

For those who asked about what the President will do in Williamsburg, in the Colonial restored section there is a house called the Presidential Residence, and that is where the President will stay during the day. Most of the day he will spend, as I said, preparing for the debate.

Q How much will he be paying for this?

MR. NESSEN: Whatever is the standard fee, Phil.

Q Do you know?

MR. NESSEN: No, I don't know.

Q What will he be doing, Ron? You said he will be studying, but could you give us a little more detail?

MR. NESSEN: If you recall, it will be the exact same routine he followed on the two previous debates. At some time, he will go over to the theatre and have the lighting and sound checked, spend some time relaxing, going over papers, and talking to his aides, and so forth.

Q Will he have briefing books?

MR. NESSEN: He will probably take some papers along to read.

Q Do you know if he has reviewed any kind of strategy he might use in this debate as opposed to what he did in the previous debate, the last debate?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think there is any strategy except to be himself and answer the questions.

Q Will he be defensive?

MR. NESSEN: Why do you say that?

Q The polls said he was put on the defensive and what-have-you, and the general consensus was he was put on the defensive by Carter, and I was wondering if he might be doing anything this time to combat that?

MR. NESSEN: The only strategy is to be himself and answer the questions.

Why don't you let me finish my announcements?

Q Just on the debate, the last time he took a lot of briefing papers and so forth. Will he be taking fewer this time? He won't be spending as much time doing this?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that he took a lot last time. He will just take whatever papers he wants with him for any issues he wants to review on the last day.

Q Has he been briefed by anybody in preparation for these debates? He talked to Kissinger before the last debate. Is he --

Q That really helped him. (Laughter)

Q Is he getting briefed by anybody?

MR. NESSEN: I think Mike Duval will tell you -- Mike's complaint is that he hasn't spent very much time in preparation for this last debate.

Q That is what he said before the last one, and he was right.

Q Ron, one other thing on that. Is Mrs. Ford going to join him there this time?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know exactly what the plans are, and I haven't talked to Sheila, so I am not exactly sure whether she is going to be there or not.

Q Is she going to travel with him on this tour?

MR. NESSEN: I haven't talked to Sheila, and I don't know what the plans are.

Steve will be going down through the Carolinas with the President, I understand, and to California. Steve Ford will join his father in Raleigh and travel to California with him. Susan will go to Williamsburg with the President, and I am not sure about Mrs. Ford.

Q Before we leave the campaign, Ron --

MR. NESSEN: I have a feeling we are not about to leave the campaign.

Q Before you go to the cost of living index, the PFC, in one of its TV spots, is using a picture of several prominent blacks, including Jesse Jackson, Vernon Jordan, Stan Scott, and an unidentified woman who is thought to be Dorothy Hite. These people are -- at least Vernon Jordan is -- outraged because the implication is that they support the President. Vernon Jordan, I understand, has sent a telegram to the White House expressing his discontent.

Is the President aware of it? Is there going to be a change in the ad? Is it going to be stopped? What are you going to do about it?

MR. NESSEN: I am told that is a Republican National Committee advertisement. I don't know anything about it, really. You have to check over there.

Q The PFC said last night it was a PFC advertisement.

MR. NESSEN: My understanding is that it is an RNC ad.

Q Have you looked into it at all?

MR. NESSEN: I haven't had a chance to look into it. It is an RNC ad and I haven't had a chance -- I don't know what role I would have in it. You ought to check with the RNC.

Q I was wondering what the President had to say about it, if anything?

MR. NESSEN: I haven't heard him say anything.

Q Did he receive the telegram?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know.

Q Ron, before we leave questions dealing with the campaign, the Carter headquarters in Atlanta confirmed this morning that they have sent a letter from Legal Counsel Doug Huron, which says the Old Time Gospel Hour may include a personal attack on Governor Carter on this Sunday's broadcast, because the Reverend Jerry Falwell, of that 15,000-member Baptist Church in Lynchburg, strongly criticizes Governor Carter for being interviewed in Playboy. UPI reports Dr. Falwell has charged that this letter is a concerted effort to intimidate and threaten the 260 stations which were scheduled to run this on Sunday morning.

My question is, since the President, as well as his TV ads, have also commented on the Playboy interview, does the President feel that a Baptist minister should have the right to criticize Governor Carter without being subjected to such legal action by the Carter campaign?

MR. NESSEN: I just don't know enough about the --

Q Ron, I am giving you these details. Now, would you ask the President -- because this is rather important, it has been on UPI -- and I would like to know, does the President feel that a Baptist minister should be able to criticize Governor Carter without being subjected to what the Baptist minister calls a campaign of deliberate harassment?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think it is a matter we would have a comment on, Les.

Q The President doesn't care about this, is that what you are saying?

MR. NESSEN: As I said, I don't know what the facts are, and it is a matter that sounds like something we wouldn't have a comment on.

Q On another point, Ron, does the President, as a result of this morning's article in the New York Times on a subject -- is the President going to continue going around saying Jimmy Carter is slandering the United States by saying our prestige abroad has declined when your own Administration polls are saying that Jimmy Carter is correct, that American prestige abroad is the lowest in 22 years? Has the President responded to those findings at all one way or another?

MR. NESSEN: I believe you are probably referring to a story about some USIA surveys?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: My understanding is that the surveys are not yet complete and the analysis has not been made; that as the article says -- I believe in the second paragraph -- that certain selected findings were leaked by a person -- I think they referred to as a person interested in the election of Jimmy Carter -- I think that is the wording, I am not quite sure. If you have it there you can probably read the quote. That is really where it stands. It is an incomplete survey for which the analysis has not been made yet and the source of the selected leaks is identified in the story so I don't know what I can say beyond that.

Q The story also quotes an official of the USIA as having said the subsequent analysis of that survey does not differ with the findings that are reported here.

MR. NESSEN: Since the survey is not completed and the analysis has not been made yet, I don't know how that statement could be made.

Q Has the President seen the preliminary analysis?

MR. NESSEN: No, nobody at the White House has. There is no preliminary analysis.

Q I mean, whatever this is.

MR. NESSEN: This is a partial leak of a partially completed survey.

Q Has he created a new plumber's outfit to find out --

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q The point is, has he seen any of this survey?

MR. NESSEN: No, nobody at the White House has seen any of the partially completed survey.

Q Are you saying it is conceivable that the same survey -- say, on one hand our prestige abroad has declined over the last 22 years, and on the other hand perhaps it hasn't, or something?

MR. NESSEN: That is right. Jim Keogh tells me there are parts of the survey which reveal quite positive attitudes toward the United States and other parts of the survey indicate less than positive attitudes.

Q Well, has the President now asked to see it?

MR. NESSEN: No, he hasn't. It is not finished yet and it hasn't been analyzed yet.

Q Both the positive and negative aspects of the survey are reported in this analysis.

MR. NESSEN: There is no analysis yet. I am told a number of staff people have started to prepare analyses which don't agree on what the partial findings mean. That is where it stands at the moment.

Q Does the President qualify his statements about Carter's position in light of what is here in the paper?

MR. NESSEN: Not in light of what is here in the paper, no.

Q Since the President apparently doesn't know about this -- I assume he picked up the New York Times this morning and read this for the first time -- now what happened after that? Did the President tell a functionary or someone to call over there and find out about this report?

MR. NESSEN: No, he didn't.

Q Did he show any interest in it? Did you decide you would call over?

MR. NESSEN: No, Jim Keogh called me yesterday and said it would be in the New York Times so I sort of anticipated it would be.

Q In a quote attributed to Alan Carter, Associate Director of USIA's Public Information Office, he confirmed the figures in this preliminary survey, said a second analysis had been prepared, and said that "the two papers come out basically the same way."

MR. NESSEN: All I know is what Jim Keogh tells me, which is that the survey is not completed, the analysis has not been made, that there are findings that indicate a high degree of respect and prestige and other less positive responses to other questions, and it has not come over here in any form, and parts of it, according to the New York Times, were leaked, by someone interested in the election, to Governor Carter. That is the sum total of my knowledge of the story.

Q I would say Keogh was disturbed enough to call you about it, right?

MR. NESSEN: A lot of people call me every day and tell me things they think I will be asked about in my briefing.

Q You were forewarned.

MR. NESSEN: I don't consider it a warning, Helen. I get 47 phone calls a day from people all over the Government saying, "Guess what will be in the paper tomorrow?"

Q It is a campaign issue.

MR. NESSEN: That is for you to decide.

Q The President has already decided.

Q Ron, is the President going to have access to the analyses before he leaves on his next campaign swing?

MR. NESSEN: Jim Keogh's indication is that it is nowhere near any sort of finished form.

Q The survey was conducted in July and August. It seems like it is taking --

MR. NESSEN: Jim, I can only tell you that the extent of my knowledge is what I have been told by Jim Keogh and I have given you the 100 percent total of my knowledge about this matter.

