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

#455

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 11:35 A.M. EST

MARCH 9, 1976

TUESDAY

MR. NESSEN: Let me give you a couple of schedule things.

You know about the National Buddy Poppy Girl coming in to see the President at noon. Then, the Maid of Cotton at 12:10, and then the trip over to the Associated General Contractors at 1:50, and there is a travel pool, obviously, and you have the text in advance, which has already been put out.

Q What time does that travel pool leave?
Do you know?

MR. NESSEN: Well, the President boards his motorcade at 1:49, so I would say the travel pool ought to be here about 1:30.

You know, I mentioned to you that the President was winning this award. The award carries a cash prize of \$1,500 so the President will give it to his favorite charity, and I don't know what the charity is yet.

Q The President Ford Committee. (Laughter)

Q What is it for?

Q Were there any other contestants?

MR. NESSEN: Well, if we are going to get that deeply into it maybe you ought to ask the Association.

Q What was the name of that award, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: Service, Integrity, Responsibility -- those are the three reasons for the award -- spelling SIR.

Q Did you mention his favorite charity?

MR. NESSEN: No. I said I don't know what he will give the money to.

MORE

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Q The President Ford Committee?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think that qualifies.
(Laughter)

Q Has anybody else ever gotten this award in the White House?

MR. NESSEN: They say this is the Association's first (Laughter) annual. It says, "The first SIR award will be given to you for your service and attention to matters affecting the construction industry."

Q Convenient for the contractors but he cannot accept the money.

Q He can take it and give it away.

MR. NESSEN: Let's see. Now this evening the President is going to be dropping by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Annual Dinner. This dinner honors Members of Congress. It will be at the Sheraton Park. The President expects to leave the White House a little before 8:30. There will be a travel pool for that. He will go over there. He will speak for probably 10 minutes on the subject of national defense, and then he will take part in the presentation of the VFW Congressional award for this year, which goes to Congressman F. Edward Hebert for outstanding service to the Nation. It is a plaque and the President will help to give the plaque.

Then the President will leave the Sheraton Park at about 9:15 and get back to the White House at about 9:30. As I say, there will be a travel pool. If you have any desire to cover the festivities or the President's part of it, you should get in touch with Mr. John Smith, who is with the VFW. He is their information person and he is reachable at the Sheraton Park Hotel. I am told that open coverage or any kind of coverage is acceptable to them but I think you will probably need to make the arrangements.

Q Does he have prepared remarks?

MR. NESSEN: They will be prepared but I am not sure we will be able to get them out ahead of time, but we will try.

Q Do you anticipate any comment at that event by the President on the Florida primary?

MR. NESSEN: It is not planned that he would use that occasion to comment on the Florida primary except in perhaps the most passing way.

Q If you didn't have a camera crew, you would not have to call John Smith, would you?

MR. NESSEN: No, you would just have to go in there and sit down and listen.

Q When he returns will he watch the returns at home?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q He will have watched some returns before he goes, will he not?

MR. NESSEN: If there are any returns before 8:30, yes.

Q Ron, I think the polls in Florida will be closed early enough so that there may be a projected winner.

MR. NESSEN: That is what I have heard.

Q In such a likelihood, would you expect him to comment?

MR. NESSEN: If the returns are far enough along so that a winner is apparent in Florida, he might make the most passing reference to it but I would not expect more than perhaps just an acknowledgement of the outcome, a sentence or so.

Q One of the campaign issues there has been his record in defense and he is making it a defense speech?

MR. NESSEN: If he mentions it at all, if the results are clear enough to warrant mentioning, he would only mention it in a most passing way.

Now you want to hear about the Chicago trip at all? And North Carolina?

This is all very tentative because the advance people are still making the arrangements and so all these are approximate times and tentative events. Let me preface by saying that.

On Thursday at 2:30, approximately, the President will leave for Rockford, Illinois, getting to Rockford at about 3:20 Central Standard Time, having lost an hour.

At 4:00 the first event will be a farm forum at the Clocktower Inn. This will be similar to the farm forum last weekend in Central Illinois. I have to check and find out who is the sponsor of this one but, for those of you who went on the trip last weekend, you recall the format consisted of a brief opening statement by the President and then questions from farmers and representatives of farm organizations in the audience.

The President will be staying at a private residence in Rockford. Whose residence it is I have not gotten yet.

The other event of Thursday will be at 8 o'clock in the evening at a shopping mall called Cherryvale -- that is one word -- Cherryvale Mall in Rockford. It is essentially a campaign stop, talking to the people who are shopping in the mall.

Q Much like other shopping center appearances we have seen?

MR. NESSEN: Right, complete with the Baskin-Robbins ice cream stand and everything. They move this mall from place to place. (Laughter)

Q I thought they got it from Hertz Rent-a-Mall. (Laughter)

Q Do you know if it is downtown?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. I don't know that much about Rockford.

All right. As I say, the President will be staying at a private residence and the name of the owner I will get for you. The press is going to be split between two hotels but they are close together -- the Clocktower Inn and the Ramada Inn.

Friday, the first event is at about 8 o'clock at one of these hotels, and I think it is the Clocktower Inn, and will be a breakfast with the Chamber of Commerce of Rockford, and then the times get a little fuzzy.

Q A speech?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, some remarks and I think probably some questions and answers.

Q That is 8 o'clock?

MR. NESSEN: 8 o'clock it begins.

Then, somewhere around 9:30 or so the President will leave Rockford to go to Wheaton College, which is in Wheaton, Illinois.

Q Is that a flying or a driving trip?

MR. NESSEN: Do we know whether it is a drive or a fly?

We don't. This is all, as I say, still being put together.

At Wheaton College he will address an audience of students from five colleges -- and I have to get the names of the other four colleges for you.

Q Do you have a time on that?

MR. NESSEN: It is going to be very rough, somewhere around 10:00 or 10:30 maybe, a speech and Q&A. I don't have the subject of the speech.

Then, after that, the President goes to the Palmer House in Chicago. Again, I don't know how far Wheaton is from Chicago and whether it is a flying or driving trip.

At 12:30, he will speak to the Chicago Foreign Relations Council and I think you know that that is a foreign policy, defense policy speech.

MORE

Q 12:30?

MR. NESSEN: 12:30 Chicago time.

After that the President goes out to the O'Hare Marriot for an afternoon of staff work and at 4 o'clock a press conference sponsored by the Northern Illinois Editors Association. They are putting it together and it is their event.

Q All locals?

MR. NESSEN: Yes. Local and regional, I think.

Q Are they barring us?

MR. NESSEN: You mean from sitting there and listening?

Q No --

MR. NESSEN: Of course not.

Q Asking questions?

MR. NESSEN: You have to get in touch with them. My understanding is it is for their members, Helen.

At 8 o'clock the President goes to Buffalo Grove High School in Northern Cook County. I don't have the name of the town -- well, the town must be Buffalo Grove. There the President will speak and answer questions. It is open to the public.

Overnight at the O'Hare Marriot --

Q All of us?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q The President, too?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Saturday morning at 8 o'clock the President has a breakfast for the President Ford Committee workers, volunteers, at the O'Hare Marriot. I don't have the exact take-off time but the next stop is Greensboro, North Carolina, arriving there about 12:30 on Saturday. That would put us back to Eastern time.

The President will go to the Guilford County Courthouse which is about 20 miles from Greensboro. It is a Bicentennial event and the President will make a Bicentennial speech on the steps of the Courthouse. I don't have the subject other than it is a Bicentennial speech.

Then the other two stops of the day are Winston-Salem and Wilkesboro.

Q North Carolina or Pennsylvania?

MR. NESSEN: North Carolina

Now what time is he going to be in each of those places and what the event is has not been arranged yet. I would look for the President to get back to the White House in the 11:30 to midnight area.

That's it. This is all tentative and all the times are approximate because the advance team is still out there.

Q Are you still describing the noon speech Friday as a major foreign policy address?

MR. NESSEN: I never said it was major. I never characterise the speeches, no. It is a foreign policy speech but I never said it was a major speech.

Q Will there be an advance text here, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: There will be an advance text either Thursday night or early Friday morning.

Q Is that a release on delivery?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. I have not even thought about the release time on that one yet.

Q Are you suggesting that there won't be a major speech?

