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

#109

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 12:28 P.M. MST

DECEMBER 23, 1974

MONDAY

(Vail, Colorado)

MR. NESSEN: I am sorry it has taken so long, but we are not entirely organized out here. I hope we do get organized in the next couple of days, or weeks.

The President began working at his house at about 8:30 and worked until about 11:00 with Don Rumsfeld and myself. We worked in the living room of the house, which has a peaked ceiling -- high peaked ceiling -- a stone fireplace that goes all the way to the ceiling. There was a low fire burning in the fireplace.

The rest of that wall where the fireplace -- it faces in this direction, looking down this way, is all glass. There is a Christmas tree decorated in the living room and it reaches to the ceiling. Under the tree are the presents that haven't been opened yet. Some of the presents that were ski equipment and clothes, they have already given to each other.

The President was dressed in a red sports shirt, brown plaid pants, moccasins and he had his feet up on the hassock.

At some point during the business, Mrs. Ford came into the room dressed in the red robe and had breakfast in the dining area at one end of this living room.

The President went out skiing somewhere around 11:00 or 11:30.

Q The pool report said 10:30. The pool report said he went off for his second skiing at 10:30.

MR. NESSEN: I didn't get the exact time. I thought it was between 10:30 and 11:00.

Q I saw him up there. He got off the gondola at five after eleven.

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MR. NESSEN: Okay. Whatever time the pool report says the times were.

Q He had gone before the pool got over there. That was before 11:00.

MR. NESSEN: When he went in to get dressed, I called Eric and told him to get the pool moving.

He worked until about 10:30, if that is what the pool said. He is going to go back and work this afternoon after skiing. There is the possibility that if anybody wants to take any pictures of him working, we may be able to arrange this this afternoon. It wouldn't be any earlier than 3:00. If we do it, it would be between 3:00 and 4:00.

Q Is that the pool?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, that would be the pool.

Q Ron, would you describe the President's chateau as modest or what?

MR. NESSEN: I wouldn't describe it with any adjective, Walt. I think most of you have seen the outside and the pool will have a chance to see the inside.

Q I am not clear about the glass wall.

MR. NESSEN: It has a view of the lifts up here. (Pointing behind himself.)

Q The Secret Service will not let the press cut the lines under any circumstances and it might be the pool is trying to follow him and the Secret Service wouldn't let the pool cut the lines.

MR. NESSEN: That is right

Q Can you get the Secret Service to tell you where he skis?

MR. NESSEN: Eric ought to be able to tell you where he is skiing. Eric is in touch on where he is skiing.

Q There are at least four of us who do ski well enough to keep up with the President. May we have a skiing pool composed of one newsman each day?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Why not?

MR. NESSEN: As we explained last week, the President is very anxious not to disrupt the holiday activities of people who paid a lot of money to come out here for vacations unrelated to anything the President does. The purpose of a pool, as the title says, it is a protective pool in case anything happens to the President. The place for the protective pool is at the bottom because that is where he will be if he fell.

Q He has about ten people with him.

MR. NESSEN: He has an instructor, friends and the family.

We talked about this a great deal and this is his choice about how he wants to try to keep it, with as little disruption as possible.

Q The fact this morning of getting the pool out in time, was this on purpose, feeling that we are not supposed to be there when he goes up?

MR. NESSEN: Phil, absolutely not. We made the arrangements last week. I talked to him about it. He agreed to it. When he went into the bedroom to get dressed, I called Eric and said, "He is getting dressed. Get the pool over there." What happened during that time and Eric getting the pool moved, I don't know. Eric is still out there with the pool.

I called when he started to get dressed, which I thought was plenty of time to get the pool there. Maybe he got dressed faster than I thought he would.

Q The protective pool is allowed to go along?

MR. NESSEN: Yes. I worked this out with him last week and there was no effort to slip the pool.

Now, tomorrow's coverage on the mountain. Tomorrow, as you know, is the day that we are going to have people all over the mountain. These will be divided into three groups -- site 1, which I guess is at the top of the mountain; site 2, which is somewhere along the way; and site 3, which is at the bottom.

The groups that are going up the mountain should assemble at gondola number two, which is in the Lionshead area, at 7:30. The reason for that is we need to get people up there before the gondola is open for regular skiing. They will take you to the Eagles Nest restaurant at the top and serve you a Continental breakfast before you are put into place.

