
AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH JERRY TER HORST

AT 11:57 A.M. EDT

AUGUST 29, 1974

THURSDAY

MR. TER HORST: I have a lot of things for you. As you know, Leonard Woodcock's plane was late. He had to land in Baltimore. When he does arrive he will see the President, so you will be aware of it. The photo pool is already standing by for that.

Q Will we wait for that?

MR. TER HORST: I don't think he will come out here, but you may be able to arrange to catch him in the driveway.

I think we posted the schedule for today. Before the posted schedule, the President met with Dr. Lukash this morning for about 15 minutes. Dr. Lukash said this is the first of what he wants to institute, sort of a once a week 15 minute chat with the President to check on his weight, see how he is doing on the calorie count. You know he is trying to bring the President's weight down a little. He also told the President today that his contact lenses are ready for him and they are going to have to arrange a time for the fitting. That was about it. There was no physical examination, it was just a conversation between the doctor and the President.

The President met this morning with General Haig, Jack Marsh, Secretary Kissinger, and myself at about ten o'clock this morning. As you know, the President and Mrs. Ford dropped in on a meeting in the Cabinet Room with the top level women appointees in the Administration. You have gotten a pool report on that. The President expressed his appreciation for the contributions they have made to the Administration and assured them he would increase the number of women in the top levels of Government.

Secretary Butz met with the President this morning for about 30 minutes in the Oval Office. They discussed the domestic food situation and the world food situation as well as steps that will have to be taken by the Department of Agriculture to increase the crop harvest or maximize the crop harvest this fall and stimulate domestic food production for the 1975 crop year. The President and Secretary Butz also discussed plans for the World Food Conference scheduled for November 5 to 16 in Rome under the sponsorship of the United Nations.

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The President wanted me to announce that he has designated Secretary Butz as Chairman of the United States delegation to the World Food Conference.

Q When is that conference?

MR. TER HORST. It is November 5 to 16 in Rome.

Q In October?

MR. TER HORST. November.

I should also tell you that Secretary of State Kissinger plans to give the opening address to that conference on the first day, that would be November 5 in Rome.

The meeting with the United Auto Workers' President, Leonard Woodcock, is another, as you know, in the series the President is having with labor leaders on an individual basis. He met with George Meany on the 13th, President of the AFL-CIO; on the 16th with Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons, and on the 22nd with the Seafarers International President, Paul Hall. We will try to give you a fill afterwards on what they discussed and, as I mentioned, it is possible that Mr. Woodcock may be available to you outside.

At 2:30 then, the President will meet with Counsellor Dean Burch and at 3 o'clock this afternoon, the President will meet with a group of State legislative leaders and we will post that list once we determine precisely who will be here.

You will recall the President met earlier with groups of Governors, Mayors and County Government officials and this is another meeting in that series which the President wants to discuss in detail with them, Federal-State relationships and hopes for improvement and further cooperation, revenue sharing and other matters they may want to raise.

Q What is the purpose of the Burch meeting?

MR. TER HORST: The purpose of the Burch meeting is to discuss the 1974 political campaign.

Q Is that 4 o'clock appointment still on, Jerry, with the Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister?

MR. TER HORST: Let me finish with these announcements.

At 4 o'clock, the President will meet with Saudi Arabian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Omar Saqqaf. Minister Saqqaf also will be meeting with Secretary Kissinger at the State Department today and the Secretary will be hosting a luncheon and dinner for Minister Saqqaf. He is in Washington as part of the continuing consultation process the United States is conducting with the parties in the Middle East to discuss and explore the next steps toward a settlement there.

You will recall that on Monday we announced that the President and the Secretary of State would also be meeting about September 10 with the Israeli Prime Minister Rabin.

Then this afternoon the President is also meeting with Foreign Minister Rabasa of Mexico. That is at 5 o'clock.

Q Will Saqqaf be out here?

MR. TER HORST: No, I don't think so.

Q Will any of us have an opportunity to interview Saqqaf?

MR. TER HORST. I would think anything of that nature would be arranged by the State Department.

Q How do you spell that?

MR. TER HORST: His name is Emilio Rabasa.

Q You said he is an Ambassador?

MR. TER HORST: No, he is the Foreign Minister.

As some of you may know, Foreign Minister Rabasa is in Washington to meet with the Secretary of State and this meeting gives him a chance also to meet with the new President and to become acquainted and for the President to personally reaffirm America's desire for continued good relations with Mexico and reaffirm a policy that the President is very desirous of continuing, and that is ways of improving and expanding the dialogue with our hemispheric neighbors.

Q May I ask a question on that, Jerry?

Will they be specifically talking about using Mexico as an intermediary in any way with Cuba?

