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NEWS CONFERENCE

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE WITH JERRY TER HORST AT 11:46 A.M. EDT AUGUST 22, 1974 THURSDAY

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MR. TER HORST: I will go through the announcements and then take your questions.

The President started his day early this morning. He was examined at 6:30 by Dr. William Lukash, his personal physician. I can give you some notes on that from Dr. Lukash. This was the President's first interval physical examination since becoming President.

Q What does that mean?

MR. TER HORST: That means that Dr. Lukash intends to examine the President at intervals, that is what it means. (Laughter) His last complete physical, prior to this, was performed January 28, 1974, in the Capitol Medical Unit, where he was found to be ingood health. The physical examination laboratory tests were completed, Lukash says, and he was able to return to his quarters for breakfast by 7:15. So, he was with the doctor a total of 45 minutes.

As a result of the examination and pending the lab tests -- this is a quote from Dr. Lukash -- "I judge the President to be in excellent health and fully capable of performing all the physical demands and mental stresses of the Presidency."

Dr. Lukash told me that he had recommended to the President, as his only recommendation, that he continue to follow a diet consisting simply of moderate balanced calory reduction --

Q In other words, he should lose weight?

MR. TER HORST: -- and he said that he anticipated that before the football season got underway this fall, the President should weigh the same as he did during his own college football days. His college weight was 201.

Q What does he weigh now?

MR. TER HORST: The last time I heard the President address the subject of his weight it was 204. That was about two months ago.

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Q Do you know what it is now, Jerry?

MR. TER HORST: I don't know what his weight is this morning. I can't tell you that. But he doesn't anticipate a long time getting him down to his college playing weight.

Q When President Nixon had physicals, Dr. Tkach used to come out and give us a briefing. Why can't Dr. Lukash do that?

MR. TER HORST: I will ask him if he can't do that. Perhaps it might be a good way to do that.

Q How many years ago was the end of his college playing days?

MR. TER HORST: 1934.

Q Did he give you anything on blood pressure?

MR. TER HORST: Let me continue with the doctor's report here and then take some questions at the end, if I may.

The President intends to continue his daily exercise program in the Residence and will make every effort to play golf on a regular basis. Dr. Lukash says that the President, however, sorely misses the opportunity to swim every morning and every evening which not only provided him with physical exercise but also had a noticeable invigorating effect on his spirits.

Probably every January, according to Dr. Lukash, he will institute more extensive annual physicals for the President at Bethesda Navy Hospital. I will try to see if Dr. Lukash would like to come out and give a briefing and elaborate on his examination.

Q To make the diet weight reduction meaningful, could we get his present weight?

MR. TER HORST: I will try to do that, yes.

Back to the announcements, the President also met with Senators Frank Church and Charles Mathias and Roy Ash and Bill Timmons this morning to discuss national emergency powers. As you may know, the two Senators are co-chairmen of a special committee on national emergencies and delegated emergency

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powers and they have prepared a report of their special committee and they wanted to acquaint the President with its findings.

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The President then signed the Proclamation on women's equality. There was coverage of that as well as a pool report. You have the Proclamation, I understand.

The President currently has in progress a photo session with House Republican candidates. This is similar to the session with Republican Senator candidates yesterday. Just how many there are and who, we are determining now, and we will post names and then you can figure out the number.

As we have previously announced, the Housing and Community Development Act -- that is Senate Bill 3066 -- will be signed by the President during a two o'clock ceremony today in the East Room. Approximately 200 mayors, Governors, other State and local officials as well as Members of the House and Senate have been invited to this signing ceremony. We hope to have a statement by the President and a fact sheet on the bill available here before the ceremony, and we will take camera men over to that ceremony so they can get set up around 1:30.

Q Do you have a list of invitees?

MR. TER HORST: We hope to be able to at least post as many as we can. We will take in as many writers as we can get into the room about 1:45. So if you want to cover the ceremony, be on hand at that time.

Q Will you list invitees ahead of time?

MR. TER HORST: If we get the list, yes, so that we know who is actually here. If we don't get it ahead of time, we will get it afterward.

Following the ceremony, the President intends to meet at 2:30 with Paul Hall, President of the Seafarers' International Union of North America. That will be in the Oval Office. This, as you know, is the third in a series of meetings of labor leaders, the President previously having met with AFL-CIO President George Meany and Teamsters' President Frank Fitzsimmons.

