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NEWS CONFERENCE

#126

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 12:05 P.M. EST

JANUARY 17, 1975

FRIDAY

MR. NESSEN: I have spent a lot of time today and last night looking into this ripple effect. I finally figured out what it is. (Laughter.)

At 11:00, the President met with the Administrator of the new Energy Research and Development Administration, Dr. Robert C. Seamans, and with Secretary Morton and with Frank Zarb. This new Administration was established by law late last year, and it was to become effective in February, or earlier, if the President determined, and so the President on Wednesday signed an Executive Order. We have copies of the Executive Order in the Press Office for you, which establishes the Energy Research and Development Administration, effective on Sunday the 19th of January.

Dr. Seamans is head of the Administration, and he will be playing an important part in carrying out those parts of the President's energy proposals that deal with the development of new sources of domestic energy.

This will be the first time that the Government's efforts in energy research and development are centered in one agency, and they will work on various things. One of them, for instance, would be the technology for conserving energy through more advanced types of automobile engines. Also, they will be working on other methods to increase domestic energy supplies in such areas as fossil fuel, nuclear fission and fusion and solar energy and geothermal energy.

A couple of the programs that will have particular importance in increasing the domestic energy supply under the President's program are coal gassification and liquefaction technology. If you will remember, the President said in his speech that he was looking for the equivalent of a million barrels of oil a day to be produced from synthetic fuels by 1985. This is one example of that.

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