MR. TER HORST: I have no guidance on that, Jerry; you might try the State Department on that.

I have some other announcements. The President has declared an emergency for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as a result of the drought there. You have a release on that, I believe. If you have other questions on that I suggest you take them to the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration for details.

The President has signed H.R. 15155, the public works bill. We have given you a Presidential statement on this bill and we will post a complete list of the provisions and projects contained in it. In terms of funding in the bill, there are different kinds and varieties of funding, and it will be in the posting, so I think you will get your answers there.

Q Jerry, on that deferral that he says is in this bill, is that a new process and, if it is, can you tell us any of the mechanics and how it works?

MR. TER HORST: Well, the posting statement, the Presidential statement, Bob, I think touches on that. As you know, this is under the Congressional Budget Reform Act and it provides either for deferral or rescindment of projects and in this case, the President is asking for a deferral.

The precise amounts and programs which may be deferred have not yet been determined but, as you note, the amount is about -- I think it is \$80 million.

Let me finish with the announcements, will you please, before we go to questions. Otherwise I might slip up here and miss something.

Last Saturday when the President signed the legislation creating a Council on Wage and Price Stability, he said that Washington must provide prompt and aggressive action in the fight against inflation and shortly I hope to be able to distribute to you a Presidential statement naming the members of the Wage and Price Council.

I can give you their names now and you will have the text of the Presidential statement in a moment. The President is Kenneth Rush, his Counsellor for Economic Policy, to serve as Chairman of the Wage and Price Council, and there will be seven other members of the Administration on the Council and they are Treasury Secretary William Simon,

Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz, Commerce Secretary Frederick Dent, Labor Secretary Peter Brennan, OMB Director Roy Ash, Consumer Affairs Counsellor Virginia Knauer, and Mrs. Anne Armstrong, Counsellor to the President.

The President intends also to name an advisory committee to the Council shortly, drawing on the best talent that he can find in labor and industry and, when we have that, we will announce it. It is not yet ready to announce. But the details and the Presidential statement and a repetition of the names are in the Presidential statement which we will distribute when it is ready. It is being prepared now.

Also today I want to announce that on Sunday -- actually for release at 6:00 P.M. Saturday -- we will have available the President's official photograph which has finally been prepared. As you know, this is the official photograph which goes to all Government installations in this country and the foreign embassies and so forth abroad.

It was made by David Kennerly, the personal photographer to the President, in his White House Oval Office. Dave, why don't you hold up the picture so they can see what it is going to look like? I have some more details we can give you on it. That will be the official photograph.

Q Tell us about it Dave.

MR. TER HORST: It was made by Dave in the Oval Office; he used existing light from a window directly behind the President's desk, he tells me.

Lithograph copies of the photograph are now on order and, as you know, the Republican National Committee pays for the cost of this. It is not a Government-borne expense that is for distribution of that type.

Q Is this for distribution to Government offices as well as RNC?

MR. TER HORST: Yes.

Q Whose picture now hangs in Government offices all over the world? Is President Nixon's picture still there?

MR. TER HORST: I don't know. I haven't been around to check yet.

Q They have a picture of taking him down in the Middle East. They took him down the same day he resigned.

MR. TER HORST: I also want to announce -- the President touched on this in his news conference yesterday and he asked me to tell you that he wants the Committee on Privacy, which he headed as Vice President, to continue.

It will continue for an indefinite future and the new Vice President, as he said, after confirmation, will be designated committee chairman. In the meantime, the supervision of the Council and operations of it will be exercised under the Domestic Council and Douglas Metz, who has been working with Philip Buchen who was counsel for that committee prior to President Ford's swearing in, will formally succeed Mr. Buchen as Domestic Director, but he will work under the Domestic Council until the new Vice President takes over.

Let me see if I have covered the situation here.

I think I am ready for your questions.

Q May we have some details on the Butz conference, Jerry? I take it Butz is staying on. Is that true? He is staying on indefinitely? Is the President satisfied with his policies of recent months and so forth? Can you tell us anything at all about it?

MR. TER HORST: The President has asked Secretary Butz to stay on as he has all the other Members of the Cabinet. Secretary Butz is staying on. The President obviously has named him to head a very important conference in November and I think that indicates that the President expects Secretary Butz to continue to play a very useful and continuing role in the Administration.

Q Jerry, my question deals with the following two sentences in this week's TIME magazine. When Rockefeller arrived, he and Ford made a joint call to Nixon to inform him of the decision. Replied the former President, "A big man for a big job." End of quote.

Presuming this quote is accurate -- I have a two-part question -- first, when America was assured -- in an excellent speech, incidentally -- that the long nightmare is over, why did President Ford make this call to the principal architect of that nightmare who is an unindicted co-conspirator?