MR. NESSEN: I only suggest that I never characterize speeches as major or minor.

Q I think you did say that.

MR. NESSEN: I said I never characterize speeches.

Q When it came up was the other day we were talking about Reagan's comments down in Florida. You didn't use the word "major" but you suggested at the time that it was more than an ordinary campaign speech.

Q It might be a replacement for the State of the World address?

MR. NESSEN: It is certainly going to be a speech outlining the President's views on foreign policy and military policy.

Q Is it in fact going to be his version of the State of the World Message.

MR. NESSEN: I am not clear yet whether there is going to then be a separate Message to Congress or not. I don't think that has been decided yet.

Q Is that farm speech any big deal?

MR. NESSEN: You mean the one at the Farm Forum?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: I have not seen the text of that yet.

Q Well, you told us that other farm speech was going to be a --

MR. NESSEN: Big deal?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: Did I say it was a big deal speech?

Q No, that was my interpretation of it.

Q Is this one going to make news?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. I would like to look at it first. I have not seen the draft.

Q Brought the sheep off the farm. (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: How are you going to keep 'em down on the farm when they've seen Tom DeFrank's room.

Q Is there going to be a substitute word for "detente" in this Chicago speech, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: No. As you know, Peter, the whole process of what has been encompassed in that word is too complex to reduce to a single word, either Anglo-Saxon or French.

Q Is the President consulting Secretary Kissinger in preparation for this?

MR. NESSEN: Let me mention one other thing. As you know, Wright Patman died and the funeral will be Wednesday in Texarkana, Texas. The President has designated Jack Marsh, Counsellor to the President, as his personal representative at the funeral.

I guess that is all.

Q Is Max Fisher seeing the President today?

MR. NESSEN: He is tentatively scheduled to come in and see the President at 4:30.

Q Tentatively? How is that?

MR. NESSEN: What?

Q Why tentatively?

MR. NESSEN: It just shows on the schedule as a tentative appointment.

Q Was this at his request?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know.

Q At Fisher's request?

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

Q Is he coming alone?

MR. NESSEN: It shows him coming alone on the tentative schedule, yes.

Q Is there anything as to why he is coming?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. He is an old friend of the President's. He works on the fund raising activities for the President Ford Committee. I assume it has something to do with that.

Q You do?

MR. NESSEN: I do, yes.

Q You don't think it has anything to do with the sale of planes to Egypt?

MR. NESSEN: Well, I have no idea what they are going to talk about. My assumption has been they were going to talk about the President Ford fund raising activity.

Q Well, are you in a position to say whether he is bringing a protest from the American-Jewish Committee over the proposed sale of planes to Egypt?

MR. NESSEN: I have not heard about it.

Q The President is not going to give that 1500 bucks to Bonds for Israel, is he?

Q Will we get a rundown on the meeting afterwards?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think so, it is a private meeting.

Q Is the President aware of the arrests of political opponents in Seoul, sort of a round-up of some former officials and also opposition leaders, and is he doing anything about it?

MR. NESSEN: That is an internal Korean matter.

Q We have no reaction?

MR. NESSEN: That is an internal Korean matter, period.

Q Ron, has the President been involved in any way with the revelation of disclosures of classified materials in the Foreign Policy Magazine article?

MR. NESSEN: He knows about the article and has read excerpts from it and knows that the State Department is conducting an investigation to find out who did it and if there was anything improper about the disclosure to take disciplinary action. That is what Bob Funseth said yesterday at the State Department.

Q Did he talk with the Secretary about this?

MR. NESSEN: I am not sure if he has or not, Joe.

Q Would you like to condemn the leaks and apparently classified information that came from the State Department as a self-serving matter to help the Secretary of State as you have condemned previous leaks?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think I will accept any of those characterizations, Walt. The President feels confident that the State Department is dealing with this matter in a proper manner and has said through Bob Funseth yesterday that the person or persons, if there was improper leaking, will be disciplined.

Q Saturday I guess it was in Marion, Illinois, the President condemned in the strongest terms the leak of information, the leak of the Pike Committee's report, saying it was a great disservice to the country. Does he consider that the leak by the State Department or from within the State Department of these classified matters was also a great disservice to the country?

MR. NESSEN: Jim, the President is aware of the fact that this was published. He is aware that the State Department is investigating and promises to take disciplinary action and he is confident that the State Department is handling it in the proper way.

Q Why doesn't he apply the same -- he or you --

MR. NESSEN: Jim, I am not going to say any more about the thing no matter how long we go around about it. The State Department is handling it and the President knows the State Department is handling it. I don't have anything further to say about it.

MORE

Q Ron, can I ask my question, please?

Q Ron, you were quoted in the paper as saying someone mentioned to the President who the leaker was in a private meeting.

MR. NESSEN: I didn't say precisely that. I think I was quoted as saying that at a meeting Sunday on another matter the President mentioned he had seen this in the paper and another member of the staff told him that there was a guess as to who the source was and that guess was mentioned to the President, and then the President was told pretty much what Funseth said yesterday, that the State Department was going to get to the bottom of it and take disciplinary action.

Q Was that guess Secretary of State Kissinger?

MR. NESSEN: It was not.

Q Who told him that? General Scowcroft?

MR. NESSEN: I think these are little internal staff discussions.

Q Will the Secretary be disciplined if he turns out to be the leaker?

MR. NESSEN: I think Bob Funseth has dealt with that at tremendous length yesterday, Helen.

Q I want to get back to the Koreans.

Q Helen, could I just go on with another question?

The President, on two occasions, Ron, asked the State Department to rebuke the Government of Israel for leakage in the Israeli press of some conversations that the Secretary had with Israeli officials. In this magazine article I counted 21 extracts of transcripts or what appears to be transcripts -- not all Israeli, some were Arab and some others -- but extracts of apparently U.S. information; in any case, referring in general to the Secretary of State and to two Presidents on this occasion.

Is the President going to ask the State Department to apologize to these Governments which have been handled in this way or is he forgetting the fact that he twice rebuked Israel perhaps on similar stuff?

MR. NESSEN: Joe, all I have to say about it today is that it is being investigated, that the person found to have leaked it improperly will be disciplined by the State Department.

Q This does not touch the point I am trying to make.

MR. NESSEN: Well, it is a State Department matter and I suggest you direct your questions to the State Department.

Q May I ask my question that you kept talking during the course of?

MR. NESSEN: Over or under?

Q I would like to know why the White House does not apply the same terms and the same criticism to a leak in the Executive Branch that it applied to a leak in the Legislative Branch?

MR. NESSEN: Well, I don't know what terms there are, Jim. Obviously, the Administration is opposed to the improper leakage of any information that damages American security or interests.

Q Does the White House believe that this leakage damaged American interests?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know enough about it. That is one of the things the State Department is looking into.

Q The problem is, here it appears the Administration has double standards relative to leaks.

MR. NESSEN: It may appear to you, Walt, but it does not appear to me.

Q Let me finish my question, please. When a leak is embarrassing to the Administration, you come out and condemn it and condemn those you believe to be the source of the leak. If, however, the leak places the Secretary of State toward the apogee of his skill and maneuvering adroitly and in the most self-serving manner, then you don't condemn the leak and you just refer it to the State Department.

MR. NESSEN: Walt, if I may go ON BACKGROUND for a moment, when you find out who the leaker was and what the discipline is, I think you will withdraw that statement.

Q Will we?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Then you already know that someone has been disciplined, is that true?

MR. NESSEN: No, there has been no discipline and there has been no final determination as to who the leaker was.

Q Is this background at this point, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, it is.

Q One of us identified the leaker this morning by name, specifically, Ron. Was that correct?

MR. NESSEN: I am sorry, I didn't --

Q Bill Kraft identified Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Roy Atherton.

MR. NESSEN: I think the State Department is in the process of conducting this investigation and I am not going to take anything further from here.

Q Ron, can we assume, then, that once the State Department makes a statement about this disciplinary action or the investigation then the State Department will decide whether or not to apologize to the Governments concerned?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know anything about apologies, Joe. You need to take that up with them.

Q Is the President leaving this question of rebukes to the State Department, or is he himself going to take it?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. I am not exactly clear how rebukes come into it but --

Q Well, the rebukes came in because the President on two occasions directed the State Department to rebuke the Government of Israel for leakage.