Later this afternoon the President will meet with Republican National Chairman George Bush, Senator Bill Brock of Tennessee, and Congressman Robert Michel. As you know, Senator Brock is Chairman of the Senator Republican Campaign Committee and Bob Michel is Chairman of the House Republican Campaign Committee, and this essentially is a meeting to discuss

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with the President their plans for the 1974 Congressional campaigns. This is the first chance they have had to meet with the President in his unofficial capacity as head of the party.

If I can get a report on that particular meeting, we will either post it or be available to brief you on it.

At 7:30 this evening, the President and Mrs. Ford will host a dinner for Governor and Mrs. Rockefeller in the Residence. There will be a few others there and when we have a final guest list, we will post that. We will arrange a brief press photo session at the beginning of the dinner, but since it is up in the Residence, we will be limited to a very small pool for that.

I have an answer to the question on the President's weight. He now weighs 200 pounds and three-quarters.

Q Then he has to gain weight?

MR. TER HORST: Then my previous information to you is wrong, because Bill Lukash would like to get his weight to 195.

Q But he did weigh 201 when he was playing football?

MR. TER HORST: That is my understanding. My research may be wrong. I will have to check that out, too.

Q Jerry, one more question on that. What does he propose to do about the lack of facilities for swimming, if he sorely misses it?

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MR. TER HORST: At the present time the President is doing morning and evening calisthemics in the Residence and, as you know, he has been moving around town on foot which is a physical activity; at least it is on foot on the Hill, and he intends to continue golfing, and I guess that is about the limit of what he can do at the present time.

Q Are there plans to build a swimming pool here at the White House or to swim elsewhere?

MR. TER HORST: There are no present plans to build a pool at the White House, although there are, as you may know, many communities in the country that are desirous of starting fund drives of some kind so that volunteer contributions can be raised to build a swimming pool, not for this President necessarily, but to provide a swimming pool at the White House for this President and obviously future Presidents.

Q Does the President have any feelings about that?

MR. TER HORST: At this point, the President's views are that he definitely will not build a pool with Federal funds and whether a fund drive for a pool materializes or whether he approves or would desire one, is still something that we have under consideration. I can't give you a reading on it.

Q Have any of these groups made contact with the White House to coordinate a drive?

MR. TER HORST: Some have and I am told a good many checks have come in to newspapers and we are encouraging those groups, when they contact us here at the present time, to hold them because we cannot give them a decision one way or the other at the moment.

Q Jerry, the other day two men came and opened a trapdoor back there on the camera stand and went down a ladder with a tape measure and disappeared into the darkness. Do you have any idea what they were doing?

Q They locked the door behind them.

MR. TER HORST: They were thinking about moving the Wall Street Journal booth. (Laughter.)

Q What is happening is that at the initiation of General Haig, a feasibility study has been run on the prospects of looking ahead actually, to see where a pool might be put if such a decision ever came about, and that study has not been completed yet but one thing I can assure you is that the press room will remain where it is.

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Q Jerry, do you have any idea when you might have some kind of response to give to these groups around the country?

MR. TER HORST: I don't know. Obviously the need is soon, because these well-meaning people should not be kept in the dark. At the same time there are obviously considerations as to whether and where a pool could be built. As I said, it obviously will not be done by President Ford with Government money.

Q Jerry, one of the offers is not from a group of citizens raising funds but at least one of them is from a swimming pool association or something like that. Is that also under consideration?

MR. TER HORST: I have forgotten the name of the group itself, but there are many people in the pool building industry and the sports equipment industry who have offered to be of help -- both technical and financial help -- and all of that is under study.

At the present time there is no decision on it one way or the other. As I say, we will have to wait until we get this study completed and then I will be able to report to you on it.

Q Is the feasibility study for an outdoor pool?

MR. TER HORST: No, it is a wide open feasibility study as to whether, or where or when or how or even why a pool should be considered.

Q Jerry, what were the tests actually? Can you give a rough idea of what tests he was given?

MR. TER HORST: You mean this morning with Dr. Lukash?

Q Yes.

MR. TER HORST: Why don't we see if it is possible to ask Dr. Lukash to come out and he can describe it more adequately. This way I am going to be doing it piecemeal fashion and not very adequately.