MR. TER HORST: I am not here to comment on newspaper and magazine clippings, but --

Q Is it true he made a call to Nixon?

MR. TER HORST: Will you let me finish? As I said before in this room several times, the President made a courtesy call and Governor Rockefeller also talked on the telephone, and the courtesy call was for the purpose of informing the former President that President Ford has selected Nelson Rockefeller to be his Vice Presidential running mate.

Q The second part of my question: If the President has not decided whether to grant amnesty to President Nixon in view of the massive evidence which caused Nixon to resign, what kind of new evidence would Mr. Ford need to withhold the pardon?

MR. TER HORST: I think you all heard the President address this question in great detail and I thought rather explicitly yesterday, and I think I will leave it exactly in his words and where he left it.

Q Jerry, on the Butz conference, was the subject of export controls on U.S. crops raised?

MR. TER HORST: I am not certain. I know they reviewed the entire situation and the world markets. I would presume they did cover that. Not having been in the meeting, I can't tell you that.

Q Did the Secretary give the President any final assessments on the drought damage in the Midwest?

MR. TER HORST: I am sure they did.

Q That was in the news conference yesterday.

MR. TER HORST: I was going to say Secretary Butz went into great length in the news conference yesterday to explain the effect of the drought and that America will not be running out of food this fall.

Q Jerry, I may have missed the answer on this; if I did, I am sorry. Is Attorney General Saxbe expressing Ford policy in his statements on crime? Maybe you have given the answer on this. I just haven't caught up with it.

MR. TER HORST: You mean on the Secretary's comments on the radio program the other day? Or was it a press conference?

Q The hard line position he is taking on crime. Is this the Ford position?

MR. TER HORST: Well, President Ford's position is essentially as he put it to the Congress in his address to the Joint Session two weeks ago or thereabouts, in which he said that obviously no matter how many policemen -- I am paraphrasing in my own words -- no matter how many policemen or law enforcement officers we have, we will never solve the problem of increased crime until this problem is tackled in the family and in the home.

I think I can also say that in the matter I think there was a reference made by Mr. Saxbe to the possibility of a requirement of the national police force, and I can assure you that that will not be done by the Ford Administration.

Q Is the President put off then by what Mr. Saxbe is saying?

MR. TER HORST: I am not aware of that, no. I can say Mr. Saxbe was speaking as he viewed it from his standpoint as Attorney General, but speculation or indications that there would be any kind of national police force is not anything that President Ford has --

Q During the Nixon Administration there was evidence that Saxbe -- at least some people thought -- put his foot in his mouth once in a while. I wondered if this was another indication of his foot-in-the-mouth disease.

MR. TER HORST: I think you should address that to Mr. Saxbe.

Q Well, you are saying then that the President has no intention of having a national police force?

MR. TER HORST: Absolutely not.

Q Another point, Jerry, which the Attorney General mentioned -- I think it was yesterday -- that it was time to go after the criminals, to put the criminals in jail, that sort of thing. The criminals were committing crimes, not other people. Does that fit in?

MR. TER HORST: I am certain that if criminals are committing crimes, they should be put in jail, and I am surprised they are out.

Q What is the President's position on capital punishment?

MR. TER HORST: I am not aware of any new position he has taken or old one either, for that matter. Let me get back to you on that.

Q Jerry, the President said that he thinks the country favors, or feels that President Nixon had suffered enough. Can you tell me how the President knows the country feels that way? Has he taken a sampling, or is this osmosis?

MR. TER HORST: As the President said yesterday, and we all heard his statement there and I will stand by the way he put it, the President feels that the country itself is not in a revengeful mood, but as to the legal responsibilities that may confront the President in his role as Chief Executive Officer of the land, all those options, as he said, are open to him, and he intends to retain them, and exercise them, if necessary, depending on what action the prosecutors take.

Q Is he trying to lead public opinion on the subject? He has not taken a poll?

MR. TER HORST: I think that is a judgment you would have to make, Helen.

Q Jerry, may I follow that? Has the White House received a large number of telegrams, or letters, or telephone calls on this issue?

MR. TER HORST: I don't know. Let me find out and see if we can give you a reading.

Q Jerry, has the President asked Mr. Buchen to advise him at what point any action on his part would be appropriate?

MR. TER HORST: In regard to what?

Q In regard to President Nixon's legal situation. The President did not make it clear yesterday as to at what point he might or might not act. He said "when it comes to me", but didn't say when that would be.

MR. TER HORST: I am certain the President would rely very strongly on advice from his legal counsel on such matters when they reach him.