MR. NESSEN: I am not familiar with those instructions.

Q Well, the record will show it.

MR. NESSEN: Okay. BACK ON THE RECORD.

Q Back to Korea.

MR. NESSEN: Back to Korea.

Q Is the President not concerned that a country which we have sponsored for so long, poured our money into their economy and their military status, should take what seems to be offensive moves against the opposition?

MR. NESSEN: Helen, I am not going to comment upon --

Q Is the President aware?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, the President is aware of the reports that you refer to.

I am not going to get in the business of commenting on the internal affairs of another country. I think the President has repeatedly spoken and the Administration has spoken on its views of civil rights, but beyond that I am not going to talk about the internal affairs of another country.

Q Ron, in the President's speech today he says once again we can cut taxes again. Is he referring to a general tax cut and, if so, when would he be ready to?

MR. NESSEN: He has talked about the idea that if Congress will go along with the restraint in the growth of Government spending that he has recommended and if the economy continues its recovery, that he believes another tax cut would be possible in 1979.

Q I realize he said it before but I mean, how far has this process got to go before he will propose one?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. I will have to check for you.

Q Ron, is there any chance that he will propose some sort of an immediate tax cut when he revises his budget figures?

MR. NESSEN: Well, I talked to Alan Greenspan yesterday after the questions we had in here about the budget revisions. Alan wants to wait another week or two and look at some other economic statistics other than the drop in unemployment before determining whether and if so how to revise the economic assumptions in the budget.

Q Ron, the gun control bill was resubmitted last week to committee. Is the Administration doing anything to resuscitate it?

MR. NESSEN: Let me check that.

Q Did he discuss it with Railsback?

MR. NESSEN: Did the President discuss it with Railsback on this trip? Not while I was around.

Q Is the President growing more concerned about the failure of the Congress thus far to act on the Federal Election Commission?

MR. NESSEN: Well, it looks like this 20-day extension period is running out without action yet. I think the President's views on the need to have the Commission reconstituted so Americans can be assured that the election is run properly and without abuse, you know his views on that and they remain the same. Congress is just letting the time slip by.

Q Has he gotten any late readings on the primary, and does he have any more confidence today that he is going to win?

MR. NESSEN: Florida?

Rog Morton talked to him a little this morning. Rog has been down there. Rog expressed some concern this morning. The weather is not good in Northern Florida -- it is raining.

Q Florida is not as strong, or is it?

MR. NESSEN: But, as you know, the Florida primary is run so that there are a certain number of delegates from each district regardless of the number of voters in the district.

Rog, I would not say, had flipped all the way over to the pessimistic side but, on the other hand, he was extremely cautious this morning and gave the President I would say the most cautious appraisal that I have heard in the past few days.

Q All because of the weather?

Q He was quoted yesterday saying he was going to win bigger than New Hampshire.

MR. NESSEN: Who said that?

Q Rogers Morton.

MR. NESSEN: It does not take much to win slightly bigger than New Hampshire, you know. The margin there was less than two percent.

Q Does he still think he will win?

MR. NESSEN: The President still thinks he will win.

Q Does Rogers Morton think so?

MR. NESSEN: Rogers Morton still thinks he will win but he is extremely cautious on the outlook.

Q Are you engaged in an exercise of poor-mouthing now?

MR. NESSEN: I am engaged in an exercise of trying to report to you accurately what Rog said to the President within the hour.

Q Is he more cautious because of the weather?

MR. NESSEN: That was the one thing that he cited -- the weather -- and the fact that Reagan has done a lot of campaigning down there in the past few days and hit out very hard.

Q Ron, how is the weather in places where the President is strong like St. Petersburg?

MR. NESSEN: Rog mentioned only the weather in Northern Florida.

Q Which is where Reagan is strongest, is that not true?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. That is my understanding.

Q Ron, there was a wire service story this morning to the effect attributed to the United States intelligence sources that the Government of India was restrained by the Soviet Union from selling engines for MIG planes to Egypt. Can you confirm this report that the intelligence services are putting out?

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

Q You have no information?

MR. NESSEN: This is the first I ever heard of it.

Q Ron, can I go back to the bad weather in Northern Florida?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Is Morton assuming that Reagan's supporters are more zealous and therefore would go out in the bad weather more so than Ford's?

Q Ford has fair weather friends.

MR. NESSEN: He didn't spell it all out that way but my assumption is that he was saying that bad weather would hold down the turnout and perhaps would hurt the President in Northern Florida.

Q Ron, to get back to your discussion with Greenspan yesterday, did he indicate to you that if in fact the economic assumptions are revised this would also mean some policy revisions in terms of the size of the tax cut?

MR. NESSEN: It is too premature to talk about that yet because he has not decided what kind, if any, revision to do.

Q When will he make that decision?

MR. NESSEN: He has gone this week overseas to some economic meeting and will be back toward the end of the week and then he wants a week or two to look into some other economic statistics before making that decision.

Q He says April.

MR. NESSEN: Two weeks.

Q You said April 10 the President revises it.

MR. NESSEN: The first revision is required April 10.

Q Ron, has the President received any busing recommendations from the Justice Department yet?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, he has, from Justice and HEW combined. It was a combined list of proposals. The President looked at the list and asked for additional information on several of the ideas and has sent it back for additional elaboration on some of the proposals.

Q When do you expect that to be done?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have a date on it.

Q Has he heard from the State Department yet on a report by the former President on his visit to China?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Would you give us any of the recommendations that were included in the busing report?

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

Q Will you give it to us when they send it back to the President?

MR. NESSEN: Well, let me check and see what the plans are for publishing that, if any.

Q Ron, to go over the drill tonight, it is going to be pretty much the same as last time?

MR. NESSEN: Yes. There will be a very small group here, mostly myself and Dick Cheney, I think.

Q You would not put out a victory statement while we are at the hotel with you?

MR. NESSEN: No, I wouldn't.

Q Or concession statement or whatever?

MR. NESSEN: Not any kind of statement, certainly not.

You know, I think the drill has been pretty well established now that if and when the results seem definite we have been putting out a written statement. We have also been supplying a certain amount of color and details of what is going on and I think we will do that again tonight. The only difference is that the President will be going up there briefly but, again, I don't expect him to speak at any length on the Florida situation.

Q Ron, are you confident that, assuming things go well for the President in Florida, that he being a block or two from the headquarters at 9:30 he might not decide just to drop by there?

MR. NESSEN: That has never been mentioned as a possibility, ever.

Q Ron, who will be watching the returns with him? Does he plan to have anybody in?

MR. NESSEN: I think Mrs. Ford is away and --

Q Liberty?

MR. NESSEN: Susan is here.

Q Max Fisher or somebody like that?

MR. NESSEN: I have not heard that plan. I will check it out by the end of the day and find out who he is going to have in, if anybody.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 12:08 P.M. EST)

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

TO:

GA

☐ YOU WERE CALLED BY— ☐ YOU WERE VISITED BY—

Mr. Poor (ERDA)

OF (Organization)

☐ PLEASE CALL —→ PHONE NO. 376-4126
CODE/EXT.
☐ WILL CALL AGAIN ☐ IS WAITING TO SEE YOU
☐ RETURNED YOUR CALL ☐ WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

August 29, 1949 (Algeria)
1st Soviet Nuclear Explosion

→
Announced to U.S. on
Sept. 23, 1949

RECEIVED BY

Am

DATE

3-10

TIME

STANDARD FORM 63

REVISED AUGUST 1967

GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

GPO : 1960-o48-16-80341-1 332-389

63-108

1st Hydrogen
Explosion was

on Aug 12, 1953

PLEASE CALL ☐ WILL CALL AGAIN ☐
YOU ARE WAITING TO SEE YOU ☐ RETURNED YOUR CALL ☐
WISHED AN APPOINTMENT ☐

MESSAGE

TIME

DATE

3-10

RECEIVED BY

STANDARD FORM NO. 64
REVISED JANUARY 1953
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 28, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: DICK CHENEY

FROM: BRYCE HARLOW
DAVE GERGEN

SUBJECT: National Security Speech

Here is a first cut at the speech that was requested. Don Rumsfeld and Larry Eagleburger have both reviewed and many of their comments are incorporated here, but both want to be sure that they have further cuts at it. (There are still some differences to resolve.) Brent Scowcroft had some very good changes which, unfortunately, came in just after this draft was completed; they can be incorporated in the next round.