The third group, which is at the bottom, will remain at the bottom and should assemble here at 9 o'clock to be taken to your position.

I explained to the President deadline problems and that sort of thing and asked him if he would ski earlier tomorrow to accommodate this and he said he would leave the house at 9:30 and start down at 10:00.

Q Start down, you mean start down to gondola 2?

MR. NESSEN: Start down the mountain. Start skiing at 10:00, start up the mountain at about 9:45. Leave the house at 9:30.

Q Will this be for one run?

MR. NESSEN: I think we will leave you there for a couple of runs.

Q Couldn't we get the school bus to take us down there rather than everyone straggling down there?

MR. NESSEN: Assemble here at 7:00. In other words, instead of straggling to gondola 2 yourselves, come here and we will get you to gondola 2.

Q Should the pool wear skis?

MR. NESSEN: It is an in-place pool.

We have posted the names of press site 1 and press site 2 and also the bottom pool.

Q You didn't say what those at press site 2 should do or where they should be.

MR. HUSHEN: Everyone in press site 1 and 2 should come here at 7:00 a.m. and be taken to gondola 2.

MR. NESSEN: I just said be here at 7:00 and we will take you to the press site. If you want us to ride you over, be here. If you want to go on your own, be there at 7:30.

Q Where is site one?

MR. NESSEN: At the top.

Q Where is site two?

MR. NESSEN: It is somewhere on the mountain.

MR. HUSHEN: The other thing we need to do is have people sign up whether they are going to be there or not.

MR. NESSEN: We have posted the names of those assigned to the two groups in site one and site two. That is back there by the door. If you will indicate on the list whether you indeed intend to use your position, we would appreciate it because then we will know how much transportation we need, how many Continental breakfasts and so forth.

Next, the Manor Vail Lodge had complained to us about a lot of press cars parked in their registration area and parked in other places that are blocking traffic and they have asked that the use of automobiles to get here to the press center be kept at a minimum and when you can, use the shuttle buses.

As I said, the President is going back and work this afternoon after skiing and we may be able to get a picture of that.

Tonight, the President has been invited to attend a buffet dinner at his own condominium -- that is the one he owns that is being used by Dick Bass during this trip. The hosts for the party are Dick Bass and also another friend of the President's, named Jim Brown. There will be about 20 couples there, most of them are close friends of the Fords from previous years of skiing here in Vail and the few members of the staff have been invited, too.

The buffet will be tenderloin roast, salad and potatoes.

Q Could you identify Mr. Brown?

MR. NESSEN: Mr. Brown is an executive with the Thiokol Chemical Corporation.

Q Could you give us the spelling on Brown?

MR. NESSEN: B-r-o-w-n. He and his wife live 70 miles from Salt Lake City in a town called Tremonton, Utah.

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Mr. Brown met the President about nine or ten years ago when then Congressman Ford came to Utah to give a speech. Mr. Brown was a Republican campaign official and was assigned to pick Congressman Ford up at the airport.

During their drive, they found that they shared an interest in skiing and the Fords went to Utah that Easter with the Browns. They have skied in the ensuing nine or ten years together a number of times, either in Utah, or at Sun Valley, and then in recent years here at Vail.

I believe also that one of the Ford sons has spent some time on a ranch that the Browns own in Utah.

Q Do you know what he is with the Thiokol Chemical Company? What is the middle initial and so forth?

MR. NESSEN: Sheila was checking on all of the Brown information. If you don't know his full name, check with Sheila, she will get it after the briefing. He is a group executive.

Q What is the coverage at the party tonight and what time is it?

MR. NESSEN: I think 8 o'clock is the starting time and there is no coverage inside.

Q Who will cover the party?

MR. NESSEN: The day-long protective pool --

Q I think the starting time for the party is 7 o'clock.

MR. NESSEN: Check with Sheila for the information.

Q At the party will there be a vice-chairman of the U.S. Steel board? Can you tell us about him?

MR. NESSEN: Sheila is doing the social stuff and you should get together with her after the briefing and find out who is on the guest list.

Since he is a guest and the Browns and Basses are giving the party, you should check with them.