Q What about the report that was mentioned in the Post this morning -- I think it was in Kraft's column -- that Schlesinger has said that President Ford wanted to cut the defense budget by \$10 billion?

MR. NESSEN: I have no knowledge of that.

Q You didn't read the paper this morning?

MR. NESSEN: I read the paper.

Q You didn't read Kraft's column?

MR. NESSEN: I always read Joe Kraft's column.

Q Then you saw that thing. Now is this accurate that Schlesinger has said this?

MR. NESSEN: You have to ask Jim Schlesinger.

Q Is it accurate, Ron? Why beat around the bush? Is Schlesinger accurate when he says President Ford wanted to cut the defense budget by \$10 billion, or not, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: As I said, I have no knowledge of any such proposal.

Q In other words, you never heard that the President wanted to cut the defense budget by \$10 billion. Is the White House denying Schlesinger's accuracy, or not?

MR. NESSEN: All I can tell you is what I know, and I don't know of a plan to cut the defense budget by \$10 billion.

Q Did the President at any time propose to cut the defense budget by \$10 billion?

MR. NESSEN: Not to my knowledge.

Q Not to your knowledge. Well, could you take the question and ask the President if Schlesinger is accurate or not?

MR. NESSEN: I would be happy to.

Q You were going to tell us about the CPI about 20 minutes ago.

MR. NESSEN: That is right. I forgot about that.

Q Before you go to that, the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee predicted this morning that the country would see the most vicious attack upon the character and credibility of a candidate ever laid on a man at this political level, implying that this will be done by the forces interested in the election of President Ford with the target being Governor Carter.

Does the White House have any comments on a statement such as that? Also, can you tell us whether the President has seen specifically the advertisement which shows the Playboy cover and the Newsweek cover?

MR. NESSEN: In answer to the first question -- do I have any comment on what you tell me Bob Strauss said -- the answer is, I don't. The second -- did the President see the ad of the Playboy cover and Newsweek cover -- I don't know whether he did or not. The advertising is handled by the PFC.

Q They don't handle what he watches on television. That is why I asked.

MR. NESSEN: Was that on television? I haven't seen it.

Q Are you saying the President hasn't cleared the kind of ad and the tone?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that he has seen and cleared every ad, Helen.

Q Has he given any sort of an overall general policy statement on the levels that they should --

MR. NESSEN: As I started to say, I don't know that he has seen and approved every single ad in radio, television and print. I also don't know of any ad that gives the White House any problem, either.

Q You are saying, then, he approves of those ads?

MR. NESSEN: I said I don't know of any that I have seen or heard about that cause the White House any trouble.

Q The point is, here is one that quotes Vernon Jordan and suggests that Jordan is a supporter.

MR. NESSEN: I said that is an RNC ad.

Q You are right, but doesn't the President have any influence in what is being done in his name? Another suggests he ended the Vietnamese war. A third one has Newsweek and Playboy. Isn't the President concerned about what these ads are doing?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know about RNC ads. I do know about the PFC ads. As I said before, I don't think the President has seen and approved every single ad. But I also don't know of any ads that have caused the White House any trouble.

Q Do you know if the President has approved the tone of the ads which are direct attacks on the Governor?

MR. NESSEN: You have reached a conclusion, and it is very hard for me to answer any question in which you have reached a conclusion. I have told you we have had no trouble with any of the ads we have seen so far.

Q You know Carter was interviewed by Newsweek also, so it would be a little misleading, wouldn't it, not to show --

MR. NESSEN: I am not going to haggle with you over our ads. I told you the White House has no trouble with any of the ads we have seen so far.

Q Can you tell us, then, what input has the President had in these ads? Did he sit down and talk to Deardourf and Bailey at some point and say how he wanted them to be?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know the exact degree of involvement he had in the preparation of the ads.

Q Was there any?

MR. NESSEN: He has had contact with Deardourf and Bailey, sure.

Q On the ads specifically?

MR. NESSEN: As I said, he has approved every single ad.

Q I am saying has he had input into the content of the ads?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know the exact degree of input.

Q He has had some but you don't know the degree?

MR. NESSEN: He has had discussions with them, sure.

Q I am a little confused here about this ad that features some of the blacks. You said you don't know of any ads that give the White House any trouble. Are you including that one in this?

MR. NESSEN: That is an RNC ad. I am talking about PFC ads.

Q You are not including that?

MR. NESSEN: I just don't know anything about that ad.

Q But you have seen it.

MR. NESSEN: I have not seen it. I have only heard about it on the radio.

Q Have you talked to Peter Teeley at all, because last night Peter Teeley told me that, number one, he hadn't seen a telegram yet, but as far as he knows the picture used in the ad is a public picture and he sees no problem with that. And then he said that he will check with the people in the PFC who put the ad together to find out what was involved in putting the ad together.

MR. NESSEN: Further checking indicates it is an RNC ad.

Q It is paid for, designed and put on the air by the RNC?

MR. NESSEN: My understanding is it is put together and sponsored by the RNC.

Q And not by anybody in the President's campaign?

MR. NESSEN: That is my understanding.

Q Does that mean you disavow the ad?

MR. NESSEN: I am not disavowing the ad, Bob. I haven't even seen it.

Q You obviously know about it.

MR. NESSEN: I have heard about it and have had questions about it.

Q I don't understand what you are saying.

MR. NESSEN: I don't understand what you are asking.

Q I am asking you if the RNC ads are not related to the President and the White House?

MR. NESSEN: They have not been passed through here. I, myself, haven't seen that ad. I don't know if anybody here has seen the ad.

Q Is the RNC not going to clear any of its ads with the White House?

MR. NESSEN: As far as I know, they never have.

Q In other words, if the RNC had an ad featuring the bombing of the Vatican by Jimmy Carter, you would have nothing to say about that? (Laughter)

Q Is there any connection, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: I don't see a connection, frankly. (Laughter)

Q Does the President have no responsibility, feel no responsibility about what the RNC is putting out in his name and with him and for his sake?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that it is with him, for him or in his sake.

Q Ron, then there is no responsibility, and the White House doesn't care what the RNC puts out; is that correct?

MR. NESSEN: No, it is not.

Q What is your relationship to the RNC and its advertising policy?

MR. NESSEN: As far as I know, there isn't any, Bob.

Q So, you are disavowing this ad?

MR. NESSEN: I have not seen the ad. I don't know anybody here who has seen the ad. The RNC, as a routine matter, does not pass its ads through the White House.

Q Are you going to make any effort to see the ad?

MR. NESSEN: No special effort.

Q Ron, President Ford is the Republican nominee and the Republican National Committee is allowed to spend a certain amount of money for his candidacy. Does he not take responsibility for everything done on his behalf in this campaign?

MR. NESSEN: Annie, as I say, I haven't seen the ad. I don't know that anybody here has seen the ad. The RNC does not pass its ads through the White House. What else can I say?

Q Regardless of whether you or anybody else has seen it, millions of Americans have seen it and are getting the impression that Vernon Jordan and the other blacks in this picture support the President, and they are concerned because they say they do not.

MR. NESSEN: I think you need to talk to the people who sponsor the ad.

Q Does the White House have any concern that there might be a misleading impression created by the ad in his behalf?

MR. NESSEN: Jim, first of all, I don't know that it is in his behalf since I have not seen it.

Q It certainly is. The heading says President Ford has been working quietly for blacks, or something to that effect.

MR. NESSEN: What do you mean by something to that effect?

Q I can't remember the exact quote, but the heading clearly implies --

MR. NESSEN: It is not our ad, and I don't know any more about it than I have told you.

Q But you all were sent a telegram. It has been two days since the telegram reportedly was sent.

MR. NESSEN: I haven't seen the telegram, either.

Q Have you talked to the President about it?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Why?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know what the purpose of talking to the President would be.

Q He might want to disavow something that was obviously unfair and misleading.

MR. NESSEN: I don't know anything about the ad so I can't deal with conclusions.

Q How can you say you don't know anything about it? You have been discussing it.

MR. NESSEN: All I know about it is a set of questions I have been asked and one story I heard on the radio this morning as I was sleeping.

Q You have not discussed it with anyone?

MR. NESSEN: That is correct. Well, I discussed it enough to find out it was an RNC ad.

Q So, you do know something about it?

MR. NESSEN: That it was an RNC ad.

Q But you don't know what is in it?

MR. NESSEN: I do not.

Q Why did you call the RNC to ask about it?

MR. NESSEN: I didn't.

Q Who told you, then?

MR. NESSEN: I talked to the PFC and they said it was an RNC ad.

Q They disavowed it?

MR. NESSEN: Come on, Jim.

Q Doesn't President Ford take the responsibility for an important national campaign --

MR. NESSEN: Do you want to go through the whole litany again, Annie? I told you everything I know about this thing and I have nothing to add.

Q Mr. Ford has criticized Jimmy Carter for what he thinks is lowering the level of this campaign. There is now a question in this press room regarding an ad which brings up some ethics in the campaign, and we are trying to find out what the President of the United States has done.