We are providing copies of this draft to Rumsfeld, Eagleburger, Scowcroft and Marsh.

cc: Bob Hartmann

March 29, 1976

REVISED DRAFT: NATIONAL SECURITY SPEECH

My Fellow Americans:

In recent weeks, as the impressive gains in our economy have become more apparent, the focus of this year's political campaign has begun to shift away from economic concerns. Suddenly the airwaves have been jammed with cries of alarm over the position of the United States in the world and the readiness of our defenses. Much of this, of course, is political talk that will last only to the election, but some of it is so misleading and harmful that it can weaken the United States.

I cannot -- as your President and Commander-in-Chief -- allow this confusion to continue unchallenged.

Today two conflicting notions are deceiving many people.

One is that we are spending far too much money for defense -- that we have an excess of military power so that social programs should be paid for first, and then any money left over should be used for national security.

The second notion is the other way around. It holds that we are spending far too little for defense, and that the United States has slipped into military inferiority so that our international outlook is either terribly dangerous or hopeless.

Now, these two opposite views cannot both be right. In fact, neither one is -- and both can be harmful to our country. It is clear to me that if we continue to reduce our investments in national defense, we will indeed become second rate militarily, and we will become vulnerable to

international blackmail. And yet, if the apostles of confrontation are allowed to shape our policies, we will wreck the stability we have -- imperfect though it is -- and plunge ourselves into perils far worse than the Cold War. Thus, both of these extreme notions would point us in the same direction: toward a disruption of peace and a world distraught with fear of war.

If we lived in a world free of danger, we could smile at such notions and let them go. But not in today's environment. Our policies must be solidly grounded in well-informed public opinion. This places a heavy duty on people who are in high public office or seeking that office to contribute responsibly to public understanding. Slogans, half-truths and political exaggeration must not become a substitute for wisdom and sound policies.

As a nation, we have to see the world as it actually is, not as we wish it were or as it might look through the

lens of politics. Foreign policy must evolve from hard realities, not from political fictions.

What, then, are those realities around us?

One stands out above all others -- the United States in the broadest sense is still today the most powerful nation on earth.

Our economy is by far the largest and most productive, accounting for some ____% of the world's wealth.

Our living standards are the most advanced in all of man's history.

Our technology and its application are still unmatched; even today our technology continues to run at least five years ahead of the Soviet Union's.

At a time when the number of democracies in the world has dwindled to less than two dozen, we remain the best hope and inspiration for all of mankind.

And contrary to those who poormouth our capabilities, the military strength of this country remains unsurpassed by any other nation.

Of course it's true, and has long been true -- as I have continually reminded the Congress -- that the Soviets have surpassed us in some categories, are equal in others, and trail us in others.

Because of such differences, some critics play the numbers game to prove American weakness.

But in measuring power among nations it is misleading to focus on any single weapon, on numbers of soldiers, or on any other isolated index of strength.

For example, the Soviets have a clear lead in the size and number of intercontinental ballistic missiles. That's been so for years.

On the other hand, the United States excels in the quality and sophistication of these missiles -- in their

accuracy, for example -- and this, too, has long been true.

They lead us in the number of soldiers, and they always have.

But we lead in the quality and training of our soldiers and, because of the NATO alliance, we require fewer soldiers.

They are ahead in numbers of war ships. But we are ahead in the striking power of ships.

They lead in certain types of aircraft. We lead in others.

So it goes all across the board. What matters is the over-all balance, not this or that item. What matters, too, is what our top national security and military leaders think about it. They are agreed that, fitting the pieces all together, we have a "rough equivalency" today with the Soviet Union. This means that those who shout we're behind either don't know what they are talking about or else they're

more concerned with making political points than with addressing the true facts.

The fact is that the power of the United States today is unmatched by any other nation in the world. No amount of political rhetoric can alter that fundamental truth.

But the critics do make a valid point, and it is one that should be of concern to all Americans. It is a point that I have been making emphatically since becoming President, and I appreciate the help of others in drawing greater attention to it.

The point is that even though the United States is still first among the world's powers, the trend of military strength is pointing ominously in the wrong direction and has been doing so for a considerable time.

Over the past 10 years, the Soviets have expanded their defense efforts by about a third. Ours is smaller than it was in the early 1960's.

The number of Soviet military personnel are up by about a third over the last decade; ours are at the lowest level in a quarter of a century.

Since the Cuban missile crisis of 1962, the Soviets have built more than 1,300 new ships. We have built some 300 during the same period; our active fleet today is half the size of 10 years ago.

Since 1968 the Soviets have sharply increased their tactical aircraft force and have built a production base half again as large as ours. In the meantime, our own number of active tactical aircraft has dropped by 40%.

This trend tells only part of the story, for over these same years we have also seen clear examples of Soviet adventurism in Asia, in the Middle East, in Europe, and most recently in Southern Africa.

These events give no support at all to the notion that Soviet intentions are benign and that we can let our defenses down. Instead, they suggest that the dictum of Lenin of years still prevails. "Push out like a bayonet," he told his comrades. "If you strike fat, push harder. If you strike steel, pull back and await a better time."

So we just can't go on bleeding our country's defenses without paying the price in a reduced ability to withstand aggression. Our freedom and independence is very precious. I am determined -- as I know the vast majority of Americans are -- that we not let ourselves sink to an inferior status.

That is exactly why, for two years running, I have asked the Congress for the largest defense budgets in all our peacetime history. That is why I flatly oppose any cut at all in the budget submitted last January, because

we must have that budget if we are to reverse the trend and thereby remain the strongest nation in the world.

That is why I have personally put many Members of Congress on notice that I intend to veto the defense appropriation -- unprecedented though that would be -- and go straight and hard to the country, if the Congress hands me a budget too low for the future safety of the American people.

I make this added point, and I say this very seriously: I greatly welcome the sudden preoccupation of various candidates with defense and foreign policy, even though one wonders if it is brought on by the collapsing of other issues rather than by celestial inspiration. I welcome it because I do know our defense programs very intimately, having worked with them for many years. I know that, if only the issues are fairly presented across the country, you will give some of our chronic Congressional backsliders the spine to stand up at last for enough dollars for defense.

So if some of our professional worriers -- who, it seems, tripped over the Pentagon along the campaign trail -- will only join me in fighting for the defense money we need from Congress, we'll get along just fine. Let's hope all these political hopefuls won't chase off too soon after more seductive targets. Right now, more than they realize, they're about to do something right for America.

One other reality may be a saving grace for us all.

From my trips to the Soviet Union, to Europe, to Asia and elsewhere, it is abundantly clear to me that even as national governments sometimes glare at one another across huge arsenals, there is also an enormous yearning of their peoples for peace.

The people of Leningrad and Moscow are as sick of war as those of London, Paris, Berlin and Chicago. They

all know the sorrows of losing loved ones. They know the horrors of military siege. Millions in all nations have tasted the bitter fruits of war. None of us wants any of it again.

Thus, there is an enormous human yearning and drive impelling us to deal with world problems in a rational way.

After weighing the complicated details of weapons and diplomacy, what emerges is this:

-- We must be tough-minded, vigilant and cautious toward the Soviet Union but we must also seek opportunities to reduce tensions;

-- We must be purposeful and spend enough to maintain our strength but we must not tip the balance toward war through either belligerence or a weakness of will;

-- And we must be willing to apply our strength where our real interests lie but cooperate where we can.

In short, we must tirelessly pursue peace through strength.

That is my policy.

This policy has many parts. Most critically, we must not simply have the power, but we must also be willing to act when adversaries move to ravage other lands. Recent Soviet and Cuban intrusions into Angola were flagrant and unconscionable. The United States would have fore-stalled this effort had the Congress not turned away.

Freedom and independence will suffer badly if such shameful experiences are repeated elsewhere in the world.

Let us further recognize that an effective foreign policy, like effective military action, is impossible without a strong intelligence capability. I have recently proposed the most thorough overhaul of our intelligence establishment in a quarter of a century. I intend to see

that our intelligence forces keep us better informed about the world environment while at the same time they are strictly prevented from abusing the rights of American citizens.