Q My question is: Is he associated in any way with the President's official party? Is he a close friend of the President here in Vail?

MR. NESSEN: I have never heard of him before.

Q The reason I ask is we do have an important story vis-a-vis U.S. Steel.

MR. NESSEN: I think you should ask the Browns and Mr. Bass whether he is invited to the party.

Q Will the pool be taken from here to the party?

MR. NESSEN: On the outside, yes.

Q What time will the pool gather?

MR. NESSEN: We will post that or make an announcement.

We may have some bill signings to post this afternoon and, so that you don't have to hang around here today, we wouldn't post them any sooner than 3 o'clock.

We could hold them up and post them at 4 o'clock if that would make you happier.

Q We sat here for an hour and a half waiting for the briefing.

MR. NESSEN: The reason you sat here an hour and a half, Carroll, is, as I said, we are not fully organized and it took a little longer to get the information than I thought.

Q Can you give us a firm time for the posting?

MR. NESSEN: I can't, no. It depends on when the President has completed working with them.

Let's say nothing sooner than 4 o'clock on the bills. That is a possibility. I can't assure you there will be any, but, if there are any, it will be no sooner than 4 o'clock.

Q Did Thiokol Chemical donate the use of the red Snow Cats here?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know anything about that.

Q There is one that I believe is being used as a special courtesy vehicle.

MR. NESSEN: I guess Vail Associates has a bigger staff than we do so you probably ought to check with Vail Associates.

I think that takes care of my announcements today.

Q You haven't told us what the President worked on this morning.

MR. NESSEN: He did go through some of the bills and mainly he worked on -- it was kind of a session where he discussed a timetable for what he will be doing and kind of a schedule for his work.

Q During weeks, days, or what?

MR. NESSEN: You know, what work there is for him to do and what order he is going to do it in.

Q Over a period of a few days while he is here in Vail?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, while he is here.

Q Is there any truth to the rumor he is going to cut the vacation short?

MR. NESSEN: I haven't heard that rumor. As far as I know the plans are to go back about the second of January.

Q Has he ordered an investigation of the CIA?

MR. NESSEN: The President has requested a report from the CIA on this matter.

Q Ron, the President said yesterday that he had learned of this story in the Times earlier, do you know when he learned of this and how?

MR. NESSEN: A couple of days ago and I am not sure precisely when. He doesn't recall quite when either.

Somebody told him that the New York Times would be running such a story and that was the extent of his partial knowledge of it.

Q Did he then call Mr. Colby prior to the disclosure?

MR. NESSEN: I believe he learned of the impending New York Times story from Mr. Colby.

Q Did he order the CIA to investigate itself? Isn't that a little bizarre?

MR. NESSEN: He ordered Dr. Kissinger to have this report made. As you know, the NSC coordinates all of the government's security and intelligence activities, so it was in that capacity that he ordered Dr. Kissinger to have this report made.

Q Ron, how does he feel about leaving Mr. Helms as Ambassador to Iran?

MR. NESSEN: Let me say this -- not on this specific question, but on that and other similar questions -- let's just put in perspective for a moment what we have here. We have a newspaper account of certain allegations of alleged past activities by the CIA and at the moment that is all we have, Carroll, and it seems to me we need to avoid hardening some of these allegations into facts until this report comes back to the President.

Pending the receipt and study of that report by the President, it seems to me to make the kind of judgments you suggest, or others that you might want to suggest, is just premature and I think we have to wait for this report before we can get into those things.

Q What is the deadline on the report?

MR. NESSEN: Within a matter of days the President wants the report.

Q Did Mr. Colby tell the President these activities had existed before or had not?

MR. NESSEN: The President forcefully stated -- and in fact I think you heard him state it yourself -- that he won't tolerate the kind of activities alleged in the New York Times and that he expects the CIA to operate within the law.

Q That still doesn't answer my question.

Q Was it during the conversation with Mr. Colby or subsequent to it?

MR. NESSEN: As I said, he ordered the report through Dr. Kissinger this morning.

Q You first said he had asked for a report from the CIA. Can you tell us what the step-by-step procedure will be?

MR. NESSEN: I really can't. He told Dr. Kissinger he wanted a report from the CIA. Dr. Kissinger as head of the NSC does coordinate all of the activities of the CIA and that is the proper channel.