MR. NESSEN: I can answer factual questions here but I can't argue the philosophy of advertising with you. I have told you every last fact I know about this matter and the rest of it is a philosophical debate which I don't think we need to have here.

Q No, it is not.

Q It is a fact that those men say they do not support the President and the ad clearly indicates or implies that they do.

MR. NESSEN: You should talk to the people who sponsor the ad.

Q Maybe the President ought to talk to them, Ron. They are misrepresenting him, according to you, or are you standing up there and giving these people carte blanche for any kind of advertising?

MR. NESSEN: Les, I can tell you the full extent of my knowledge, which I have told you.

Q There is a specific thing on the ad, and the ad itself says it is paid for by the President Ford Committee. As a matter of fact, the ad that appeared in the Baltimore Afro-American and also one that appeared today in the New York-Amsterdam News says specifically President Ford Committee, and it lists Baker and the Treasurer, Hughes.

MR. NESSEN: My understanding from the PFC is that it was an RNC ad. If it is a PFC ad, I will double-check for you. But that is what I am told by the PFC.

Q Also, the telegram that was sent to you, I believe specifically states that the ad carries the notation it is paid for by the President Ford Committee.

MR. NESSEN: My understanding is it is an RNC ad.

Q Are you disputing Warren? Don't you think he is accurate in this? He reads those newspapers and he stated it, Ron. Don't you think this is an evasion of a rather deep question? Warren is an accurate reporter.

MR. NESSEN: I couldn't agree more, Les. (Laughter)

Q What about the cost of living?

MR. NESSEN: It went up four-tenths of one percent in September. That works out to an annual rate of 4.8. I think you could say the White House is pleased that this is further evidence of a reduction in inflation. This is the lowest monthly rise since April. One part of the index is especially pleasing, and that shows that the rate of inflation in commodities and in the cost of services has slowed down.

Q Ron, now that we have gotten into the economic area, yesterday the President, when talking about Jimmy Carter's proposal to cut off trade with Arab countries in case of another embargo, indicated he didn't approve of that approach. He went on to say he wouldn't tolerate another embargo, either, but he didn't say what he would do.

Since Carter has spelled out what he would do, would you like to say anything today about what the President would do?

MR. NESSEN: We went around this a long time ago, a couple of months ago, and the President has been asked about it and has always taken the position that it is not proper for a President to discuss possible courses of action in advance and especially when he indicated yesterday what he thinks the chances of an Arab oil embargo are as a result of his Middle Eastern policies.

Q While we are on the press conference yesterday, has the President reprimanded or chastened Secretary Simon at all?

MR. NESSEN: For what?

Q For having appeared in Playboy as an interviewee?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think he has, Jim. I certainly haven't heard of it.

Q Wouldn't you like to amend that statement you just made about the reduction in inflation? This is a rise of inflation by almost a half of one percent in one month. It is going up, not down.

MR. NESSEN: I have never tried to tell you that the cost of living hasn't been rising each month. I am saying this is the smallest rise since April.

Q You said it was a reduction of inflation.

MR. NESSEN: In the areas of services and commodities, it is a reduction in the rate of inflation.

Q It is a slowdown in the increase?

MR. NESSEN: That is right, a reduction in the rate of increase.

Q The Labor Department put out another report today -- a little less noticed but still significant -- showing that real spendable earnings, after taxes, declined either four-tenths or five-tenths of a percent last month, which is not exactly good economically. Do you have anything to say about that report?

MR. NESSEN: I am told that that came out earlier in another report and was republished today as part of this figure. It is based, I am told, on a very slight reduction in the work week. That is what accounts for it.

Q Is Secretary Richardson staying on after he said President Ford twice rejected participation in the disclosure of the Arab boycott before finally coming around to it?

MR. NESSEN: What do you mean by staying on?

Q Meaning in the Cabinet?

MR. NESSEN: Helen, why do you ask that question?

Q I ask it because here is a Secretary of Commerce repudiating what the President has said. Back in two press conferences --

MR. NESSEN: I disagree with the repudiation language. This is the way any Administration works. People recommend things to the President each day and the President accepts, rejects or modifies the recommendations. It goes on every day, all day. That is what a Cabinet is for, that is what a staff is for, that is what other people in the Government are for, and that is what happened in this case. It happens each day. You know my feeling about the casual -- I have no business lecturing you, but I have a very strong feeling about this casual throwing around of the words "fire", "kick out", "get rid of" and so forth. It is not fair to the man.

Q I only say that because the President has not indicated he was against the disclosure and so forth. Now along comes a Cabinet officer who says he twice tried to force or urge the White House by sending --

MR. NESSEN: He sent memos here twice, as he indicated in his testimony.

Q Why don't you confirm it, then?

MR. NESSEN: I don't need to confirm it. A Cabinet member said so in his testimony yesterday that this is the normal business of Government -- for the President to receive recommendations from his --

Q I am now talking about what the President said in the debate and the press conference.

MR. NESSEN: What the President has recommended and what Cabinet members have suggested to him in memos are two different things.

Q That is right, Ron, and the President has taken credit for something that he has apparently rejected.

MR. NESSEN: The President took a number of administrative steps last November, as you know. The Justice Department filed an antitrust suit in January -- the first time that ever happened -- and then the President signed the legislation which uses tax advantages as another weapon, and then directed the Commerce Department to make public the names of those companies who answered questionnaires about the boycott. So, I think the record is clear on the boycott issue.

Q There is no question that he signed it because it was part of another bill, but he had been against it.

MR. NESSEN: And also he made a strong effort in the last days of Congress to have compromise legislation passed in that area and it didn't get passed.

Q Yesterday Rosenthal said if there was an effort by the White House he wasn't aware of it, Proxmire wasn't, Stevenson wasn't.

MR. NESSEN: I am sure Mr. Rosenthal is aware of it because a private person went up there to talk to him on behalf of the Administration. That might jog Mr. Rosenthal's memory.

Q Could we have the name?

MR. NESSEN: No, because we haven't asked the person whether he would mind having his name made public.

Q When did we start having private people lobby Congress for the President? I mean, are you doing this in secret or --

MR. NESSEN: I don't think it is private persons lobbying Congress in secret.

Q What is it?

MR. NESSEN: It was having the President's views represented to Congressman Rosenthal by someone he knew and had respect for and could discuss this issue with him.

Q This is a friend of Rosenthal's that the President sent to see Rosenthal? Is that it?

MR. NESSEN: That is basically correct.

Q Is it a former Member of Congress?

MR. NESSEN: I am just going to wait until we have had a chance to contact the individual to see if we can make public his name.

Q Ron, could I follow up Jim's question? He asked about the question of the Secretary of Treasury being in Playboy.

I was wondering, in view of the President's statements about the inappropriateness of a President of the United States, one who is running for the office being in Playboy, does he feel it is all right for Cabinet people and appropriate for Cabinet officers to be in Playboy but not Presidents, or what? Could you give us some explanation or rationale for this?

MR. NESSEN: I don't really have anything to add to what the President said.

Q The thing is, none of us know. I hadn't read that issue of Playboy.

MR. NESSEN: Didn't you look at the pictures?
(Laughter)

Q No, I didn't look at the pictures, either.

The question is, what is the difference? This is rather important. If he has castigated or made fun of, poked fun at Governor Carter for being in it, has he nothing to say about Secretary Simon, or does he feel it is all right for Secretary Simon to be in it? Could we get some clarification on this?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have anything to add to what the President said.

Q Could you try to get some clarification?

MR. NESSEN: I will check, but I don't expect to have anything.

Q Do you have anything else?

MR. NESSEN: John has been checking while we have been out here and it now turns out that the ad we have been talking about may be in fact a PFC ad.

Q Warren is a good reporter. (Laughter)

Q Well, is it, or isn't it?

MR. NESSEN: It may be, Phil. We don't know. We will check and get back to you. We are checking on it now.

Q If it is a PFC ad, are you going to take a stand on it?

MR. NESSEN: Let us look into it, Bob.

Q Who gave you the misinformation?

MR. NESSEN: One of my unreliable sources.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

This Copy For _____

NEWS CONFERENCE

#596



AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 11:50 A.M. EDT

OCTOBER 21, 1976

THURSDAY

MR. NESSEN: I guess everybody saw the swearing in for the members of the Council on Aging.

Coming up shortly, we have the brief drop-by by the President at a meeting of organizations observing the 20th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution. There will be a pool taken in at the beginning to take some pictures.

Q How did that come about? Do they always meet here? (Laughter)

Q Ron, where is that?

MR. NESSEN: The Cabinet Room.

These groups have celebrated this anniversary over the years. They are having a dinner in Washington tomorrow night at which they invited the President to attend. He wasn't able to accept because he is going to be in Williamsburg for the debate. So, instead, he invited them here and also he is sending a message, which will be read at the dinner.

Q Will we have the text of that before we leave here for Williamsburg?