Finally, a consistent and effective foreign policy requires that our Executive and Legislative branches work cooperatively. As a veteran of Congress, I appreciate the role of the legislative branch in foreign policy and national security matters. It is a crucial role, but it must not be carried to the point of crippling the nation's ability to act swiftly and decisively on the world stage. The Congress has neither the constitutional duty nor the capability to manage the day-to-day conduct of American foreign policy. Daily decisions about our national security cannot be effectively made by a committee of hundreds. It is for the President to do that, and as long as I am in this office,

I intend to do so.

Even as we are unyielding in defense of our national interests, we must be unyielding in our search for just and lasting peace. Effective diplomacy can open many arenas for progress in strengthening the peace.

Trade, energy, technology, aviation -- all offer fruitful areas for cooperation. But at the core of our negotiations is our desire for peace and stability in the world.

The Strategic Arms Limitation Talks clearly offer the best hope for sanity in world relations. Since the beginning of this process eight years ago, those responsible for negotiations have faced pressures from all quarters -- both to speed up and to slow the negotiations. Instead, we have chosen to steer a steady, middle course based on a realistic appreciation of our vital strategic interests.

Those interests do not lie in an uncontrolled arms race but in maintaining an equitable balance at the lowest possible level. And as we seek to stabilize the strategic balance, our resources can be used in other areas such as regional defense and in sea power where imbalances can also have serious consequences.

People who argue that the SALT talks penalize the United States are just dead wrong. Had it not been for the SALT I negotiations, we would have been forced to massive expenditures for the deployment of an anti-ballistic missile system. In addition, those talks halted the momentum of the Soviet missile buildup for five years without sacrificing our own programs. Finally, in Vladivostok we began the negotiation of an agreement which -- if successfully completed -- will place equal ceilings on missiles, heavy bombers and multiwarhead missiles and would require the

Soviets to dismantle many weapons.

There are still important issues to be resolved in the current SALT talks, but if we approach them in the same steady manner, we may succeed. Under no circumstances will we be stampeded by arbitrary deadlines. We will be guided solely by our own national interests.

I believe in the ability of the American people to gauge the national security issues which face our nation.

I trust in their judgment.

This election year is still young. There is time to restore reason and perspective to our national debate on these matters. Those who seek our nation's highest office have an obligation to spell out the alternative directions they propose in foreign policy and our national security.

This is a great country. It is well worth our best efforts to keep it so. We are blessed with abundant resources. We are the strongest power in the world's history.

But our true greatness comes from the spirit and creativity of our people living together in freedom.

We are a nation of immigrants joined in forging a great nation through exceptional unity of purpose. Our unity has stood the challenge of time and adversity.

Despite a decade and more of severe testing -- despite assassination, war, domestic unrest and institutional crisis -- we still remain a united people.

I am convinced that the American people still accept the challenge of world leadership. If we summon the American spirit and restore our dedication, we will have a decisive and positive impact on the millions of people in distant lands who continue to look to us for moral leadership.

Those with faith in America must speak the truth to the American people:

-- The truth that we are strong and at peace;

-- The truth that the answers to the problems we face are neither easy nor final;

-- The truth that we must be actively engaged in maintaining world peace, without escape or respite;

-- The truth that we have the strength and determination to defend our interests and the conviction to uphold our values;

-- The truth that even though we are the strongest nation on earth, we must not allow our national defense to be further weakened and cut; and finally,

-- The truth that we have the opportunity to leave our children a more just and more peaceful world than we have known.

My friends, if the people of this country deserve anything at all from their government, it is that their leaders will not spare their efforts to preserve the secure peace which we now enjoy.

Our memories should not be so short as to forget the great damage of confrontation and war. It is such a rarity for us to experience a stable peace that some fail to recognize the new opportunities for progress and growth.

The unprecedented challenge of maintaining this peace so that the human race can flourish now faces us all.

Meeting this challenge is my overriding objective as your President.

Our task is not to build an isolated fortress, America. It is to remind ourselves and the world that we remain the last hope for human freedom and dignity everywhere.

I pledge to keep America strong -- militarily and economically -- not just so that we can survive in a world increasingly hostile to individual freedom, but so that this great experiment in human dignity conceived 200 years ago can be strengthened for the benefit of our fellowman. This

wonderful legacy of freedom and progress which has been
bestowed on each of us requires that we do no less.

APRIL 3, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Green Bay, Wisconsin)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AND
QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION
AT THE
BROWN COUNTY VETERANS ARENA

2:40 P.M. CST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Bart, Governor Knowles, Congressman Bill Steiger, Mel Laird, Mrs. Starr, Mr. and Mrs. Dilweg, and all of the other wonderful people who have been helping on the President Ford Committee and, most importantly, all of you great people here in Green Bay and this part of Wisconsin:

It is just wonderful to come here on this occasion, the home of the Green Bay Packers. It was a thrill for me to participate just a few moments ago in the dedication of the Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame. It is a great, great opportunity and a great thing for me, a "has been" football player, to see all the greats from Green Bay and participate in that. Thank you for the opportunity.

But let me say at the outset I really don't mind if the Green Bay Packers have a linebacker by the name of Jimmy Carter, it is a great team anyway.

If I might transgress for a minute, I did participate in this dedication and it gave to me an opportunity to think of the great traditions of the Packers and the wonderful struggles they have had and the games that they have won, and then I began thinking, as I flew up here, of the association that I have had with some of the people, the greats of the Green Bay Packers.

Back in 1935, in August, I played in the Chicago Bear All-Star Game and Don Hutson was on the team, the All Stars, and we lost it to the Chicago Bears five to nothing. You would not remember that -- many of you. As you know, Don went on to become one of the peerless ends of all time in professional football.

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Then in December of 1934 I was a member of the East Team of the Shriners East-West football game, and we met down here at Northwestern University campus, practiced for a week or two, and then took the train out to San Francisco, and on the way out Curly Lambeau, your great coach for many, many years, was on the train and he was looking around on the East squad and I think we had 24 members and he didn't spend much time looking at me because we had lost seven games and won one at Michigan that year and we didn't have many good ball players.

Anyhow, we got out to San Francisco and we were playing the Western team and the other center, Brooks Atchinson from Colgate, who started, got hurt in the first minute so I played 59 minutes and had a pretty good game and all the way back from San Francisco to Chicago Curly Lambeau spent an awful lot of time talking to me about coming up and playing for the Packers and he offered me \$200 a game and 14 games during the season of 1935.

Now that does not sound like a lot of money to some of you, but in 1935, 200 bucks a game or \$2800 in what -- three months, Bart -- was an awful lot of dough. I decided to go to Yale and, frankly, I have always had a lot of interest in and spirit for the Green Bay Packers just because of that incident.

Then I did have an opportunity over the years to meet Bart Starr, know him and I think he exemplifies not only perfection on the football field, but the kind of outstanding leadership that is needed in a community on the football field as a coach, as a player and I value my friendship with Bart Starr and he is going to give you a great ball team in Green Bay.

Then I had the privilege of knowing Gary Dilweg's father when I was in Washington as a young Congressman, and it is awfully nice of you, Gary, and your wife, to help in the leadership of my campaign in this part of Wisconsin.

Then one final note. I got to know Curly-- Vince Lombardi--when he came to Washington, and what an inspirational person. He just exuded the good things, the things that are good about America, the things that are good about competition, the things that are good about you and me, and so my experiences with Green Bay have all been good and I am just delighted to be here because I feel so strongly about the people here, the people I know and what you stand for.

I look forward to answering your questions, but prior to that let me make a few remarks. Let me tell you what I see as I look at the United States of America in the spring of its Bicentennial year. Of course spring is always a good time of the year, it is a time when nature seems to come alive again and the weather turns pleasant and mild, but there is a lot more this year to that than it has been in previous springs.

People in the country are feeling a whole lot better this spring than they did last spring. For example, a year ago about this time some people thought we were headed straight for a depression. Others said unemployment was going to reach 10 percent or more and gas would be selling for a dollar a gallon. But you and I know that is not the way things turned out.