Q The President has just named eight people, Cabinet officers, very senior people in his Administration, to his new Council on Wage-Price Stability. How can these people, with presumably very busy schedules, take on the added responsibility of monitoring the inflationary trends in the economy?

MR. TER HORST: I am sure the Council will have a small and limited staff which will do the work for them. But he chose these people specifically because they are the operating line officers of the Government in areas which deal directly with the matter of wages and price actions throughout industry and agriculture, and as they might affect Federal revenue and Federal programming, and for that reason, he designated the individuals I named.

Q Jerry, in regard to your statement that the Cabinet has been asked to stay on, is the President conducting any recruiting program, and who is his talent scout? Is that being done under the same format that was set up under the Nixon Administration, or is some special effort being made to get qualified people who might come in under the Ford Administration?

MR. TER HORST: As you know, Governor Scranton of Pennsylvania was a member of the transition team that President Ford designated to help him consider ways of restructuring the White House staff in a fashion that he would like to see for his own use, and he has asked Governor Scranton to stay on and work on the project of recruiting top talents and top people throughout the country for positions in the Government once the President determines what his new structure is going to be.

And so that job right now is in Governor Scranton's hands.

Q Do you know if Governor Rockefeller's organization is being used in this way?

MR. TER HORST: I am not aware of that, although I am sure the President has not restricted Governor Scranton's access to any people he thinks might be useful to be considered as top talents.

Q Could we take it that with Rush's chairmanship and the fact that Simon is going to be one of the rank and file members, that the President has rejected the transition team's suggestion that the Treasury Secretary be the principal spokesman on economic matters?

MR. TER HORST: No. If the transition team's recommendation to that effect before the President is accurate -- and I can't dispute it nor can I confirm it at this point because I have not gone through all the recommendations -- but assuming it is accurate, Jerry, I see no conflict there at all because the wage-price operation, the operation of the Cost of Living Council is only part of the program.

I don't see any conflict at all.

Q Jerry, do you have any idea when you will have the list of names of the delegates who will be attending these pre-conferences, economic conference sessions?

MR. TER HORST: Yes. I think we have a listing of economists that will be going up shortly, sometime today on this one particular meeting that Mr. Seidman is organizing.

Q What about the others? Will they be coming?

MR. TER HORST: As soon as we get the names we will post them all.

Q Has the President contacted or been in conversation with Mr. Timmons of CAB regarding his junketing around with an official of Trans World Airlines?

MR. TER HORST: I am not aware he has.

Q Is there any reason why Mr. Greenspan is not a member of the Wage and Price Council?

MR. TER HORST: As you know, his role with the Council of Economic Advisers is an advisory function, and Mr. Greenspan feels very strongly that the Council should not get into operating line functions, and he wants the Council to perform even more of its long standing traditional role of serving as an economic advisory body to the President.

Q Jerry, I wanted to follow up Helen's question, if I may. That is, I am wondering if the President feels that conditional amnesty should apply to Mr. Nixon as well as the draft deserters, so that, for example, Mr. Nixon might begin to earn amnesty if he needs it, by selling Key Biscayne and giving the money to the Government to offset the cost of Mr. Jaworski's investigation?

In other words, what I am asking is does the President feel that there should be a different standard for young men as for resigned Presidents in the tradition of rank hath its privileges?

MR. TER HORST: I think, Les, the President spoke very well yesterday on the whole issue and I suggest you reread what he said at the news conference. If that is insufficient, perhaps you might like to bring the questions up at a later press conference.

Q On the Today Show, I believe, Mr. Saxbe said on the leniency issue nobody would be going to jail if they returned to this country. It would be just some form of duty. Is that the President's decision, that nobody will be going to jail?

MR. TER HORST: The President has made no decisions. Saturday the President is due to receive from the Attorney General and the Secretary of Defense, through them from other agencies of Government, including the Selective Service headquarters and public groups with an interest in the amnesty question, a set of recommendations on how he can proceed on his desire to make it possible for draft dodgers and military deserters to return to the country through some form of earned reentry.

So I can't give you any guidance at all because the President has not yet received the recommendations, and when he does receive them, obviously it will require some time for him to study them before he can make a decision.

Q An 87-part question. How was the President pleased with his news conference yesterday? When does he plan another one, and what will the format be?

MR. TER HORST: The President, I think, was pleased with his news conference yesterday, as it was his first one. I cannot give you a reading as to when the next one will be, except as he said, this was the first.

I do know he plans to hold them often, and the next one will be soon, but I can't give you a date.

Q What will the format be?

MR. TER HORST: As to the format, we have not locked into any one specific format for all time.

Q In appointing these members to the Wage and Price Council, did the President give them any special instructions with respect to wage and price guidelines, apart from the five goals he set out last week?