Q Mr. Helms was previously in charge of the Central Intelligence Agency. Do you have any indication that if this occurred, it occurred at Mr. Helms' initiative or was the request for surveillance made to the CIA from someone from above?

MR. NESSEN: I really think we just need to understand where we stand with this story. We have a series of allegations in a news story and the President has ordered a report to instruct him as to exactly what happened, if anything.

Q I would like to ask this question in order to keep it in perspective. Maybe you can help us out. Did the CIA deny to the President that the Times story was accurate?

MR. NESSEN: The purpose of the CIA report is to find out exactly what happened.

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Q When the President talked to Colby, did Colby tell the President the story was not true?

MR. NESSEN: Colby told the President what you were told by the President on the plane yesterday.

Q Did Colby tell the President these activities had prevailed? We remember President Nixon saying, "Nobody will tell me anything." He ordered this investigation and that investigation and said never did the facts come to him.

What is the state of the matter now and what is the President trying to find out?

MR. NESSEN: The President is trying to find out what happened, if anything.

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Q Ron, there are statements about the actual knowledge of these activities, such as Schlesinger found this hornet's nest when he got there, and was very upset by it and took immediate steps to correct it. Is the President talking to Secretary Schlesinger, people who were obviously directly involved?

MR. NESSEN: I say again, Steve, that all that we have at the moment is a newspaper story of allegations. The President has asked for a report from the CIA on precisely what happened, if anything, during that period. Meanwhile, the President has made clear, forcefully clear, that he is not going to tolerate any activity such as those alleged in the Times and he expects the CIA to operate within the law.

Q At the time Colby first talked to him, he didn't express any surprise, he filed it away in his memory or something?

Q When did he order the report?

MR. NESSEN: This morning, in a phone conversation.

Q When you say a matter of days, do you mean a few weeks?

MR. NESSEN: A matter of days -- there is no timetable on when the report will arrive, but it is a matter of days.

Q Is it fair to say the President heard this from Colby several days ago and did nothing until this morning?

MR. NESSEN: He was assured by Colby yesterday, as he said himself, this is something that does not involve the Ford Administration and he has asked for a report on what, if anything, transpired.

Q May I pursue this?

Q Back before his conversation with Colby yesterday -- take it back to within the last few days when Colby called the President and told him a story along these lines is going to appear in the New York Times. That was the first call, the first time the President learned of it. What did the President do then?

MR. NESSEN: Somebody asked the President that on the plane yesterday and he said he was assured then that these activities were not going on now.

Q So, he did nothing at that time about the previous activities he had been informed of?

MR. NESSEN: I will have to check, but he did order Dr. Kissinger to have the report made this morning.

Q We are trying to find out, was he told these activities existed before and why can't we find that out right now?

MR. NESSEN: What activities?

Q Whatever the New York Times alleges.

MR. NESSEN: That is why he ordered the report.

Q Colby did not tell him whether they existed before?

MR. NESSEN: I will have to check that.

Q If Mr. Colby told the President in the first conversation that this thing didn't occur, or I assure you it is not happening now, then the second call, why did it come if he had assured the President of this? Did the President call him or make an effort to reach him first? What was the purpose of the second call to Colby?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have the specific answers for you. The initial call from Colby was to tell the President that the New York Times was going to carry an article and I assume that Colby, at that point, didn't know what the article would say. Yesterday morning, the article was out and they could discuss in more detail what the article did say.

Q If Colby didn't know what the article was going to say, why call the President? What would be the cause for alarm?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that there was any cause for alarm, Jim. There was a call to alert the President that there would be an article dealing with this subject.

Q Who initiated the call?

MR. NESSEN: Director Colby.

Q If the President was advised on the first call, why did the President say directly to the pool on board the plane that Colby called him that morning, to make exactly the same assurance?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know the answer to that. The CIA does have a public information officer who, I am told, is answering questions on these subjects.

Q Has President Ford a common practice of having agency heads call him and tell him stories are going to appear in the news?

MR. NESSEN: Yes. We told you that the White House had gotten a call a night or two before the General Brown story appeared. It is certainly not a White House practice, but people do keep the President informed on what they think might be coming out in the press.

Q Is the Justice Department striking out on its own and investigating the CIA?