Instead of a cold, hard depression we have got a bright springtime economy and it is going to get better and better if we follow the right courses.

We made a lot of headway. We cut inflation in half in the last 12 months and we are going to keep it going down. We have recovered 2,600,000 jobs since last March. Just yesterday the Department of Labor announced that we had 86,700,000 Americans gainfully employed in the month of March -- an all-time record we should be darn proud of.

What it amounts to is that the rate of unemployment is going down and total employment is going up and we are making significant headway in the battle against inflation. We had the fourth straight month of improvement in our leading economic indicators. In February, retail sales were up, new orders received by manufacturers reached the highest dollar volume in the history of the United States.

This means -- and this is the crux of the matter -- that consumers have enough confidence to spend their money and businessmen have enough confidence to invest their money. It means that the signs of faith and optimism, the signs of health and vitality are returning to a country that not too long ago seemed to be frozen into a long, cold winter.

We have come through some hard times together and now we can see that not only has our system survived but it is getting stronger and stronger. I think the policies that this Administration followed, that this Administration kept to, had a significant impact on how much better things are getting.

Common sense, for example, told us that the way to cut unemployment was not by padding the Federal payroll but by strengthening America's free enterprise system. Common sense told us that the way to hold down the cost of living was to hold down the cost of Government -- and I did that with 46 vetoes, 39 of those vetoes were upheld by the Congress -- and because we were able to sustain 36 of those vetoes we saved the taxpayers \$13 billion and that ain't hay.

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We fought to get you off the treadmill of inflation and we are going to keep on fighting and we are going to continue to be successful. We are going to keep our policy of sound and stable price levels and we are going to keep our common sense.

Common sense tells us that State and local governments close to the people frequently have a far better sense of their needs than some Federal agency hundreds and hundreds of miles away from you in Washington, D. C.

Common sense tells us that one program that has worked for the American people is our Social Security system, which insures a decent standard of living for our elderly Americans. I am determined to preserve the integrity of the Social Security system and I have made concrete proposals to achieve it and the Congress better respond to it.

Common sense tells us that we really don't want to dismantle the Federal Government and destroy good programs along with the bad ones. We should improve the programs that do work and get rid of that extra luggage that does not work and we are in the process of doing that right now.

But, as some of you know, one of our best programs is general revenue sharing and if you want to look at the author of general revenue sharing, look at the author, Mel Laird here who back at least 10 or 12 years ago was the real author, the principal sponsor of general revenue sharing, and it has done a lot to help local government, State government do the job at the local level a lot better than some of the bureaucrats are doing it or have done it in Washington, D. C. So we ought to thank Mel, but let's get the Congress to extend it.

You know, common sense tells us that you don't switch quarterbacks just when your team is hitting its stride, just when you are gaining ground or, to put it another way, this is no time to trade in your Ford for another model, especially one that has not been road tested.

What America needs now is experience. America needs to continue the sound and stable policies that have proven their value by helping this country through its hard times. America needs a Government that does not raise false hope or conjure up false fears.

What we need is a Government that promises only what it can deliver and delivers everything that it promises. That is the policy that my Administration has followed and that is the policy we are going to keep on following for the next four years.

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With your help both next Tuesday and next November we will make sure that America continues to have the solid, the responsible Government that it needs, not just this spring but every spring for the next four years as well.

I thank you. It has been a great opportunity to be here.

Let's get to questions.

QUESTION: Mr. President, my question is in regard to Mr. Reagan's charge that the Administration's policy is to be second best or number two in defense.

THE PRESIDENT: I am glad you asked that question because I have some very strong feelings about it and I will give you the facts.

Let me talk first about strategic capability. The United States has the most accurate ballistic missiles, the United States has the most survivable ballistic missiles, the United States has many, many, many more ballistic missile nuclear warheads than the Soviet Union. Those are the facts.

In addition, the United States has about three to one over the Soviet Union in what we call strategic bombers -- our B-52s and other comparable bombers. The United States has, in addition, our Polaris submarines, our Poseidon submarines. We are in the process of building for deployment our Trident submarines. We are in the process of procuring and deploying our B-1 bomber. The United States has an unsurpassed ballistic nuclear strategic capability, and anyone who says to the contrary does not know what they are talking about.

As long as the question has been raised, let's talk about ships. I don't know how many people in this audience have served in the Navy, but in World War II I served four years in the Navy, better than two years on an aircraft carrier in the Pacific, so I know a little bit about the Navy, both as a Member of the Congress and as President and as a former person on active duty in World War II.

The allegation is that the Soviet Union has three to one, or whatever the number was, more ships than the United States, but that is not the way you judge the capability of a navy. You can't equate a gun boat with an aircraft carrier. You can't compare a landing ship or an oiler with a nuclear-powered cruiser.

The truth is that we have far, far, far more fire power with the Navy than the Soviet Union. We concentrated our naval capability for fire power both from ships and from aircraft and that is what makes the difference. It is not the number of rowboats you have. It is the number of combat ships you have with the kind of ships that are needed and necessary.

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Let me just add one feature and then I promise not to add any more. The United States is number one. We are unsurpassed in military capability. We have the greatest industrial capacity in the history of mankind. Our agriculture out-produces any nation in the history of the world. We are ahead in science and technology. We have the greatest moral, spiritual and religious capabilities in the history of mankind.

All of this makes the United States number one, and let's keep it there and let's not let any critics undercut it. We are proud of America and we are proud to be Americans.

Hi. How are you?

QUESTION: Fine. My name is Tart Smith.

Is being President better than being Bart Starr?
(Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, on a few occasions I have been envious of Bart but I must say that the training as a player and the five years as an assistant coach at Yale University taught me that competition on the gridiron is pretty good training for politics.

You get a lot of Monday morning quarterbacks in both, Bart. (Laughter)

I get more fun out of watching those great football players play on Sundays, the day that I usually relax a little bit, so I guess I do envy Bart and the ball players and the coaches a lot, but we are going to stick on this job. I can't make that league. (Laughter)

QUESTION: Mr. President, we all realize what a demanding and difficult job Secretary Kissinger has and just lately we have heard rumors that when you are re-elected there is a possibility that he may not be serving on your team. Is there any truth to this rumor?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I have said publicly that I would like Secretary Kissinger to be Secretary of State as long as I am President, and I can't expand on that. I think it answers your question.

And let me tell you why. When we look at the Middle East, probably the most volatile, the most controversial area in the world where four times in the last 20 years they have had wars and each war has gotten bloodier and more serious, Secretary Kissinger has had a tremendous impact in getting the trust of the Israelis on the one hand and the Arab nations on the other so that we could get peace and keep peace there.

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I just use that as an example: to tackle the hardest area in the world to achieve success and to accomplish peace. He has done it with the direction and the implementation and the support that I have given him. I think you don't throw away a winning player, you keep him and that is what he is.

QUESTION: Mr. President, I am the vice president of the Wisconsin State Employees Union. On behalf of our 27,000 members, I would like to welcome you to Wisconsin.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

QUESTION: As a vice president whose constituency is composed entirely of State, county and municipal employees, my question will be in that direction.

Your opponent in next Tuesday's election, Ronald Reagan, has stated that if any State, county or municipal employee participates in a strike or a similar job action, in his opinion he has quite his job. What is your feeling toward a right to strike or a limited right to strike for State, county, municipal employees?

I also would like to know what you feel or what would your reaction be to a bill that on a nationwide basis would give State, county and municipal employees a right to collective bargaining?

I also would like to know what your reaction is to the repeal of 14(b), the right to work legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: I am vigorously opposed to the repeal of section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act. As a matter of fact, in 1950 or thereabouts I participated in the debate and voted on that issue in the House of Representatives. I think if a State wishes to have the right to work, as 19 States do, under our Constitution that is a right that they ought to be able to exercise and I would not recommend the deletion of section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act.

Number two, I don't believe that the Federal Government either has the authority on the one hand or should exercise it on the other to pass comprehensive legislation involving the labor-management relations of State employees and their government or county employees and their government or city employees and their government. Those are decisions that ought to be made at the local or State level and the Federal Government should not get involved in them.

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Now, the first question that you asked. We have 50 States and we have 39,000 Governmental units below the level of statehood. I don't think that somebody in Washington ought to tell 39,000 Governmental units or 50 States how they should handle their labor-management relations. That is the prerogative of those units of Government.