MR. TER HORST: The subject of guidelines has not come up yet and if the Council wishes to tackle that, I am sure they will have to come back and see the President.

Q They would have to come back and see the President before they could establish any guidelines?

MR. TER HORST: Very obviously, yes.

Q Did he give them any special instructions at all in the course of their appointments apart from what we have been hearing about, the five goals?

MR. TER HORST: The President intends to meet with the Council at an early date. They want to review their recommendations to him on the methods of operating and so on. So we may be hearing more about that as time goes on.

But today I can only give you the names of the people he has just appointed.

Q Jerry, can you tell us anything about yesterday's meeting on Project Independence?

MR. TER HORST: I think I have a note here I made. Let me see if I can find that, Don.

Q Jerry, are we going to know when Woodcock leaves the office?

MR. TER HORST: Yes, you will know that. We will tell you.

I am sorry; I didn't bring that with me, Don. I thought I had.

Q Not much came out of it?

MR. TER HORST: No; not much came out of it. It was an exploratory meeting at this stage and I can get back to you with more details later.

Q On the Preliminary sessions to the Economic Council, do you have any locations yet where they may be? The preliminary sub-summits?

MR. TER HORST: I don't know and Mr. Seidman addressed that at his briefing the other day, I believe, and as soon as we get the sites, the times, the dates, the names of the full participants, we will try to get it out to you as fast as we can determine it.

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Q Will the President talk to Mr. al'Saqqaf about Saudi Arabian output?

MR. TER HORST: I am certain that would come up in the course of their discussion.

Q What will he say?

MR. TER HORST: We will try to give you a fill-in on as much of it as we can on that meeting.

Q Jerry, beyond what the President said yesterday on the matter of possible immunity for Mr. Nixon, does he have any feeling of the sense of time that should be involved, that there should be a cooling-off period, or it should move as quickly as possible to get it out of the way?

MR. TER HORST: I think I will have to refer you again to the President's news conference and I can give you no further guidance on that.

Q Was the President's switch on Rhodesian chrome a political or philosophical change of heart?

MR. TER HORST: I didn't ask the President. Whether it was philosophical, or however you care to describe it, the fact is there was a change and a significant one and so it is proceeding on that basis.

Q Has the President been in direct contact with any Congressmen to try to persuade them to vote for the ban?

MR. TER HORST: Well, as you know, Bill Timmons, who heads the Legislative Liaison Office, does most of that work for the President and I am sure that once the Administration has taken a position that Mr. Timmons' job is now to see that that position prevails, if possible, in the Congress.

I can give you a little bit of detail, Don Irwin, on the meeting with Simon and Morton and Administrator Sawhill yesterday. They met for about an hour in the Oval Office. They did review in quite a bit of detail the progress they believe they have made to stimulate domestic energy production and to review the progress for developing a long-range strategy for achieving energy independence.

The President urged the group to develop a package of "must" bills that Congress should pass this year before they adjourn and also he urged them, or directed them to develop a set of initiatives on energy conservation and have those for him next week.

Q Jerry, Senator Proxmire took off this morning from the assumption that if Vice President Rockefeller would be in charge of the Administration's anti-inflation program, he said this would be like turning a skunk loose at a family picnic. What is your reaction to that? Would he indeed be in charge of the anti-inflation program?

MR. TER HORST: As the President said yesterday, Governor Rockefeller is a man who possesses unique talents in many fields, not only domestic and in State government but also in areas of foreign policy and in politics and he hopes to use him in all those areas as much as he possibly can.

I think the President's words yesterday clearly indicate that Governor Rockefeller will not be solely and totally and only working in the area of domestic policy.

Q Jerry, to follow that up, you spoke of certain restrictions on Governor Rockefeller's political activities -- you may have answered this before -- is it the President's wish that Governor Rockefeller not do any campaigning until after he is fully confirmed.

MR. TER HORST: It is difficult, obviously, as it was for the President when he was a Vice Presidential nominee, to engage in an active speaking schedule of any kind, including a political one when you are confronted with weeks of scheduled hearings before Congress. And in that respect, the President's words -- and some of you have asked about it -- regarding restraints, or so on, on the Governor's schedule, or activities, was meant to refer to the fact that he has these confirmation hearings to undergo and, therefore, time alone will be a restraining factor on how much time he can deal with politics.

Does that answer your question?

Q Is it understood then, among the two men, that Rockefeller won't do any political campaigning until he has been finally confirmed and sworn in?

MR. TER HORST: No, I can't say that there is an understanding that there will be no political campaigning until he is confirmed but I do think Governor Rockefeller, who is a very astute politician, has been all his life, is very much aware of the atmosphere in which any speeches he makes between now and his confirmation would be regarded. And I would not expect that he would need a great deal of guidance from the President on that.