MR. NESSEN: On the matter of the Justice Department, the Justice Department has no role at all in this at the moment. I am told, and you really need to get in touch directly with the Justice Department on this, but I am told that the Justice Department has contacted the Associated Press and was told that the Associated Press is carrying an erroneous report.

Q Ron, if I remember the correct word of the pool report, Colby assured the President nothing comparable to what was reported in the New York Times took place. If I understand you this morning, you are saying it didn't take place in the Ford Administration, but it occurred during the previous Administration?

MR. NESSEN: All I am saying is the President ordered a report and we need to wait to see what the report says.

Q Are you saying the President did nothing about this until this morning, even after the effort of Schlesinger about two years ago to weed out this kind of activity and when he was Vice President and then when he assumed the Presidency, he did nothing?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know the answer to that, John. Obviously, there is some interest expressed here on when did the President know what about allegations and I need to check back with him on that.

Q I asked that because I don't detect an element of surprise by anybody involved here.

MR. NESSEN: I wouldn't read that into it until I have had an opportunity to check.

Q Has Dr. Kissinger had an opportunity to get Ambassador Helm's story?

MR. NESSEN: Kissinger has been told to have the CIA make a report.

Q Has the President ordered the Justice Department to lay off?

MR. NESSEN: There is no role for the Justice Department at the moment, Helen. What would the Justice Department do?

Q The Justice Department investigates all internal --

MR. NESSEN: At the moment, the Justice Department is not involved in any way. There is no order to the Justice Department to lay off.

Q Was there a call to Silberman?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Ron, does the President have any reaction to the efforts by certain Senators and Congressmen, and others, who are calling for independent investigation by Congress, blue ribbon panels and what have you -- does the President support those activities?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that the President needs to support those activities or needs to express any opposition.

Q Is he opposed to that?

MR. NESSEN: I haven't heard anything he is opposed or in favor of. He has asked Dr. Kissinger to have the CIA send a report in here within a matter of days.

Q Since he is asking the agency to investigate itself and most of the people involved are career people, have any steps been taken to contact Schlesinger and people not a part of the agency to make an inquiry of those that know from past experience?

MR. NESSEN: At the moment he has asked the CIA to make a report. He has asked Dr. Kissinger to have a report made by the CIA.

Q Can you say whether Ambassador Helms will be called back to help with the investigation of the CIA?

MR. NESSEN: I think you will need to talk to the CIA about how they organize their organization.

Q When was Dr. Kissinger asked to request this report?

MR. NESSEN: Word was sent to Dr. Kissinger this morning.

Q Why did he order this?

MR. NESSEN: To answer some of these same questions you are curious about, Helen.

Q Did the President express any shock or indignation at the Times story?

MR. NESSEN: You talked to him on the plane yesterday before I had a chance to talk to him, Walt.

Q I didn't see anything in the pool report and I thought perhaps he expressed some feeling to you this morning when you met.

MR. NESSEN: He has asked for a report.

Q Was that to Kissinger personally or to an aide?

MR. NESSEN: It was to Kissinger.

Q Will this report be made public?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that, Helen.

Q I interpreted earlier he hadn't talked directly to him.

MR. NESSEN: Kissinger was contacted directly.

Q By the President?

MR. NESSEN: I am not sure who specifically talked to Dr. Kissinger.

Q Will the pool get to see the President?

MR. NESSEN: You mean if there is a picture of him working this afternoon?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: I think it is the daily protective pool.

Q Will we have a chance to ask questions?

MR. NESSEN: That is not the purpose of the trip over there.

Does the President expect to have any Cabinet Members or White House staff come out here to work while he is here?

MR. NESSEN: The discussion this morning was on how to organize the work for the next week or ten days. There was no decision made on that.

Q Ron, does the President feel there is a horribly high chance of renewed war breaking out in the Middle East, number one, and number two, does he feel that within the next six to eight months there will be a major financial smash in one of the European countries?

MR. NESSEN: That is Joe Alsop's opinion and I don't know that I need to address Joe Alsop's opinion.

Q This is after a lunch with the President.

MR. NESSEN: It is still Joe Alsop's opinion.

Q He says he is quoting the President. Is he quoting the President correctly, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: Let me state what the President's views are and not try to agree or disagree with Joe Alsop.