If a government in Green Bay wants to handle it with the right to strike -- and I just use that as an example -- and Waukesha wants to have a different policy or the State of Wisconsin wants to have a different policy, that is the responsibility and obligation of those units of Government.

If a city council or a State legislature or Governor passed some legislation one way and the people don't like it, they know who to get rid of, and I think that is the way it ought to be handled. Washington should keep its fingers out of the situation. The responsibility and the obligation rests here, right in your State and your local units of government.

QUESTION: Thank you.

QUESTION: Mr. President, I was wondering what can you do to help us teenagers get more jobs so we can go on to school and make money so we can afford our education?

THE PRESIDENT: Would you ask that again? I missed the first part.

QUESTION: What can you do to help us get more jobs so we can have enough money to go on to college and that?

THE PRESIDENT: You are talking about high school graduates?

QUESTION: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, about two million young people enter the labor market every year as they go from either high school into the labor market or from college into the labor market. As I said a moment ago, we have picked up 2,600,000 jobs since last year but that is not enough. Our unemployment is still too high and it is still too high particularly among our young people, and especially among our young people in the minority categories.

Now what we have to do is to stimulate our economy primarily in the private sector where five out of every six jobs in this country exist today. And how do we do that? We do that by providing an incentive to business to expand, to modernize, to improve so that they will be more competitive and more jobs will be available in the private sector.

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I don't think the answer is to put young people on the Federal payroll. They have a greater opportunity for the future, for advancement and permanency in the private sector rather than in some temporary payroll padding job in the Federal Government.

On the other hand, if a young person like you wants to go to college and you don't have the funds available to do so, there are grant programs, there are scholarship programs. As a matter of fact, I recommended for the budget for the current fiscal year \$1 billion 100 million, as I recall, for what we call the basic opportunity grant program. Bill Steiger knows -- he is a real expert on that program. We recommended the full funding of that program, which would have a maximum assistance of \$1,400 and the average amount, because it varies, is around \$900. We want to help you if you want to go to college, and once you get out of college we hope our economy is such that you will have a permanent job in the private sector.

QUESTION: Mr. President, this is a little bit of a different question than you have been harangued with or whatever. It is a medical question.

Expenses are going up and I have had experience with cancer. I had to leave the country to get information to obtain relief from such cancer or trichinosis. I have had experience with doctors here in this country, not just in this State but in other States, that didn't know how to diagnose the subject or the disease or worms -- plain old worms, trichinosis.

Now you say we have all kinds of technology. When will the American Medical Association let loose some of that information that you talk about?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think the American Medical Association has control over the cures or the things that are done to analyze the illness of a person or the recommendations for remedies to cure an illness. The AMA does not have that responsibility. That is the responsibility of a hospital or a clinic or an individual doctor.

Now, I am not familiar, obviously, with your personal case or individual case but if you look, I think, across the length and the breadth of this globe and compare our medical profession with any other, the United States is lucky to have the quality of care that is given to save people's lives and to protect them from disease and to repair them from disabilities.

I can only say that the Federal Government is spending better than \$1 billion for research under the National Institute of Health in Washington, D. C. on cancer, arteries and heart and -- well, the whole range of things, and we are going to get some of these cures that don't seem to be available.

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I just say again that our medical profession by the standards that I have seen is a good medical profession. Now they make a mistake, like I have made one or you may have made one, but they are not deliberate, I can assure you.

QUESTION: Thank you.

QUESTION: Mr. President, I have a two-part question, please. First, I would like to know your views on the present status of the U.S. Postal Service. The second part is, do you plan on either signing or vetoing House Bill 8617 and if a veto, some of your reasons why? The House Bill 8617 is the provision to the Hatch Act.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, let me answer the second question first.

That bill, the so-called Hatch Act abandonment bill or the destruction of career Civil Service legislation, when it gets down to me -- and it will be down to the Oval Office probably in a couple of days -- everything I know about it, I am going to veto it. I think it ought to be vetoed.

You can't have a career service for Government employees and get them involved in the partisan political arena. It just doesn't work. So I probably under any circumstances I see will veto the legislation.

Number two, the Postal Service. Up until it became the Postal Service, the Post Office Department was getting less and less efficient and it was costing more and more money out of the general Treasury and the net result was Congress decided that it ought to become a nonpolitical patronage organization because the Post Office Department was bedded down with partisan politics, it was not an effective and efficient mail delivery service.

Now the present Postal Service in time is going to remedy that. I must say I am a little disappointed in the progress they have made but it is going to be a lot better in the future than the old Post Office Department would have been.

Now there are those who say that the \$1 billion a year that Congress puts in to subsidize the Postal Service isn't enough. That is what we have been subsidizing -- the Postal Service -- each year for the last several years.

MORE

We recognize we have to pay something for what is called public service but you cannot go on taking that much money or double that much money from the general taxpayer to keep the Postal Service going. So we either have to improve the efficiency of the Service, cut down on some of the uneconomical operations, or you have to increase the rates or you have to take more money out of the general Treasury. Now one of those three alternatives is what we are faced with.

The Director of the Office of Management and Budget is trying to work with the head of the Postal Service to find a better solution, but right now you have got three bad alternatives -- either more money out of the Treasury, restricted service or increased rates -- and none of them are very good alternatives. So I think the study that is now being undertaken, hopefully, will come up with a better answer and we will try it if they do.

QUESTION: Thank you for your comments, Mr. President.

MORE

QUESTION: Mr. President, being in an educational field, if re-elected, what do we have in store for the area of education, and in your remarks could you direct it especially to the aid of the handicapped children?

THE PRESIDENT: Are you talking about primary and secondary education, or are you talking about higher education?

QUESTION: Primary and secondary.

THE PRESIDENT: I have recommended to the Congress what is called a block grant approach to primary and secondary education. At the present time, we have 15 different educational programs. They are all categorical grant programs. They each have their own bureaucracy, they each have their own little pot of money, and they each deal with a special problem in education at the primary and secondary level.

I have recommended that you consolidate all of those in one block grant program, and the money should go to the States and then down to the local communities so the people in Green Bay can decide how they want to spend that money. Their problems might be different than those in San Diego, and if so, they ought to spend their money differently here in Green Bay.

Now, the problems of the disabled across the board are a very special one as far as my wife is concerned, and me, too. I happen to think that we have to recognize that the disabled, for reasons in most cases beyond their own control, have to be given some special attention.

Like in the District of Columbia, the new Metro system, the subway system -- by law there has to be the means of access and exit so that people who are blind or disabled or elderly can have a certain way of getting on the new subway. I think across the board we have to recognize the fact that this group in our society needs some very special attention, and this Administration will carry out that promise and pledge.

QUESTION: Mr. President, we are seventh graders from St. Jude's School. My question is, what led you to becoming President?

THE PRESIDENT: The question is, what led me to become President. (Laughter)

Well, I got to be a Congressman, and then Vice President, and on August 9 of 1974 I had the opportunity to serve the American people, and we have tried hard to do a good job for 19 months. I would like the opportunity to serve another four years to do a better job.

MORE

QUESTION: Mr. President, I am from Marquette, Michigan. I would like to know why the Congress and you are closing these air bases and also the Government cutting down on them and the unemployment?

THE PRESIDENT: The Department of Defense has made a number of recommendations for studies to close down certain military installations, including Kinchloe Field in Michigan; including Fort Devens, an Army installation in Massachusetts; including a number of other military installations.

The reason is very simple. As the weapons system use changes, as you go in the Air Force to more missiles and less aircraft, you have to change how you use your facilities and as the numbers in the Army go down, you have to close the number of Army forts, camps or stations. In other words, you have to tailor the use of facilities to the men and the weapons that you have and the mission.

At the time of the war in Vietnam, we had 3,300,000 Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force personnel. We now have 2,100,000. We, therefore, don't need as many bases. We don't need as many installations. So, in a responsible way we are trying to adjust, or the Department of Defense is, the men and weapons to the installations that are needed.

I should say in the case of Michigan, because I know it well, there are three SAC bases up there -- Kinchloe, K. I. Sawyer and Wurtsmith. One of the three was closed. K. I. Sawyer and Wurtsmith were kept open. K. I. Sawyer is up in the Upper Peninsula. Kinchloe is in the Upper Peninsula. It was closed. It is just that you can't keep a base open if there is not a mission for it. It is just that practical.