Bill.

Q The President yesterday didn't refer at all -- I don't think he was asked -- about a tax increase as an inflation-fighting tool. Do you know how he feels about a tax increase?

MR. TER HORST: At this time the President has no plans for requesting tax increases and there are several pragmatic reasons for that, too. One is that the Congress is anxious to adjourn. It is in the final days of its session. There couldn't possibly be any tax increase measures considered by this Congress in the short time that it has on its own schedule so, therefore, it would be very unrealistic, both to expect any such request from the White House or any Congressional consideration of such, and I think Chairman Mills spoke to that the other day in saying that any tax changes at this time would be out of the question.

Q Jerry, how about philosophically for the next Congress, does he think that is a good anti-inflation measure or a bad one?

MR. TER HORST: Well, I think we will have to wait as we go along and move toward the new year. We will have a State of the Union message to present at that time and I think it is a little premature for me to try to give you guidance on the President's plans for fiscal policy changes until we see how we are coming in the battle on inflation.

Q Jerry, one question that deals with your realm --

MR. TER HORST: You have had about three questions. May we try some of the other people who haven't had a one-part question?

Q Jerry, does the President have any opinion on the Government pay raise that is coming up?

MR. TER HORST: He has not taken a position on it yet, as he said yesterday.

Q What is the deadline on that?

MR. TER HORST: I can't tell you what the deadline on that is, but he has it very much under study and he will be acting. And as soon as he does, we will so inform you.

Q Jerry, was the President intentionally ambiguous yesterday on when he might step into the question of former President Nixon's future? Presumably he could exercise his option even before an indictment. Can you give us any sort of guidance on when he might step into the case one way or the other?

MR. TER HORST: I cannot go beyond what he said yesterday because I think he made that point rather clear, at least he did to me, and that is his reference to the fact that at the present time there is nothing pending at all against the former President by way of legal action, so therefore, it would be unwise and untimely for him to hint, or guess, or indicate any method by which he might exercise the option which is his as President.

Q Presumably then this means that he wouldn't instruct Jaworski not to bring an indictment?

MR. TER HORST: As he said yesterday, Jaworski has an independent role to play in this thing.

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Q Jerry, for purposes of background research during the day today, can you give us any guidance on what the topic is in tomorrow's speech in Columbus?

MR. TER HORST: I can't right now. I expect to have the speech ready for you by plane time for those of you going on the trip.

Q Would you know sometime today what the subject is?

MR. TER HORST: It is quite likely I will by the end of the day know what the subject is, but I don't know if I will be able to get it to you in time. The President is still working on the speech now.

But, as you know, this is a commencement address. It is an address to graduating seniors.

Q Can you give us some of the reasoning that went into his keeping his date with the students of Ohio State at such a busy time?

MR. TER HORST: Well, the President obviously felt it was an important speech he wished to make and is taking the time out of a busy schedule to do it.

Q Jerry, is it fair to say that you are not willing at this time to rule out a tax increase on philosophical grounds alone?

MR. TER HORST: Well, I am not the President of the United States and I think that kind of issue is something that the President has to always have before him and a matter of philosophy has to also be put against the requirements of the Federal budget and the nature of the economy.

We have had many Presidents in the past who have been philosophically and completely opposed to tax increases, but there have been times in the past when tax increases and decreases have become necessary, so it is very difficult to talk about it in terms of a philosophical question.

It is just a practical Governmental thing that must be weighed and considered, and then the President using his best judgment and doing what he thinks is best for the country.

Q Jerry, does your statements on the Congressional timetable rule out Presidential support for a post election session of Congress to deal with tax reform, and the economy and other issues?

MR. TER HORST: Well, that of course is a possibility that is open to the President if he so felt, but as he has said, he is very much opposed to a lame duck session of Congress and would much prefer for Congress to complete the work that must be done on the economy and on other matters before they adjourn, and as I think I said here a few days ago, as soon as the Members of Congress are reconvened, he hopes to send to the Hill a brief message containing the priority matters that he has on his mind and which he hopes they will move along on.

Q Jerry, does the President and Vice President-Designate have any sort of understanding that Mr. Rockefeller will campaign in areas where there are vacancies in the Congress rather than against the Democratic incumbents during the confirmation period, that is?

MR. TER HORST: I think the Vice President has addressed that himself, as I recall, as to the nature of the kind of campaigning he might be able to do, but I would have to refer you to Hugh Morrow or the Governor for the questions.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Jerry.