MR. NESSEN: I will check for you, Ralph.

A number of members of the group, the leadership of the group, are friends of the President, and they urged him to take part in this event.

Q What purpose do they represent? Some organizations or something?

MR. NESSEN: They represent the American Hungarian Federation --

Q Do you have a list of those which you can give us?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

MORE

#596

For the trip to New York this afternoon, the President will depart the South Grounds by helicopter at 3:50 and leave Andrews at 4:10, arriving at JFK at 4:55. The President will go by helicopter from JFK to the Wall Street landing pad and then by automobile to the Waldorf-Astoria.

I think you have seen the press schedule. Upon arrival at JFK, the President will have a statement to make on environmental matters concerning airports and aircraft noise. We hope to have copies of this prepared in advance to give out on the press plane on the way to New York,

Q Will they be available here as well?

MR. NESSEN: Sure.

He will do this when he gets off the plane, if he can be heard over the aircraft noise. (Laughter)

Q Who is he going to do that to? The schedule shows him just being met by a TWA representative. (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: The members of the New York Press Corps have been notified the President will have a statement to make on this subject when he arrives,

Q So, just to the press?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, and it will be handed out as a press release.

Q On what, again?

MR. NESSEN: An environmental matter concerning airports and aircraft noise.

Q In the New York area?

MR. NESSEN: That is one of the areas his announcement will apply to.

Q Is the other Dulles, where the Concorde lands?

MR. NESSEN: Why don't you wait and see the statement.

Q Can we stick around to hear the other man, an added extra thrill of two-for-one? (Laughter)

Q Isn't there some way we could watch the other man for a little time?

MR. NESSEN: The last shuttle leaves at 10 o'clock. They take cash or credit cards. I don't know what time the last Amtrak leaves but they have Greyhound and Trailways busses every hour. (Laughter)

Q Do you have an advance?

MR. NESSEN: Do you want us to hold our press plane so you can hear Governor Carter?

Q Yes. That is a generous act.

Q It would be a very magnanimous thing.

Q Do you plan an advance of the President's remarks?

MR. NESSEN: No, we don't.

Then we come to tomorrow. I think you pretty much have the schedule for tomorrow. The President is leaving at noon.

There will be a little farewell on the South Grounds, attended by staff from the PFC, the RNC and the White House. We will make arrangements for coverage of that.

Q Are you going to change the rules and let us out there as he departs?

MR. NESSEN: This is an event to cover as opposed to protective coverage of a helicopter takeoff.

Q What time will that be?

MR. NESSEN: They are expected to gather at about 11:30 for departure at 12:00.

Attendance is not mandatory. (Laughter)

Q Will the President speak at this?

MR. NESSEN: He will probably have some farewell remarks as he begins his --

Q What does this farewell mean?

MR. NESSEN: Farewell to his staff as he begins the final campaign trip.

Q You will have copies of the statement available in Williamsburg, I take it?

MR. NESSEN: He is likely to speak off the cuff, but I guess the best thing to do is have a transcript dixed down to Williamsburg.

Q On tonight's dinner, was it the people themselves who decided they wanted Carter and the President not there at the same time?

MR. NESSEN: I can only speak for the President, but as I understand it, we accepted some time ago. From what I hear on television and read in the papers, Carter indicated he would not attend. So, it wasn't arranging anybody's arrival or departure time, except our own. Apparently, at the last minute, some New York Democratic officials told him he better attend if he wanted to win New York, so at the last minute he indicated he would attend. He apparently picked his own arrival time. We certainly had nothing to do with that. I am told that somebody went to the Archdiocese of New York and asked, "Is that in fact the way it happened," and they said, "Yes, that is in fact the way it happened."

Q So, the President's people have no objection if Carter were to be there at the same time as the President?

MR. NESSEN: Certainly not. Why would we?

Q It won't work out that way.

MR. NESSEN: I have no idea when Carter is arriving or leaving. You have to ask Jody Powell.

When we last left the President on the advance schedule, we had gotten as far -- how far had we gotten? I thought he was heading back East.

Q I thought we were on the poignant farewell.

MR. NESSEN: I think it will be a very joyous farewell because the next time they see him he will be on his way to being elected.

Q Did you say the farewell is open to coverage?

MR. NESSEN: Sure.

Q Why don't you say where the President is going to be tomorrow?

MR. NESSEN: He is going to be in Williamsburg.

Q Where?

MR. NESSEN: I thought I said yesterday the press is staying at the Sheraton in Richmond and the President is staying at the Governor's Mansion in Richmond.

Q What is he doing in Williamsburg during the day?

MR. NESSEN: He is going to have mostly time by himself to make preparations for the debate.

Q Where will he be? The Lightfoot House?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have the exact name of the house where he is going to be.

Q Where will the press be?

MR. NESSEN: There will be a big press center.

Q Where?

MR. NESSEN: The League of Women Voters set it up as they did in Philadelphia.

Q Will we share that?

MR. NESSEN: It is one big press center for everybody.

Q But the President will be in a private home?

MR. CARLSON: I think it is called the Presidential Quarters or something like that.

Q Is it in the reconstruction area, some Colonial mansion?

MR. NESSEN: Can we find out, John?

On Saturday, I think I mentioned to you, the President will speak on the State Capitol grounds in Richmond at 9:00, leave Richmond for Raleigh-Durham at 10:40, address the State Fair in Raleigh at noon, and then depart Raleigh at 1:45 to go to Columbia, South Carolina, attend the second half of the Notre Dame-South Carolina football game in Columbia, and then depart Columbia to fly to Hollywood-Burbank Airport, in Hollywood, California, at 9:30 p.m. Pacific Time. The President and press will both stay at the Huntington-Sheraton Hotel in Pasadena on Saturday night.

On Sunday morning, the President will attend church services at the San Gabriel Mission.

Q Is that Roman Catholic?

MR. NESSEN: I think so.

Q Is that in Pasadena?

MR. NESSEN: It is in San Gabriel, California.

Then there will be a PFC reception, and then the President will go by motorcade to a public rally in Fountain Valley, which is in Orange County, California.

Q Will President Nixon be there?

MR. NESSEN: I hadn't heard of that.

Q What time is that rally?

MR. NESSEN: Two o'clock in the afternoon, California time.

Q Is that a motorcade from San Gabriel to Fountain Valley?

MR. NESSEN: Right.

On Sunday evening, the President flies to San Diego, where he will attend a public rally at the Grossmont Mall, in the eastern suburbs of San Diego. The President will stay overnight in San Diego, at Westgate Plaza.

Q What time is that rally?

MR. NESSEN: Eight o'clock in the evening, San Diego time. Then overnight at the Westgate Plaza for the President and the press pool. The rest of the press corps will be at the Town and Country Motel in San Diego.

Early Monday morning, at 8 o'clock, the President will leave San Diego to go to Seattle. He will land at the Boeing Aircraft Company out there. He will then go by hydrofoil -- that is a new campaign vehicle that we haven't had before -- to Harbor Island, where he will tour the Todd Shipyards.

Following that, he will come back by hydrofoil to Pier 57 in downtown Seattle for a noontime speech. I don't have the exact location for you. This is Monday we are talking about.

Q Is he going to have remarks at all these places?

Q Will we overnight in Seattle?

MR. NESSEN: At 2:30 in the afternoon the President will leave Seattle and fly to Portland. In Portland, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon Portland time, he will speak to the National Association of Broadcasters Northwest Regional Conference. This is in the Sheraton-Portland Hotel. He will speak briefly and then answer questions from the audience.

Q Will that be open coverage?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Then, at 6 o'clock in the evening West Coast time, the President will leave Portland to fly to Pittsburgh. The President and the press corps will remain overnight at the Pittsburgh Hilton. Then at 9 o'clock Tuesday morning, the President will address the Economic Club of Pittsburgh and after that will fly to Chicago. I don't have any other details except to say that on Tuesday night we will spend the night in the Chicago area.

Q Ron, are you saying in Portland he is having no public appearances and in Pittsburgh there are no public appearances?

MR. CARLSON: There might be other things. These are the main events.

MR. NESSEN: This is the rough schedule as we have it so far.

Q You don't have anything on Tuesday?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have anything beyond 9:00 Tuesday morning, plus the flight to Chicago.

Q Can you tell us what it is going to be like on Wednesday? Our office is going to be switching people.

MR. NESSEN: John, I didn't bring my overall schedule for next week out. Do you know roughly what we will be doing on Wednesday?

MR. CARLSON: Yes, but I don't think we want to go into that.

MR. NESSEN: We are not far enough along to do that.

Q Can you say whether we will be going back to California after that one visit, or can't you say?

MR. NESSEN: At this moment, there are no plans to go back to California.

Q Is he going to be speaking at Boeing and the shipyard?

MR. NESSEN: I think he will probably speak to the Boeing employees. I don't know whether he will speak at the shipyard or just go on a tour of the shipyard.