Q Could I ask one final thing on the pool business? The President said the other day when he was talking to his neighbors that he might be going over to the University Club to swim.

MR. TER HORST: Yes, the University Club of which the President is a member has made its facilities available to him and that may be one of the closest clubs to the White House with

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swimming facilities. But I am not aware that he has used those facilities at this point.

Q The YMCA did send a letter over. It is right next door and they have offered to have a private Presidential locker room and all of that.

MR. TER HORST: Several clubs in the city and the area with pools have made similar offers to the President and he has thanked them all for their interest and for their willingness to let him use their facilities, but at the present time he is relying on calisthenics and golf, and I guess that is where it will stand for a while.

Q He hasn't been jogging or anything, has he?

MR. TER HORST: Not to my knowledge.

Q Has he used or have any interest in using the bowling alley across the street?

MR. TER HORST: I can't tell you. I am not aware that he has. I don't think he has used it yet.

Q Jerry, why did he feel it was necessary to call Mr. Nixon the other day on the Rockefeller appointment?

MR. TER HORST: That was a courtesy call. He felt that the former President would like to know whom he was picking as his nominee for Vice President so he decided to call San Clemente.

Q Do you think he will continue to do this sort of thing?

MR. TER HORST: I think from time to time that he will call the former President and tell him on occasions of importance where he would rather have the former President hear it from him than read it on the tickers or hear it on the air.

Q Is there an element of consultation?

MR. TER HORST: No, there is no element of consultation to this process. It is strictly that the President believes that it would be a nice thing to do, to inform the former President of decisions of that nature, and it is very similar to what President Nixon did with former President Johnson and former President Johnson with General Eisenhower.

Q Jerry, sometimes those kinds of information to former Presidents would include briefings on critical world situations or critical domestic situations. Will this get into the briefing stage at all?

MR. TER HORST: I can't answer that. I don't know. Under the Transition Act certain housekeeping and liaison work is provided for, but I will have to check out and find out what the status of that kind of thing is.

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Q Does the President want Nixon to campaign for him?

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MR. TER HORST: The President is not running for anything right now. It is his attitude that the best politics is right here in the White House attending to the affairs of the Government.

Q Jerry, you issued a statement yesterday on his behalf saying he probably would run in 1976. Later in the day we had a chance to talk with him. He seemed very interested in not saying this himself, so were you speaking in his behalf or authorized to issue that statement? Has he backed away from it?

MR. TER HORST: I hope never to come out here and not speak with his authorization.

Q Is he backing away from that?

MR. TER HORST: No, sir. I can assure you of that.

Q Jerry, I am sure you remember this. Congressman Reuss in the last week of the Nixon Presidency went to the matter of President Roosevelt bringing in Representative Simpson and Frank Knox and others into the Cabinet and Reuss proposed that President Nixon and/or Ford do that by bringing in some Democrats, especially into, he mentioned, the Treasury Department, the Office of Management and Budget and the Council of Economic Advisers.

My question is: Has it been considered to bring in some Democrats, especially in those economic posts?

MR. TER HORST: The President obviously has a Cabinet in place right now, but the consideration of futhre appointments will not be limited solely to members of the Republican Party, nor will it be limited solely to the question of men. But, I can't give you any more on that except to say that is the President's attitude toward that subject.

Q May I ask what the President's role will be in the Congressional campaign?

MR. TER HORST: The President, obviously, will not be able to perform a political role in the 1974 Congressional campaigns to the extent that he planned to do as Vice President. I cannot rule political appearances in or out because at this point nothing has been scheduled and obviously the President is very much concerned with the outcome of those elections.

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He would like to obtain, if possible, a Republican majority in both Chambers, as he has always campaigned for when he was in the Congress. On the other hand, it is quite likely that if Governor Rockefeller were confirmed anytime before the election day that a good many political appearances will be undertaken by Governor Rockefeller.

Q While we are talking about Governor Rockefeller, what specific assignments is the President going to give Governor Rockefeller? There is a story today that he would be heading the Domestic Council and leading the fight against inflation. Has that been discussed, and what assignments will he be given?

MR. TER HORST: The President and the Governor have not had an opportunity to engage in a discussion of his future role to any extent at all except a pledge by both men to work with each other closely and to be supportive of each other's roles, the one as the President and the other as Vice President. I imagine that will emerge as they get a chance to talk more.