END

(12:36 P.M. EDT)

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH JACK HUSHEN

AT 4:35 P.M. EDT

AUGUST 29, 1974

THURSDAY

MR. HUSHEN: I have a few announcements I want to make. I don't want anybody to think my appearance here live, has anything to do with starting a second briefing.

As we will do it, there are just so many things that have happened we want to make sure you are aware of them.

First, we will post shortly, if we haven't posted already, for the photographers, a left to right on the legislative leaders picture.

Secondly, the writing pool and photo coverage pool for the meeting between the President and Foreign Minister Rabasa of Mexico will consist of the wires, ABC correspondent, Westinghouse, Chicago Sun Times, El Paso Times, Newsweek Magazine, and all photographers and cameras. We may make a special exception, but I will take that up with the leader.

I can give you now the cities where the preliminary summit conferences will be held and we will be posting this later. You already know that the September 5 and the September 11 conferences will be in Washington, D.C.

The Housing and Construction Conference on September 12 will be in Atlanta. The Agriculture and Food Conference on September 13 will be held in Kansas City. The Business and Manufacturing Conference will be held in Pittsburgh on September 16. Natural Resources and Recreation will be held also on September 16 in Dallas.

Q That is an added starter, isn't it?

MR. HUSHEN: No, that has been there.

Q Natural resources and recreation, is that what you said?

MR. HUSHEN: Yes. Let me just explain what happened on that one. When Bill Seidman had his briefing here that day he skipped over that one and we subsequently posted it.

The Health and Welfare Conference will be held September 19 in the District of Columbia. Banking and Finance will be held September 20 in the District of Columbia. The Transportation Conference will also be held on September 20 in Los Angeles. The Economic Conference will be held on September 28 in New York City, and the State and Local Government Conference will be held on September 23 in Washington, D.C.

All of this, of course, is leading up to the summit conference on inflation on September 27 and 28.

Q Jack, one of these was going to spread over two days according to Seidman. Is it now going to be one day?

MR. HUSHEN: I am not sure which one you are referring to. This was just done today, so I think if they were going two days --

Q Here it is. The Business and Manufacturing one was down for the 17th and 18th. Now it is the 16th.

MR. HUSHEN: No, Business and Manufacturing is the 19th in Detroit.

Q You said the 16th in Pittsburgh.

MR. HUSHEN: Oh, I see the problem that Bill Seidman had.

Q Are there two?

MR. HUSHEN: Yes. There is one September 16 in Pittsburgh and one September 19 in Detroit.

Q The same subject?

MR. HUSHEN: Yes, the same subject and the same Cabinet officer, Secretary Dent is chairing it.

Q To refresh my memory, you simply described it as economic. What did you mean by economic in New York City?

Q Are you going to put this out in printed form?

MR. HUSHEN: The economic conference will be chaired by Mr. Greenspan.

Q I see. Thank you.

Q One of the first two that are to take place in the District which the President will chair was the one in which the economists --

Q That is September 5 and 11.

Q What is the difference between that and the economic in New York?

MR. HUSHEN: Well, the one on the fifth, which I am a little more familiar with, is the academicians, business and labor economic experts with the President.

Q And the 11th?

MR. HUSHEN: The one on the 11th is the labor leaders.

I can't go into any greater detail on the one on September 23, although I would think the location of it, being in New York City, it is calling on the economic expertise of individuals who live in that area.

Q So there are 12 meetings I counted.

MR. HUSHEN: Twelve starting with September 5 and ending on September 23.

Q Are all the meetings open to full coverage?

MR. HUSHEN: That is correct.

For those of you who are going to be paying close attention to the summit, Bob Kelly, former public affairs officer for the Interior Department, has joined the White House staff and will be detailed to handle your queries in this area.

Q What is his number?

MR. HUSHEN: He can be reached through Jim Holland's office right now.

We have an addition to the schedule, a name that you are all familiar with, Herb Klein. He will see the President at six o'clock tonight. Herb's title for those of you who don't know it is Vice President of Corporate Relations for Metromedia, Incorporated in Los Angeles. Herb is in town and the President invited him to come in and see him. They have known each other for a long time.

Q Jack, what is the theme of the President's speech tomorrow?

MR. HUSHEN: I specifically checked that to see if I can give you any guidance out here and I cannot. The President is still working on it.

Q Anything on Saqqaf?

MR. HUSHEN: Nothing more than Jerry gave you this morning.

Q What is the earliest we can look for the text?

MR. HUSHEN: Again, the latest will be on the airplane. I don't know whether we will be able to get anything out tonight or not.

Q Are you suggesting there is going to be another little surprise?

MR. HUSHEN: No.

Q You can't even tell us about the subject he is going to talk about?

MR. HUSHEN: I haven't seen his speech yet, so I don't want to comment on it.