For those who asked about what the President will do in Williamsburg, in the Colonial restored section there is a house called the Presidential Residence, and that is where the President will stay during the day. Most of the day he will spend, as I said, preparing for the debate.

Q How much will he be paying for this?

MR. NESSEN: Whatever is the standard fee, Phil.

Q Do you know?

MR. NESSEN: No, I don't know.

Q What will he be doing, Ron? You said he will be studying, but could you give us a little more detail?

MR. NESSEN: If you recall, it will be the exact same routine he followed on the two previous debates. At some time, he will go over to the theatre and have the lighting and sound checked, spend some time relaxing, going over papers, and talking to his aides, and so forth.

Q Will he have briefing books?

MR. NESSEN: He will probably take some papers along to read.

Q Do you know if he has reviewed any kind of strategy he might use in this debate as opposed to what he did in the previous debate, the last debate?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think there is any strategy except to be himself and answer the questions.

Q Will he be defensive?

MR. NESSEN: Why do you say that?

Q The polls said he was put on the defensive and what-have-you, and the general consensus was he was put on the defensive by Carter, and I was wondering if he might be doing anything this time to combat that?

MR. NESSEN: The only strategy is to be himself and answer the questions.

Why don't you let me finish my announcements?

Q Just on the debate, the last time he took a lot of briefing papers and so forth. Will he be taking fewer this time? He won't be spending as much time doing this?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that he took a lot last time. He will just take whatever papers he wants with him for any issues he wants to review on the last day.

Q Has he been briefed by anybody in preparation for these debates? He talked to Kissinger before the last debate. Is he --

Q That really helped him. (Laughter)

Q Is he getting briefed by anybody?

MR. NESSEN: I think Mike Duval will tell you -- Mike's complaint is that he hasn't spent very much time in preparation for this last debate.

Q That is what he said before the last one, and he was right.

Q Ron, one other thing on that. Is Mrs. Ford going to join him there this time?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know exactly what the plans are, and I haven't talked to Sheila, so I am not exactly sure whether she is going to be there or not.

Q Is she going to travel with him on this tour?

MR. NESSEN: I haven't talked to Sheila, and I don't know what the plans are.

Steve will be going down through the Carolinas with the President, I understand, and to California. Steve Ford will join his father in Raleigh and travel to California with him. Susan will go to Williamsburg with the President, and I am not sure about Mrs. Ford.

Q Before we leave the campaign, Ron --

MR. NESSEN: I have a feeling we are not about to leave the campaign.

Q Before you go to the cost of living index, the PFC, in one of its TV spots, is using a picture of several prominent blacks, including Jesse Jackson, Vernon Jordan, Stan Scott, and an unidentified woman who is thought to be Dorothy Hite. These people are -- at least Vernon Jordan is -- outraged because the implication is that they support the President. Vernon Jordan, I understand, has sent a telegram to the White House expressing his discontent.

Is the President aware of it? Is there going to be a change in the ad? Is it going to be stopped? What are you going to do about it?

MR. NESSEN: I am told that is a Republican National Committee advertisement. I don't know anything about it, really. You have to check over there.

Q The PFC said last night it was a PFC advertisement.

MR. NESSEN: My understanding is that it is an RNC ad.

Q Have you looked into it at all?

MR. NESSEN: I haven't had a chance to look into it. It is an RNC ad and I haven't had a chance -- I don't know what role I would have in it. You ought to check with the RNC.

Q I was wondering what the President had to say about it, if anything?

MR. NESSEN: I haven't heard him say anything.

Q Did he receive the telegram?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know.

Q Ron, before we leave questions dealing with the campaign, the Carter headquarters in Atlanta confirmed this morning that they have sent a letter from Legal Counsel Doug Huron, which says the Old Time Gospel Hour may include a personal attack on Governor Carter on this Sunday's broadcast, because the Reverend Jerry Falwell, of that 15,000-member Baptist Church in Lynchburg, strongly criticizes Governor Carter for being interviewed in Playboy. UPI reports Dr. Falwell has charged that this letter is a concerted effort to intimidate and threaten the 260 stations which were scheduled to run this on Sunday morning.

My question is, since the President, as well as his TV ads, have also commented on the Playboy interview, does the President feel that a Baptist minister should have the right to criticize Governor Carter without being subjected to such legal action by the Carter campaign?

MR. NESSEN: I just don't know enough about the --

Q Ron, I am giving you these details. Now, would you ask the President -- because this is rather important, it has been on UPI -- and I would like to know, does the President feel that a Baptist minister should be able to criticize Governor Carter without being subjected to what the Baptist minister calls a campaign of deliberate harassment?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think it is a matter we would have a comment on, Les.

Q The President doesn't care about this, is that what you are saying?

MR. NESSEN: As I said, I don't know what the facts are, and it is a matter that sounds like something we wouldn't have a comment on.

Q On another point, Ron, does the President, as a result of this morning's article in the New York Times on a subject -- is the President going to continue going around saying Jimmy Carter is slandering the United States by saying our prestige abroad has declined when your own Administration polls are saying that Jimmy Carter is correct, that American prestige abroad is the lowest in 22 years? Has the President responded to those findings at all one way or another?

MR. NESSEN: I believe you are probably referring to a story about some USIA surveys?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: My understanding is that the surveys are not yet complete and the analysis has not been made; that as the article says -- I believe in the second paragraph -- that certain selected findings were leaked by a person -- I think they referred to as a person interested in the election of Jimmy Carter -- I think that is the wording, I am not quite sure. If you have it there you can probably read the quote. That is really where it stands. It is an incomplete survey for which the analysis has not been made yet and the source of the selected leaks is identified in the story so I don't know what I can say beyond that.

Q The story also quotes an official of the USIA as having said the subsequent analysis of that survey does not differ with the findings that are reported here.

MR. NESSEN: Since the survey is not completed and the analysis has not been made yet, I don't know how that statement could be made.

Q Has the President seen the preliminary analysis?

MR. NESSEN: No, nobody at the White House has. There is no preliminary analysis.

Q I mean, whatever this is.

MR. NESSEN: This is a partial leak of a partially completed survey.

Q Has he created a new plumber's outfit to find out --

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q The point is, has he seen any of this survey?

MR. NESSEN: No, nobody at the White House has seen any of the partially completed survey.

Q Are you saying it is conceivable that the same survey -- say, on one hand our prestige abroad has declined over the last 22 years, and on the other hand perhaps it hasn't, or something?

MR. NESSEN: That is right. Jim Keogh tells me there are parts of the survey which reveal quite positive attitudes toward the United States and other parts of the survey indicate less than positive attitudes.

Q Well, has the President now asked to see it?

MR. NESSEN: No, he hasn't. It is not finished yet and it hasn't been analyzed yet.

Q Both the positive and negative aspects of the survey are reported in this analysis.

MR. NESSEN: There is no analysis yet. I am told a number of staff people have started to prepare analyses which don't agree on what the partial findings mean. That is where it stands at the moment.

Q Does the President qualify his statements about Carter's position in light of what is here in the paper?

MR. NESSEN: Not in light of what is here in the paper, no.

Q Since the President apparently doesn't know about this -- I assume he picked up the New York Times this morning and read this for the first time -- now what happened after that? Did the President tell a functionary or someone to call over there and find out about this report?

MR. NESSEN: No, he didn't.

Q Did he show any interest in it? Did you decide you would call over?

MR. NESSEN: No, Jim Keogh called me yesterday and said it would be in the New York Times so I sort of anticipated it would be.

Q In a quote attributed to Alan Carter, Associate Director of USIA's Public Information Office, he confirmed the figures in this preliminary survey, said a second analysis had been prepared, and said that "the two papers come out basically the same way."

MR. NESSEN: All I know is what Jim Keogh tells me, which is that the survey is not completed, the analysis has not been made, that there are findings that indicate a high degree of respect and prestige and other less positive responses to other questions, and it has not come over here in any form, and parts of it, according to the New York Times, were leaked, by someone interested in the election, to Governor Carter. That is the sum total of my knowledge of the story.

Q I would say Keogh was disturbed enough to call you about it, right?

MR. NESSEN: A lot of people call me every day and tell me things they think I will be asked about in my briefing.

Q You were forewarned.

MR. NESSEN: I don't consider it a warning, Helen. I get 47 phone calls a day from people all over the Government saying, "Guess what will be in the paper tomorrow?"

Q It is a campaign issue.

MR. NESSEN: That is for you to decide.

Q The President has already decided.

Q Ron, is the President going to have access to the analyses before he leaves on his next campaign swing?

MR. NESSEN: Jim Keogh's indication is that it is nowhere near any sort of finished form.

Q The survey was conducted in July and August. It seems like it is taking --

MR. NESSEN: Jim, I can only tell you that the extent of my knowledge is what I have been told by Jim Keogh and I have given you the 100 percent total of my knowledge about this matter.