Now, as I said, these are studies and there is a provision of law that says if a base is closed, the Department of Defense and the Department of Commerce and all of the other departments have to maximize their effort to try and adjust the adverse economic conditions that inevitably result from the closing of a base.

I can assure you if the Defense Department decides that that base ought to be closed, other departments will maximize their efforts to take care of any transitional unfortunate circumstance to any individuals who were previously employed there.

QUESTION: Unemployment, why is that --

MORE

THE PRESIDENT: On unemployment, I said that last March we had 8.9 percent unemployment in the country. At the present time, the unemployment has dropped to 7.5 percent as announced as of yesterday. We have regained in total employment 2,600,000. We had a gain of 375,000 in the month of March alone. We have an all-time employment figure of 86,700,000.

Now, we still have too much unemployment, but the momentum is going in the right direction. We are selling more automobiles, retail sales as a whole are up, and industrial orders are up. You are going to find this momentum coming from increased public confidence so that I think in the months ahead you are going to see more employment and less and less unemployment.

QUESTION: Thank you, Mr. President. You are the first one I have ever seen of our Presidents of the United States of America.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: One more.

QUESTION: I have a tax related question for you. In your State of the Union address you had mentioned that there would be tax incentives for long-term investors. I wonder if anything has come about on this or if you could elaborate on it, please?

THE PRESIDENT: In the State of the Union Message I recommended certain specific tax proposals that I thought would be helpful in the area of unemployment. One was that in a geographical area of unemployment where the unemployment was high, 8 percent as I recall, that we would give a special tax incentive for an employer to build a new plant there or to expand or to improve his plant facilities.

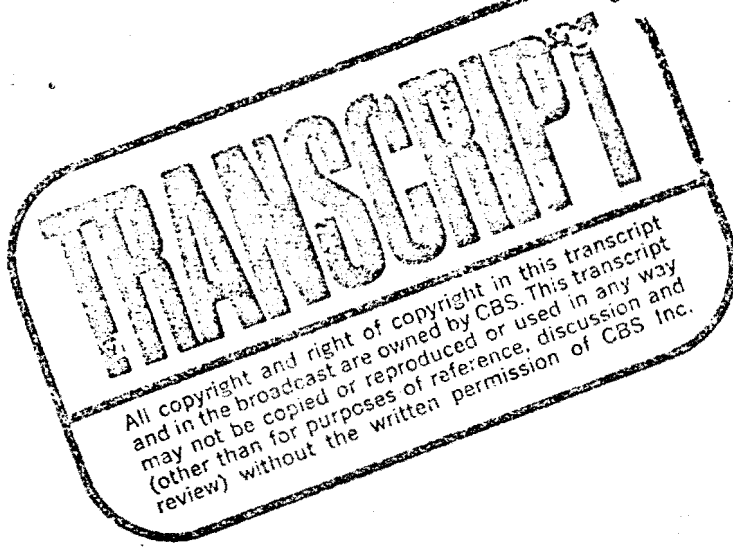
I think that would have been a better way to get unemployment down than to actually add extra payroll. That is one proposal.

The other was to provide for greater opportunity for employees and others to own shares of stock in American industry and give a tax deferral in order to stimulate investment in America's industrial capacity.

Those two proposals and several others are now before the Committee on Ways and Means on which Congressman Bill Steiger serves. I would hope that some of them at least will be approved by the Congress in 1976.

Thank you all very, very much. It has been wonderful.

END (AT 3:25 P.M. CST)



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FOR RELEASE:
THURSDAY AM'S
APRIL 15, 1976

Office of the Vice President
(Des Moines, Iowa)

TEXT OF REMARKS
PREPARED FOR VICE PRESIDENT NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER
AT THE
REPUBLICAN LINCOLN DAY DINNER
VETERANS MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM
DES MOINES, IOWA

April 14, 1976

Nothing can strengthen my faith in America's future quicker than a visit to Iowa. Here in this State you epitomize the qualities that built America's greatness. I'm especially proud to be here in the hometown of Mary Louise Smith, the first woman elected as Republican National Chairman. Mary Louise not only symbolizes the Republican Party's recognition of the role of women in American leadership, she is an inspiration to us all -- and I am delighted to have had the opportunity of flying here with her. And you have an outstanding Governor who epitomizes the qualities of Iowa -- your fantastic four-term winner, Governor Bob Ray.

As a former State Governor myself, I have a pretty fair idea of what it takes to do a good job as Governor, and so do the other 49 State Governors who recently chose Bob Ray as Chairman of the National Governors Conference. And our Party has wisely chosen Bob to head the critical platform committee at our national convention.

Bob Ray is a doer -- a problem solver. He has given this State better services, better transportation, better education, and, by using sound Republican principles of efficient business-like management, and Republican fiscal responsibility, he has been able to perform that rarest of all feats -- raising the quality of government service while lowering its cost. His leadership typifies the strong, solid Americanism that has sprung from the soil of Iowa.

You started with God's blessing of rich, fertile land. And you were willing to invest 10 and 12 hour days -- six days a week -- into making this one of the most productive spots on Earth. You were receptive to new ideas, to new techniques and new technologies. You applied imagination and creativity.

As a result, you took a state with only 1.6 per cent of the land in this country and less than 1.5 per cent of the total population, and you made it a leader in total agricultural production -- second only to far larger California, a top producer of corn -- second only to far more populous Illinois, a beef cattle state second only to giant Texas, and the Nation's number one hog producer -- second to nobody.

Never has the rest of the Nation been more indebted to you, because it is the unmatched farm output of a State like Iowa which has saved America's position in international trade -- and given us a favorable balance of payments, even after the enormous and rapid-growing drain on our dollars to import oil.

(MORE)

The hard work of your farm families, your initiative and enterprise do not end with fantastic agricultural production. Iowans have also tripled industrial production -- from both farm-related and completely independent enterprises in just 20 years.

Iowa's virtues symbolize the basic values of the Republican Party -- a sense of self-responsibility, self-discipline, hard work, faith in the American economic system, and confidence that the American people can find answers to their problems -- without every answer being labelled "Made in Washington."

Here at this Lincoln Day dinner it is a pleasure to be among Republicans who live what Lincoln had to say on this subject over a century ago. "The legitimate object of government," Lincoln advised us, "is to do for a community of people whatever they need to have done, but cannot do at all, or cannot so well do, for themselves, in their separate and individual capacities. In all that the people can individually do as well for themselves, government ought not to interfere." These fundamental principles of Republicanism, which Lincoln believed, are as valid in our time as they were in his age.

And, tonight, I want to talk to you about the role of our Party and its future and some of the problems we face as a Nation.

Role of Political Parties -- The parties were created -- not as ends in themselves -- but as a means to an end, the end being good government. In America, we seek the objective of good government through the two-party system -- which is the strength and vitality of our free society.

I believe that the leadership of President Ford is in tune with the American people. I have never known a man in public life with deeper concern or deeper love for this country. I have been privileged to sit in on meetings with him for hour after hour as he listens to different points of view. And when he reaches his conclusion, whether it's a domestic or international problem, he is not swayed by short-term political advantage, Jerry Ford does what is right for America. And so I believe that our Party is in a potentially strong position this year.

Nevertheless, in terms of enrollment, we are still a minority party, nationally, so we have a monumental task of persuasion before us. Our candidates and our programs must appeal not only to Republican voters -- but to Independents and independent-minded Democrats as well.

Sure we face tough problems. But, let me tell you, I am optimistic about the future of our Party and I am optimistic about the future of our Country. This is a unique moment in the history of civilized people. There were never greater opportunities for the future of the individual -- of mankind throughout the world -- than there are today, if we but have the vision, the courage and the wisdom to grasp them. With the creative genius of science and technology and the productive power of our free people and the American enterprise system, we can lead the world in achieving economic growth and rising standards for all. We can make this a period of opportunity to help shape the future -- not only of our own Nation, but of all mankind. We can continue to be what Abraham Lincoln knew we were nearly 114 years ago when he described the United States of America as "the last, best hope of Earth."