Q Then is that story incorrect?

MR. TER HORST: No, I wouldn't say that story is incorrect. I would say the story may be premature. It may not shape up exactly as the story indicates, but I think you can count on the fact that the President is going to rely very heavily on Governor Rockefeller's expertise not only as Governor of a large and industrialized State, but also on his expertise in foreign affairs.

Q Has anybody on behalf of the President discussed this with Mr. Rockefeller?

MR. TER HORST: I can't answer. I don't know.

Q I can't understand how the story could be correct if they haven't discussed it.

MR. TER HORST: I didn't say the story was correct. I said it may be premature because I can't give you hard guidance on what role precisely Governor Rockefeller would play as Vice President.

Q Jerry, is the President considering a proposed tax increase?

MR. TER HORST: Can you be more specific?

Q Gasoline tax of 10 cents per gallon?

MR. TER HORST: Yes, I saw that report on the wires this morning, and I have a comment I can give you on that.

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I believe the wire reports referred to a 10 cent per gallon excise tax on gasoline. The President and his economic advisers are reviewing a whole range of possible ideas and recommendations on the economic front, and this is one of those proposals that are under study. But I have to emphasize that everything is under consideration as to what can be done to balance the budget, reduce inflation, increase revenue and increase fuel conservation practices.

So, I would not recommend that you single out this one particular idea as more likely than any other. It is one of those proposals that is under consideration, along with many others.

Q Jerry, this is a switch in policy because last winter Secretary Simon definitely ruled out any gasoline increase. Now you are saying it is under study.

MR. TER HORST: Along with many, many other things because the Ford Administration is determined that it is going to look not only at previous proposals but is looking at the problem of inflation, fiscal restraint, high interest rates, and the whole gamut of economic problems in a package, which in hopes of devising a policy that will be useful in attacking all these problems simultaneously. This is one of the proposals under consideration.

Q Jerry, this report included offsetting tax reductions for low-income and middle-income people. Is that part of what you are talking about?

MR. TER HORST: I am not familiar with the details of this specific proposal, but it is, as I said, under consideration along with many, many other things. I caution you against singling it out as the one most likely to emerge because at this point we don't know.

Q Can you give us any others that are under consideration?

MR. TER HORST: I cannot at this point because it would serve no useful purpose to do that.

Q The Veterans Administration has begun a \$50 million project for a nationwide computer system. I understand that John Moss has informed the President that it represents a danger to the privacy to veterans. Is the Committee on Privacy looking into that?

MR. TER HORST: Yes, the Committee on Privacy, which President Ford headed as Vice President and on which Philip Buchen served as staff director before he became Legal Counsel, is very much interested in that Veterans Administration computerization program, and one thing can be said at the outset, I think.

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As they look at it, their objective is to make sure that it will in no way invade the privacy of any individual whether they are veterans or nonveterans. It will not be used for that purpose if it remains.

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Q Jerry, are there any plans being considered for the melding or blending of the expert staff that Governor Rockefeller is bringing to the White House with the President's staff so they can be maximized but still not overlap the functions of the President's staff?

MR. TER HORST: Well, I think it is a little early to say precisely how that would work, but I think traditionally -- and I am sure President Ford felt that way when he was Vice President -- that there will be a discernable and clear d vision between the two staffs, one for the President and one for the Vice President. There will be obviously a great deal of cooperation between members of the respective staffs.

Q Jerry, can I get some clarification on what it is that is under consideration? Is it a 10 cent a gallon excise tax or is it an increase of up to 10 cents a gallon and is it something that would be applied, under consideration for fiscal 1975 or for fiscal 1976?

MR. TER HORST: Ted, you are asking me about details I can't supply you, but the point is it is only one of many proposals, and I understand this specific one referred to is 10 cents a gallon additional excise tax.

Q On top of what, do you know?

MR. TER HORST: I do not know even what the present tax is, but the point is again, this is just one of many proposals in the mill, and it seems to me that Secretary Simon said this morning on one of the news shows that such a tax was not under consideration at the present time; that is, for installation at this point.

Q That would seem to conflict with what you said.

MR. TER HORST: No, the question had to do with, was it likely to come up right away, and I understand that his answer was it is not under consideration in that light. The point is it is one of the things under consideration and obviously people are for it and against it. There is no unanimity of opinion on any of these proposals.