Q What about the report that was mentioned in the Post this morning -- I think it was in Kraft's column -- that Schlesinger has said that President Ford wanted to cut the defense budget by \$10 billion?

MR. NESSEN: I have no knowledge of that.

Q You didn't read the paper this morning?

MR. NESSEN: I read the paper.

Q You didn't read Kraft's column?

MR. NESSEN: I always read Joe Kraft's column.

Q Then you saw that thing. Now is this accurate that Schlesinger has said this?

MR. NESSEN: You have to ask Jim Schlesinger.

Q Is it accurate, Ron? Why beat around the bush? Is Schlesinger accurate when he says President Ford wanted to cut the defense budget by \$10 billion, or not, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: As I said, I have no knowledge of any such proposal.

Q In other words, you never heard that the President wanted to cut the defense budget by \$10 billion. Is the White House denying Schlesinger's accuracy, or not?

MR. NESSEN: All I can tell you is what I know, and I don't know of a plan to cut the defense budget by \$10 billion.

Q Did the President at any time propose to cut the defense budget by \$10 billion?

MR. NESSEN: Not to my knowledge.

Q Not to your knowledge. Well, could you take the question and ask the President if Schlesinger is accurate or not?

MR. NESSEN: I would be happy to.

Q You were going to tell us about the CPI about 20 minutes ago.

MR. NESSEN: That is right. I forgot about that.

Q Before you go to that, the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee predicted this morning that the country would see the most vicious attack upon the character and credibility of a candidate ever laid on a man at this political level, implying that this will be done by the forces interested in the election of President Ford with the target being Governor Carter.

Does the White House have any comments on a statement such as that? Also, can you tell us whether the President has seen specifically the advertisement which shows the Playboy cover and the Newsweek cover?

MR. NESSEN: In answer to the first question -- do I have any comment on what you tell me Bob Strauss said -- the answer is, I don't. The second -- did the President see the ad of the Playboy cover and Newsweek cover -- I don't know whether he did or not. The advertising is handled by the PFC.

Q They don't handle what he watches on television. That is why I asked.

MR. NESSEN: Was that on television? I haven't seen it.

Q Are you saying the President hasn't cleared the kind of ad and the tone?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that he has seen and cleared every ad, Helen.

Q Has he given any sort of an overall general policy statement on the levels that they should --

MR. NESSEN: As I started to say, I don't know that he has seen and approved every single ad in radio, television and print. I also don't know of any ad that gives the White House any problem, either.

Q You are saying, then, he approves of those ads?

MR. NESSEN: I said I don't know of any that I have seen or heard about that cause the White House any trouble.

Q The point is, here is one that quotes Vernon Jordan and suggests that Jordan is a supporter.

MR. NESSEN: I said that is an RNC ad.

Q You are right, but doesn't the President have any influence in what is being done in his name? Another suggests he ended the Vietnamese war. A third one has Newsweek and Playboy. Isn't the President concerned about what these ads are doing?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know about RNC ads. I do know about the PFC ads. As I said before, I don't think the President has seen and approved every single ad. But I also don't know of any ads that have caused the White House any trouble.

Q Do you know if the President has approved the tone of the ads which are direct attacks on the Governor?

MR. NESSEN: You have reached a conclusion, and it is very hard for me to answer any question in which you have reached a conclusion. I have told you we have had no trouble with any of the ads we have seen so far.

Q You know Carter was interviewed by Newsweek also, so it would be a little misleading, wouldn't it, not to show --

MR. NESSEN: I am not going to haggle with you over our ads. I told you the White House has no trouble with any of the ads we have seen so far.

Q Can you tell us, then, what input has the President had in these ads? Did he sit down and talk to Deardourf and Bailey at some point and say how he wanted them to be?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know the exact degree of involvement he had in the preparation of the ads.

Q Was there any?

MR. NESSEN: He has had contact with Deardourf and Bailey, sure.

Q On the ads specifically?

MR. NESSEN: As I said, he has approved every single ad.

Q I am saying has he had input into the content of the ads?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know the exact degree of input.

Q He has had some but you don't know the degree?

MR. NESSEN: He has had discussions with them, sure.

Q I am a little confused here about this ad that features some of the blacks. You said you don't know of any ads that give the White House any trouble. Are you including that one in this?

MR. NESSEN: That is an RNC ad. I am talking about PFC ads.

Q You are not including that?

MR. NESSEN: I just don't know anything about that ad.

Q But you have seen it.

MR. NESSEN: I have not seen it. I have only heard about it on the radio.

Q Have you talked to Peter Teeley at all, because last night Peter Teeley told me that, number one, he hadn't seen a telegram yet, but as far as he knows the picture used in the ad is a public picture and he sees no problem with that. And then he said that he will check with the people in the PFC who put the ad together to find out what was involved in putting the ad together.

MR. NESSEN: Further checking indicates it is an RNC ad.

Q It is paid for, designed and put on the air by the RNC?

MR. NESSEN: My understanding is it is put together and sponsored by the RNC.

Q And not by anybody in the President's campaign?

MR. NESSEN: That is my understanding.

Q Does that mean you disavow the ad?

MR. NESSEN: I am not disavowing the ad, Bob. I haven't even seen it.

Q You obviously know about it.

MR. NESSEN: I have heard about it and have had questions about it.

Q I don't understand what you are saying.

MR. NESSEN: I don't understand what you are asking.

Q I am asking you if the RNC ads are not related to the President and the White House?

MR. NESSEN: They have not been passed through here. I, myself, haven't seen that ad. I don't know if anybody here has seen the ad.

Q Is the RNC not going to clear any of its ads with the White House?

MR. NESSEN: As far as I know, they never have.

Q In other words, if the RNC had an ad featuring the bombing of the Vatican by Jimmy Carter, you would have nothing to say about that? (Laughter)

Q Is there any connection, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: I don't see a connection, frankly. (Laughter)

Q Does the President have no responsibility, feel no responsibility about what the RNC is putting out in his name and with him and for his sake?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that it is with him, for him or in his sake.

Q Ron, then there is no responsibility, and the White House doesn't care what the RNC puts out; is that correct?

MR. NESSEN: No, it is not.

Q What is your relationship to the RNC and its advertising policy?

MR. NESSEN: As far as I know, there isn't any, Bob.

Q So, you are disavowing this ad?

MR. NESSEN: I have not seen the ad. I don't know anybody here who has seen the ad. The RNC, as a routine matter, does not pass its ads through the White House.

Q Are you going to make any effort to see the ad?

MR. NESSEN: No special effort.

Q Ron, President Ford is the Republican nominee and the Republican National Committee is allowed to spend a certain amount of money for his candidacy. Does he not take responsibility for everything done on his behalf in this campaign?

MR. NESSEN: Annie, as I say, I haven't seen the ad. I don't know that anybody here has seen the ad. The RNC does not pass its ads through the White House. What else can I say?

Q Regardless of whether you or anybody else has seen it, millions of Americans have seen it and are getting the impression that Vernon Jordan and the other blacks in this picture support the President, and they are concerned because they say they do not.

MR. NESSEN: I think you need to talk to the people who sponsor the ad.

Q Does the White House have any concern that there might be a misleading impression created by the ad in his behalf?

MR. NESSEN: Jim, first of all, I don't know that it is in his behalf since I have not seen it.

Q It certainly is. The heading says President Ford has been working quietly for blacks, or something to that effect.

MR. NESSEN: What do you mean by something to that effect?

Q I can't remember the exact quote, but the heading clearly implies --

MR. NESSEN: It is not our ad, and I don't know any more about it than I have told you.

Q But you all were sent a telegram. It has been two days since the telegram reportedly was sent.

MR. NESSEN: I haven't seen the telegram, either.

Q Have you talked to the President about it?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Why?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know what the purpose of talking to the President would be.

Q He might want to disavow something that was obviously unfair and misleading.

MR. NESSEN: I don't know anything about the ad so I can't deal with conclusions.

Q How can you say you don't know anything about it? You have been discussing it.

MR. NESSEN: All I know about it is a set of questions I have been asked and one story I heard on the radio this morning as I was sleeping.

Q You have not discussed it with anyone?

MR. NESSEN: That is correct. Well, I discussed it enough to find out it was an RNC ad.

Q So, you do know something about it?

MR. NESSEN: That it was an RNC ad.

Q But you don't know what is in it?

MR. NESSEN: I do not.

Q Why did you call the RNC to ask about it?

MR. NESSEN: I didn't.

Q Who told you, then?

MR. NESSEN: I talked to the PFC and they said it was an RNC ad.

Q They disavowed it?

MR. NESSEN: Come on, Jim.

Q Doesn't President Ford take the responsibility for an important national campaign --

MR. NESSEN: Do you want to go through the whole litany again, Annie? I told you everything I know about this thing and I have nothing to add.

Q Mr. Ford has criticized Jimmy Carter for what he thinks is lowering the level of this campaign. There is now a question in this press room regarding an ad which brings up some ethics in the campaign, and we are trying to find out what the President of the United States has done.