As far as the Middle East goes, the United States is committed to maintaining the momentum toward a Middle East peace settlement and the President believes that the most effective way to do that is by the present period of quiet diplomacy. And obviously, he is hopeful that this momentum and quiet diplomacy will result in a permanent peace in the Middle East.

On the economic matter, as you know, he has talked to his own advisers about the state of the American economy and the world economy and he has talked to Chancellor Schmidt, Trudeau, Giscard, and he has put forward plans to deal with the world economy and he will be putting forth further proposals after the first of the year.

Q Ron, let me clear up one more thing about this conversation. Did the President and Dr. Kissinger talk directly this morning?

MR. NESSEN: I am not clear on that, Russ. Dr. Kissinger received the word personally that the President wants a report. I am not sure whether it was the President that talked to him.

Q Was the telephone call initiated from Vail or from the White House.

MR. NESSEN: I believe from Vail.

Q Ron, on another matter, is Mr. John Robson one of those -- you have been asked this before but I have a reason for asking this at this time -- is Mr. John Robson still being considered for the post of Secretary of Transportation?

MR. NESSEN: Why do you say, "Is he still being considered?"

Q All right, is he being considered?

MR. NESSEN: As you know, when we have any appointments to make, we will announce them.

Q I would like to ask a follow-up question. In the consideration of someone as Secretary of Transportation, is the White House aware of and taking into consideration the report that Mr. Robson received fees of over \$200,000 over a period of four years from the St. Louis Metropolitan Airport Authority, fees which the Chairman of the Airport Authority refused to say what the purpose was?

MR. NESSEN: I have never heard those allegations and I don't know how they are involved at all in his selection of Transportation Secretary. When we have one to announce, we will.

Q You don't know whether the White House is aware of those allegations?

MR. NESSEN: I don't see the relevancy of it.

Q I didn't ask if there is any relevancy.

MR. NESSEN: Mr. Robson is a private lawyer in Chicago as far as I know now.

Q You don't see any relevancy between the Airport Authority and the Secretary of Transportation and the fact that --

MR. NESSEN: I don't see any relevancy in what you are asking and the selection of the Secretary of Transportation.

Q You mean he is not under consideration?

MR. NESSEN: I mean when we have a Transportation Secretary to announce, we will.

Phil, how would you answer that question if you were the Press Secretary-- which you would dearly love to be.

Q What do you mean by that, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: I mean that we have answered all questions on all appointments in the same way.

Q I am not talking about that. I am talking about that last remark you made.

MR. NESSEN: That was an example of my sense of humor, I suppose.

Q I would like some explanation of it.

MR. NESSEN: Gene, do you have a question?

Q Ron, does the President believe that there is a likelihood of war in the Middle East within six months?

MR. NESSEN: I told you the President's position on the Middle East, Gene.

Q You didn't respond to that question. I have a legitimate reason for asking the question because a columnist has put out an article that says the President does indeed believe that.

MR. NESSEN: It is Alsop's position if he wrote it, but I am telling you the President's position. He is hopeful the on-going efforts for a peace settlement will have positive results.

Q We know what Mr. Alsop's statement is. We are asking what is his cold-hearted assessment.

Q What?

MR. NESSEN: That he is hopeful for a settlement in the Middle East.

Q Did he say that?

MR. NESSEN: I don't feel that it is right for me to relay the words of the President from a private lunch.

Q Was it a private lunch?

MR. NESSEN: It was a private lunch to honor Alsop on his retirement.

Q Was it off the record?

MR. NESSEN: No. The fact of the lunch was on the record, as you know, because we announced it.

Q Ron, has the President made any decisions at all on the energy policy he will submit to Congress next month? There is a report that he has made some statements.

MR. NESSEN: As you know, the President has received the views of his energy and economic advisers and he has received the views of other people and he is making decisions and as he said himself, in the Business Council speech, don't believe anything until you hear it from him, Ralph.

Q I just wanted to know. Has he actually made final decisions on points A, B, and C?

MR. NESSEN: He has not.

Q Will there be a Presidential press conference this week?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know of any, Tom.

Q Is there any likelihood at all, any prospect at all?

MR. NESSEN: I don't get any feeling there is.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END (AT 1:04 P.M. MST)