Q Has anyone in the White House advisers who are considering this, tried this out currently with Wilbur Mills or Russell Long who have been somewhat opposed to this idea?

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MR. TER HORST: I have no idea. I can't tell you. All I can say is it is one of many proposals, on ways to fight inflation, and help fuel conservation, that are being considered. Afterall, we do have a winter coming up, and we may very well have a fuel problem unless we pay close attention to it.

Q Is it fair to say that all elements of the Nixon Administration's economic policies are now being re-evaluated, including proposals that may have been discarded during that Administration?

MR. TER HORST: We have said that before.

Q The whole thing is under review?

MR. TER HORST: Yes, President Ford intends to make his own review of what he thinks is best needed for the interest of the country.

Q There is a report out this morning on the revised GNP second quarter which shows inflation almost a full percentage point worse than the Government estimated about a month ago. Does the President have any comment on this apparent worsening of the inflation?

MR. TER HORST: I have no personal comment to give you directly from the President, but I know that both he and his economic advisers again regard this as a sign of the critical size of the problem, and it just lends urgency and weight to the priority he has to give this subject.

Q Jerry, has Mr. Buchen indicated how he might rule on John Ehrlichman's request to have access to his files?

MR. TER HORST: As I said yesterday -- I don't think I said it here, I think I said it in the hallway to several who inquired about it -- the Office of Legal Counsel of the White House, meaning Mr. Buchen, has under study this very question of access to Watergaterelated materials in the custody of the White House staff, such as Mr. Ehrlichman, have been desirous to get at or look at, and he is in consultation with Mr. Ehrlichman's attorneys on this point, and they have agreed to give the Special Counsel a couple of days to see whether he wants to continue the old policy or whether a new one would better suit the situation.

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Q Following up, when will Mr. Buchen be out here to brief us?

MR. TER HORST: Mr. Buchen is still, as he told me this morning, trying to get a handle on his office, and when he has something to say specifically on those points, he said he would be delighted to talk to the press.

Q Two weeks ago, or it is getting on to two two weeks now, someone in the White House informally approached Justice for a ruling on who owned Nixon's tapes, and someone at Justice informally responded to the White House and on that basis a ruling was issued by the White House Special Counsel that the tapes belonged to the President.

Again today, who made the informal approach from the White House and who responded from Justice?

MR. TER HORST: Again today, this matter is under study by Mr. Buchen and when he has a decision to report, either I will report it to you or Mr. Buchen will.

Q In other words, he can't find out what physical person asked and who responded?

MR. TER HORST: Next question.

Q Jerry, what is the President doing with the transition report and can you tell us what is in it?

MR. TER HORST: I wish I could tell you what is in it, but I don't know. He has gotten the reports of his transitional staff and he is in the process now of studying them and trying to determine just precisely how he wants to restructure the White House.

Q Is there any time limit on that, when he will act on it?

MR. TER HORST: No. I do know he wants to do it very soon and I would hope we are only a week or so away from finding out. We may find it out in piecemeal form rather than a total package because I think as he makes decisions on aspects of it, if they fall into the pattern he wants to establish overall, then he will move on those rather than hold them up, but we will have to wait and see.

Q The report is finished?

MR. TER HORST: The report of the transitional staff has been presented to the President.

Q Is Ron Ziegler still on the White House payroll or has he been switched to the payroll of the former President under the staff allowances given to him?

MR. TER HORST: As you know, that falls under the Transitional Act. At the present time, I believe Mr. Ziegler is still carried on the White House payroll for purposes of transition. As you know, he is in California with the former President.

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I believe the Transition Act covers a period of approximately six months.

Q Is it likely Ziegler will be on the White House payroll for six months?

MR. TER HORST: Along with other support people, the Transition Act provides the former President -- I guess Secret Service don't necessarily come under the White House payroll but certainly under the Federal payroll.

Q Jerry, on another point here, has the Vice President actually started campaigning now or will he wait for confirmation? We notice he went to dinner in Rhode Island last night. Can you give me any idea what he is going to do?

MR. TER HORST: I think really you should talk to the Governor's people about plans in that regard.

Q Can he campaign effectively before --

MR. TER HORST: I think he would have to make a judgment on his own whether he could campaign effectively while undergoing confirmation hearings because for one thing, the schedule of the hearings would probably interfere with a terribly active campaign schedule.