MR. NESSEN: I can answer factual questions here but I can't argue the philosophy of advertising with you. I have told you every last fact I know about this matter and the rest of it is a philosophical debate which I don't think we need to have here.

Q No, it is not.

Q It is a fact that those men say they do not support the President and the ad clearly indicates or implies that they do.

MR. NESSEN: You should talk to the people who sponsor the ad.

Q Maybe the President ought to talk to them, Ron. They are misrepresenting him, according to you, or are you standing up there and giving these people carte blanche for any kind of advertising?

MR. NESSEN: Les, I can tell you the full extent of my knowledge, which I have told you.

Q There is a specific thing on the ad, and the ad itself says it is paid for by the President Ford Committee. As a matter of fact, the ad that appeared in the Baltimore Afro-American and also one that appeared today in the New York-Amsterdam News says specifically President Ford Committee, and it lists Baker and the Treasurer, Hughes.

MR. NESSEN: My understanding from the PFC is that it was an RNC ad. If it is a PFC ad, I will double-check for you. But that is what I am told by the PFC.

Q Also, the telegram that was sent to you, I believe specifically states that the ad carries the notation it is paid for by the President Ford Committee.

MR. NESSEN: My understanding is it is an RNC ad.

Q Are you disputing Warren? Don't you think he is accurate in this? He reads those newspapers and he stated it, Ron. Don't you think this is an evasion of a rather deep question? Warren is an accurate reporter.

MR. NESSEN: I couldn't agree more, Les. (Laughter)

Q What about the cost of living?

MR. NESSEN: It went up four-tenths of one percent in September. That works out to an annual rate of 4.8. I think you could say the White House is pleased that this is further evidence of a reduction in inflation. This is the lowest monthly rise since April. One part of the index is especially pleasing, and that shows that the rate of inflation in commodities and in the cost of services has slowed down.

Q Ron, now that we have gotten into the economic area, yesterday the President, when talking about Jimmy Carter's proposal to cut off trade with Arab countries in case of another embargo, indicated he didn't approve of that approach. He went on to say he wouldn't tolerate another embargo, either, but he didn't say what he would do.

Since Carter has spelled out what he would do, would you like to say anything today about what the President would do?

MR. NESSEN: We went around this a long time ago, a couple of months ago, and the President has been asked about it and has always taken the position that it is not proper for a President to discuss possible courses of action in advance and especially when he indicated yesterday what he thinks the chances of an Arab oil embargo are as a result of his Middle Eastern policies.

Q While we are on the press conference yesterday, has the President reprimanded or chastened Secretary Simon at all?

MR. NESSEN: For what?

Q For having appeared in Playboy as an interviewee?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think he has, Jim. I certainly haven't heard of it.

Q Wouldn't you like to amend that statement you just made about the reduction in inflation? This is a rise of inflation by almost a half of one percent in one month. It is going up, not down.

MR. NESSEN: I have never tried to tell you that the cost of living hasn't been rising each month. I am saying this is the smallest rise since April.

Q You said it was a reduction of inflation.

MR. NESSEN: In the areas of services and commodities, it is a reduction in the rate of inflation.

Q It is a slowdown in the increase?

MR. NESSEN: That is right, a reduction in the rate of increase.

Q The Labor Department put out another report today -- a little less noticed but still significant -- showing that real spendable earnings, after taxes, declined either four-tenths or five-tenths of a percent last month, which is not exactly good economically. Do you have anything to say about that report?

MR. NESSEN: I am told that that came out earlier in another report and was republished today as part of this figure. It is based, I am told, on a very slight reduction in the work week. That is what accounts for it.

Q Is Secretary Richardson staying on after he said President Ford twice rejected participation in the disclosure of the Arab boycott before finally coming around to it?

MR. NESSEN: What do you mean by staying on?

Q Meaning in the Cabinet?

MR. NESSEN: Helen, why do you ask that question?

Q I ask it because here is a Secretary of Commerce repudiating what the President has said. Back in two press conferences --

MR. NESSEN: I disagree with the repudiation language. This is the way any Administration works. People recommend things to the President each day and the President accepts, rejects or modifies the recommendations. It goes on every day, all day. That is what a Cabinet is for, that is what a staff is for, that is what other people in the Government are for, and that is what happened in this case. It happens each day. You know my feeling about the casual -- I have no business lecturing you, but I have a very strong feeling about this casual throwing around of the words "fire", "kick out", "get rid of" and so forth. It is not fair to the man.

Q I only say that because the President has not indicated he was against the disclosure and so forth. Now along comes a Cabinet officer who says he twice tried to force or urge the White House by sending --

MR. NESSEN: He sent memos here twice, as he indicated in his testimony.

Q Why don't you confirm it, then?

MR. NESSEN: I don't need to confirm it. A Cabinet member said so in his testimony yesterday that this is the normal business of Government -- for the President to receive recommendations from his --

Q I am now talking about what the President said in the debate and the press conference.

MR. NESSEN: What the President has recommended and what Cabinet members have suggested to him in memos are two different things.

Q That is right, Ron, and the President has taken credit for something that he has apparently rejected.

MR. NESSEN: The President took a number of administrative steps last November, as you know. The Justice Department filed an antitrust suit in January -- the first time that ever happened -- and then the President signed the legislation which uses tax advantages as another weapon, and then directed the Commerce Department to make public the names of those companies who answered questionnaires about the boycott. So, I think the record is clear on the boycott issue.

Q There is no question that he signed it because it was part of another bill, but he had been against it.

MR. NESSEN: And also he made a strong effort in the last days of Congress to have compromise legislation passed in that area and it didn't get passed.

Q Yesterday Rosenthal said if there was an effort by the White House he wasn't aware of it, Proxmire wasn't, Stevenson wasn't.

MR. NESSEN: I am sure Mr. Rosenthal is aware of it because a private person went up there to talk to him on behalf of the Administration. That might jog Mr. Rosenthal's memory.

Q Could we have the name?

MR. NESSEN: No, because we haven't asked the person whether he would mind having his name made public.

Q When did we start having private people lobby Congress for the President? I mean, are you doing this in secret or --

MR. NESSEN: I don't think it is private persons lobbying Congress in secret.

Q What is it?

MR. NESSEN: It was having the President's views represented to Congressman Rosenthal by someone he knew and had respect for and could discuss this issue with him.

Q This is a friend of Rosenthal's that the President sent to see Rosenthal? Is that it?

MR. NESSEN: That is basically correct.

Q Is it a former Member of Congress?

MR. NESSEN: I am just going to wait until we have had a chance to contact the individual to see if we can make public his name.

Q Ron, could I follow up Jim's question? He asked about the question of the Secretary of Treasury being in Playboy.

I was wondering, in view of the President's statements about the inappropriateness of a President of the United States, one who is running for the office being in Playboy, does he feel it is all right for Cabinet people and appropriate for Cabinet officers to be in Playboy but not Presidents, or what? Could you give us some explanation or rationale for this?

MR. NESSEN: I don't really have anything to add to what the President said.

Q The thing is, none of us know. I hadn't read that issue of Playboy.

MR. NESSEN: Didn't you look at the pictures?
(Laughter)

Q No, I didn't look at the pictures, either.

The question is, what is the difference? This is rather important. If he has castigated or made fun of, poked fun at Governor Carter for being in it, has he nothing to say about Secretary Simon, or does he feel it is all right for Secretary Simon to be in it? Could we get some clarification on this?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have anything to add to what the President said.

Q Could you try to get some clarification?

MR. NESSEN: I will check, but I don't expect to have anything.

Q Do you have anything else?

MR. NESSEN: John has been checking while we have been out here and it now turns out that the ad we have been talking about may be in fact a PFC ad.

Q Warren is a good reporter. (Laughter)

Q Well, is it, or isn't it?

MR. NESSEN: It may be, Phil. We don't know. We will check and get back to you. We are checking on it now.

Q If it is a PFC ad, are you going to take a stand on it?

MR. NESSEN: Let us look into it, Bob.

Q Who gave you the misinformation?

MR. NESSEN: One of my unreliable sources.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 29, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Milwaukee, Wisconsin)



THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

An examination of the Leading Economic Index shows that the recent pause in our economic recovery is concluding, and the economy will continue its solid growth.

We are particularly encouraged by the two key indicators which have the most influence on future economic activity: capital goods orders and building permits. Both are significantly higher.

#



AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 12:02 P.M. EST

NOVEMBER 5, 1976

FRIDAY

MR. NESSEN: You heard the beginning of the Cabinet meeting. After the pool left, there was a continuation of the meeting, and it had mostly to do with the President indicating to the Cabinet what he expected of them between now and January 20. He indicated that he plans to submit a budget for the fiscal year beginning next year, and also the economic report and a State of the Union Message.

He said, "I expect us to carry on until January 20 with the same philosophy, the same programs, and the same policies. The country cannot afford for us to stand still."

