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This Copy For THE PRESIDENT

NEWS CONFERENCE

#158

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 12:15 P.M. EDT

MARCH 4, 1975

TUESDAY

MR. NESSEN: Do you want the business first, or should we just work our way through?

Q Work your way through.

MR. NESSEN: I think I will work my way through.

Q Put a lead on it, will you, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: This time I will.

As you know, the President met this morning in the State Dining Room at 7:30 with the freshmen Democratic Members of Congress for a working breakfast. The purpose was to give the President and the Congress -- the freshmen Democrats -- an opportunity to exchange views on the economic and energy proposals of the President and other issues.

Jack Hushen was there. He reports that the breakfast lasted two hours. There were 70 freshmen Democrats there. The Vice President was there; also Secretary Kissinger, Simon, Morton, Hartmann, Rumsfeld, Zarb, Greenspan, Seidman, Scowcroft, Marsh, Friedersdorf and Hushen.

Q Why weren't you there?

MR. NESSEN: I had some other things I wanted to do this morning.

Q We have heard that story before.

MR. NESSEN: Well, I was.

The President said he looked forward to getting to know the freshmen better and working with them. He spoke of his affection for the House of Representatives, where he served 25 years, and he said this: "Many people have characterized this group as being at the far end of the spectrum, but I think you are aimed more toward problem-solving."

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