Q What is the President's attitude about him campaigning before confirmation?

MR. TER HORST: I haven't asked him. I don't know.

Q Mr. Mills said today chances for any compromise on national health insurance seem to be out for this session. Did he inform the President of that yesterday, and does the President have any reaction?

MR. TER HORST: I asked the President this morning about that and the President feels as he said in his joint address to Congress last week, that he really is desirous of getting the greatest amount of cooperation he can from Congress and would like to see both the Congress and the Administration together write a good health bill in 1974 before this Congress adjourns.

Obviously the timetable is running against that desire but the President still remains hopeful that Chairman Mills and the Ways and Means Committee nonetheless and despite the problems of the Congressional schedule will still be able to take up health insurance before Congress adjourns.

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Q Would the President favor a lame duck session of Congress if the bill hasn't been passed before then?

MR. TER HORST: I can't give you an answer to that because I haven't asked him, but I would think he would like to avoid such if it were at all possible.

I have some more announcements to make. Somehow we got sidetracked on all the questions and having been out there so long and up here so recently, I am more interested in the questions sometimes than the announcements too, or had been.

Let me finish up with what I have to do.

Incidentally, I have a note handed to me that there are approximately 135 Congressman in the photo session today. I will provide a complete list later.

Q He is doing them individually?

MR. TER HORST: Yes, individually.

Q In the Oval Office?

MR. TER HORST: Yes, in the Oval Office.

Q Did you say approximately 135?

MR. TER HORST: Yes, approximately. We will have to do the counting after we get a firm list.

Tomorrow the President will meet at 10:30 with Syrian Foreign Minister Abdal Halim Kahddam. The Foreign Minister will be meeting with Secretary Kissinger today and the Secretary will host a luncheon for him at the State Department. The Foreign Minister is in Washington as part of this continuing consultation process that the United States is conducting with parties to discuss and explore the next steps toward a Middle East peace settlement.

As you recall, the President met last week with King Hussein and with Egyptian Foreign Minister Fahmy.

I believe I indicated earlier that we might have a signing ceremony for the pension reform bill tomorrow. That has been cancelled on the Hill because it couldn't be set up in time. Some of the people who wished to be at the ceremony could not be there Friday. That will be set up later and when we get a date,I will give it to you.

Q Jerry, since the President has been meeting with a lot of Arabs, I wonder if there is any plans to meet with any high-ranking official of the Israeli government?

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MR. TER HORST: The President hopes to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Rabin early in September, although we don't have a date to give you yet.

Q Do you have a hard and fast day on the press conference?

MR. TER HORST: I don't have a hard and fast day to give you but on background I think you can expect a press conference next week.

Q Will it be in the evening?

MR. TER HORST: That is still being decided too on background.

I have a few other announcements. The President is transmitting to the Senate for its advice and consent an extradition treaty with Australia. I think you have the President's letter on that. We will have the Secretary of State's report available in the Press Office if you want it.

The President is acknowledging the retirement of Pat Mehaffy as Chief Judge of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals effective today and we will post information on that.

The President is accepting the resignation of John T. Connor as a member of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation effective today. We will post information on that.

The President has signed H.R. 15544 which is the annual appropriations bill for the Department of Treasury, the U.S. Postal Service, and the Executive Office of the President. We will pull some details together on this bill and post them for you.

Q How much money?

MR. TER HORST: I don't know but we will get it for you. Some of you earlier had asked about messages from foreign leaders to President Ford and today President Ford received a very warm personal letter from Chou En-Lai of the People's Republic of China. I have no details I can give you on the letter, obviously.

Q Jerry, could I go back to politics that you mentioned before. You said the President wanted a Republican majority in the House and Senate. How does that square with his statement in his joint address saying Americans should elect Democrats who supported him in the fight against inflation? How do you reconcile these two statements?

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At the same time -- and I don't see any conflict -the President is a Republican and has always campaigned for a Republican majority, and I am sure that he would apply the same test to Republican candidates.

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Q Jerry, at one point you said that when the Cyprus crisis was over, Secretary Kissinger would come and explain what he detailed the handling of it. Is that still on track?

MR. TER HORST: Yes, but the track keeps slipping because the crisis continues.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Mr. Press Secretary.

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(12:31 P.M. EDT)

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