Q Jack, will you have anything at all on the Saudi Arabian, Mr. Saqqaf?

MR. HUSHEN: I will certainly check.

Let me add a couple of quick things.

Q Let me ask a couple of questions. Herb Stein was in town or did the President invite him to come to see him?

MR. HUSHEN: No, I believe he was in town.

Q Is this a courtesy visit or is there anything substantive involved? Is there a job offer?

MR. HUSHEN: Purely social.

Q When you check on the Saudi Arabian, could you also check on the Mexican to see if there is anything you can tell us on that meeting?

MR. HUSHEN: All right.

Q Mr. Saxbe isn't sitting in with the Mexican and the President, is he?

MR. HUSHEN: No.

Does anybody want to know who the pool is going out and coming back tomorrow. They have all been notified.

Q It is posted.

Q Will there be any politicians on the plane trip?

MR. HUSHEN: We are checking that, I do not believe so.

Q Is that all you have?

MR. HUSHEN: No.

We had a question that came up after the briefing -- you might want to get this, Frank -- I think it might have been Mr. Harris, regarding any reaction to the speech made by the French President and we do have a reaction and I am authorized to say that we applaud efforts toward European unity and we welcome vigorous European policies in the spirit of the Atlantic Declaration signed in June at the summit in Brussels.

Let me point out the facts relating to the comments of the French President.

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Q Who is pointing this out?

MR. HUSHEN: I am.

Q Is this not part of the President's statement?

MR. HUSHEN: This is all part of the same statement.

Q Whose statement is this?

Q Is it the President or a spokesman?

MR. HUSHEN: It is a spokesman.

President Ford met with representatives of all of the NATO countries within two hours of his swearing in. The President wrote personal messages to all of the allied leaders the same day.

The President met individually with allied ambassadors, including the French Ambassador last Saturday.

Q Just this last Saturday or the Saturday after he was inaugurated?

MR. HUSHEN: He met with the French Ambassador last Saturday.

And, finally, the President is planning personal meetings with allied leaders as soon as mutually convenient.

Q Does that mean a trip to Europe?

MR. HUSHEN: I can't say.

Q The Italian Prime Minister is coming.

MR. HUSHEN: Maybe they are, some of them will be here.

Q Jack, would you read the last sentence again?

MR. HUSHEN: Finally, the President is planning personal meetings with allied leaders as soon as it is mutually convenient.

Q Is it correct that the Italian Prime Minister is coming later this month or later next month?

MR. HUSHEN: We announced that yesterday.

Q It is the President, not the Prime Minister, right?

Q It is President Leone?

MR. HUSHEN: It is Leone, yes.

Q Are invitations in the works to leaders of other European nations to come here or is the President discussing with them going there?

MR. HUSHEN: I can't elaborate there.

Q Is that the end of your statement?

MR. HUSHEN: No, I have one more sentence I am trying to read.

Our record of commitment to our Alliance and to Europe is clear. The President looks forward to a productive and cooperative relationship with France and our other friends in Europe as well as with the existing and emerging institutions of the European community but this requires reciprocity on the part of our partners.

Q Is that it, Jack?

MR. HUSHEN: Yes, that is it.

Q Is reciprocity missing? Is reciprocity lacking?

MR. HUSHEN: We stand on our statement.

Q Can we go back over a couple of questions asked you before you finished? What is your answer to the question of whether or not he might be planning a trip to Europe?

MR. HUSHEN: I don't feel I can shed any light on that and I don't want to try to lead you one way or the other.

Q What does that mean, planning personal meetings with allied leaders? You also can't say whether or not invitations have been sent?

Q Wait, there is a question pending.

MR. HUSHEN: There are several foreign officials, not all of whom are in Europe.

Q Are you sure this is Ford's statement?

MR. HUSHEN: No.

Q Whose statement is it? This is not your statement.

MR. HUSHEN: This is a statement by the Deputy Press Secretary in answer to a question which was asked this morning but we didn't answer this morning.

Q Was there any reason that the President didn't comment at all at his press conference on Europe? Was he prepared to comment on Europe at his press conference?

MR. HUSHEN: Yes, had the question come up.

Q He would have been prepared to have said something?

MR. HUSHEN: I believe so.

Q Jack, who participated in the drafting of the statement? You didn't just rattle it off the top of your head.

MR. HUSHEN: It was prepared here in the White House.

Q The President was aware this statement would be read?

Q It is a White House statement rather than a personal statement, then?

MR. HUSHEN: Yes. I didn't understand the difference you were trying to make. In that case, yes.

Q It is a White House statement?

MR. HUSHEN: Yes.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END (AT 4:50 P.M. EDT)

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