Then the President announced that he had appointed Jack Marsh, his Counsellor, to be his chief representative in dealing with the transition and that Jack would be assisted by Jim Connor, the staff secretary, and Mike Duval, a Special Counsel to the President. The President also suggested that as time goes by, it will probably be necessary for each department to appoint its own transition officer to deal with the counterparts in the Carter group, and he mentioned, for instance, that Kissinger had already -- you are not taping the briefing, are you?

Q I am sorry. I didn't know it was against the rules.

MR. NESSEN: I think we better stick to the regular briefing rules for a while.

The President pointed out that Dr. Kissinger, for instance, had already named Larry Eagleburger as the transition officer at the State Department. Then, the President said, "We will make it as smooth and helpful as possible," referring to the transition. But, the President did point out that he and his Administration have total responsibility for running the Government, making the decisions, until noon of January 20.

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After that, there was pretty much an informal give-and-take between the Cabinet members, talking a bit about what transpired in the past two years, and some of the things that some of the Cabinet members thought would be coming along in the next period of time. Then the President went around the table, shook hands with each Cabinet member and exchanged a few private words with them and then left the room.

Q How long did it last?

MR. NESSEN: It was a relatively short meeting and was over at 25 minutes after 11:00.

Q It started at 11:00 and went to 25 after?

MR. NESSEN: Right.

Q Were there any absentees?

MR. NESSEN: I am told Frank Zarb and Russell Train were the only two absentees, and both of them are out of town. I didn't see Elliot there. I know the Under Secretary of Commerce attended, and I don't know why, but we can check on that.

Q This is not his last Cabinet meeting, is it?

MR. NESSEN: No, it is not.

Q He will be holding others?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, he will.

Q It was not a farewell to the Cabinet?

MR. NESSEN: No, it was not a farewell to the Cabinet members. There are plans to hold other Cabinet meetings.

Added to the schedule today at 2:30 is a meeting with the Vice President. As you know, they have a regular weekly meeting, and this is a regular weekly meeting. I don't have the agenda for you, but normally they talk about some of the various projects and groups the Vice President is involved in.

On the Palm Springs trip, we will pass out a summary schedule showing press check-in on Sunday. Running through briefly, the President plans to leave Andrews about 1:00 p.m. on Sunday. Mrs. Ford and Susan will fly out with the President. The arrival of Air Force One at the Palm Springs Municipal Airport is 3:00 Pacific Time.

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The press plane will depart Andrews at 12:15 and you should check in for the press plane at 11:30 on Sunday.

While he is in Palm Springs, the President will stay at the residence of Leonard Firestone. You probably know Mr. Firestone is the American Ambassador to Belgium. The home is located on the 13th fairway of the Thunderbird Golf Course.

The President will pay for the house, as he has during all past vacations. I don't have the exact amount because it has not been determined yet. Ambassador Firestone is not in Palm Springs, and he and his family, I understand, are still in Brussels.

As for the return, the President will be coming back to Washington on Monday, November 15, leaving Palm Springs early on Monday morning Palm Springs time and getting back here toward the evening at Andrews. The exact times have not been put together yet.

The press will be staying, as they did last year, at the International Hotel. The press filing center briefing room will be in the Convention Room of the International Hotel. I don't anticipate very much business out there. The President really is going primarily for a rest. I am sure he will be playing a good deal of golf. I don't plan to brief every day. Obviously, we will have whatever announcements as to the President's schedule and Government business will certainly be made every day.

I would think the President would spend up to several hours on Presidential business each day, including transition plans. I think he does plan to spend some of the time out there thinking about his own personal future plans. There will be some work on the budget and on the State of the Union Message and, as I said, golf.

The two other Ford children, Steve and Jack, will be coming along to Palm Springs sometime during the week, but I cannot give you right now their exact arrival time.

Q Who from the staff will be going along?

MR. NESSEN: Myself and Dick Cheney, Major Barrett, Terry O'Donnell, Red Cavaney and Dr. Lukash.

Q The transition team will stay here?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

The transition meeting, which you probably have heard about elsewhere, between Jack Marsh, Dick Cheney and Mr. Watson of the Carter staff, at the request of Governor Carter, is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. today in Dick Cheney's office. This will be the first sort of formal and direct contact on the transition between Carter's transition person and the White House. What the agenda is for that, how long it will last, what they will discuss, we just don't have any idea right now.

Q Will we see them afterwards?

MR. NESSEN: It was not planned to, no.

Q Maybe you could ask them.

MR. NESSEN: I certainly will.

Q Who will be in charge of the transition for the National Security Council?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know who has been put in charge of that but I will check -- if anybody.

Q Did the President tell the Cabinet members to appoint these people, or did he say it may be necessary? Did he suggest that they designate one in the event they are needed?

MR. NESSEN: Each department should name a transition officer.

Q What was the President's reaction to the unemployment figure increase?

MR. NESSEN: The pause seems to be lasting longer than we had anticipated. Other parts of it-- I mean, if you look into the details of the figures, there are some good signs there. The payroll employment continues to go higher if you adjust it for strike activity and the total man hours continues to increase. We also expect home building and capital goods orders to accelerate the recovery during 1977.

Q Ron, what was the President's reaction to Governor Carter's press conference last night?

MR. NESSEN: I didn't hear him have any, Les.

Q He didn't watch it?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know whether he watched it or not, but he didn't have any reaction to it if he did.

Q Was there any discussion at the Cabinet meeting about the unemployment figures?

MR. NESSEN: No, there was not.

Q Will there be any rethinking of policy because of this continuing pause?

MR. NESSEN: I just can't give you an answer to that today. I don't have any answer,

Q Ron, have you heard anyone discuss the possibility of the President's economic advisers and Carter's, some representatives of the President-elect, getting together to somehow do something on the economic front to make certain that perhaps confidence is not lost?

MR. NESSEN: I have not heard that discussed, Aldo. I do know that the President feels, and others here, that this Administration, this President, has the total responsibility for running the country until noon on January 20, and if I understood Governor Carter correctly at his news conference, he shares that belief.

Q Mr. Seidman told us here the other day that he would seek to bring in some of Governor Carter's budgetary people to work with this Administration on the budget.

MR. NESSEN: Well, I have not heard of any working together on the budget. Certainly, each department and agency is going to, as the President said, be helpful in helping the new people learn how that agency functions and, presumably, that includes helping the Carter people to learn how a budget is put together. But I have not heard any talk about the Carter people participating in the budget-making process.

Q This will be Gerald Ford's budget?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, as is traditional, Saul.

Q That is legal, of course, but there will be no input from the Carter people or, for example, cutting the defense budget?

MR. NESSEN: Certainly I have not heard that discussed. This is a traditional Ford budget.

Q Do you think he will send Kissinger on a mission to Geneva or to the Middle East before the end of the year?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I know of.

Q Last night Governor Carter said a tax cut early in the year is a very strong possibility if the economy doesn't perk up. I am wondering, in view of what Mr. Ford was saying during the campaign about asking Congress again for his \$10 billion tax cut that he sought this past year, will the President give full support to that notion or not?

MR. NESSEN: Well, the President said during the campaign that when Congress returned it would have on its desk a \$10 billion tax cut proposal, and he certainly intends to go through with that commitment. He will send a proposal to Congress to cut taxes an additional \$10 billion.

Now the motivation behind that proposal is, again, as he spelled out during the campaign, two things: One, to ease the burden, what he believes to be the excessive burden of taxes on the middle income group; and, secondly, to give business incentives to expand their plants and build new plants in ways that create jobs.

So, those are the two purposes of the proposed tax cut, and he will indeed go ahead and keep his promise to propose an additional \$10 billion tax cut.

Q To follow that up, Carter stressed last night if he went along with the idea it would be to stimulate purchasing power by consumers. Are there really any differences between Mr. Ford and Mr. Carter?

MR. NESSEN: I am giving you the rationale that the President feels justified in asking for the tax cut and that is what he said for months, which is, to ease the burden on the middle income taxpayer and give business incentives for new jobs.

Q Part of that tax cut proposal is the increase in the personal exemption, is it not?

MR. NESSEN: From \$750 to \$1,000 is the method he proposed.

Q How much of the \$10 billion would result from that one device?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have that for you today.

Q Isn't this tied to a \$10 billion cut in spending?

MR. NESSEN: The President intends, as he said himself this morning, right up until noon of January 20, to continue to pursue his own policies and philosophy and programs, and one of those is to cut the growth of Government spending so the budget he sends up will reflect that. It will further restrain the growth of Government spending.

I can't give you the figure right now, but he intends to do that.

Q Ron, after noon on January 20, after that time, will you be working for the President or will you be working somewhere else?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. I think I have 65 weeks of unemployment insurance coming. (Laughter)

Q Have you had any other job offers?

MR. NESSEN: Nobody has called, Les. I have been sitting by the phone ever since, and I haven't had a single nibble. (Laughter)

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END (AT 12:17 P.M. EST)