

This Copy For \_\_\_\_\_

NEWS CONFERENCE

#115

---

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 12:40 P.M. MST

DECEMBER 31, 1974

TUESDAY

(Vail, Colorado)

MR. NESSEN: First of all, let me say that the President worked at his house from 8:15 to 10:15 this morning at which point he went skiing and he will be back working with Don Rumsfeld from about 3:30 or 4:00 this afternoon.

Now, about the material you have here. There are 19 bills in these two packets that he has signed. There is a signing statement with two of those and that signing statement has to do with, one, the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act, and the Emergency Jobs and Unemployment Assistance Act. I think you are familiar with those. They are basically the programs he proposed last October 8th and he has statements, and we have full details on both of those bills.

Q Do you know how many jobs that is?

MR. NESSEN: You have about four pages on that and I think it tells you the number of jobs and dollar amount and so forth.

Q Does it tell us how much he originally asked for?

MR. NESSEN: Tom is going to check.

Q I don't think it is the same.

MR. NESSEN: No, Congress increased it somewhat.

To tell you where we stand on bills, with today's 19, the President has acted on 62 bills and remaining to be acted on are 96 bills.

Also in your packet, you will find resignations of nine Presidential appointees. Just to point out to you the ones you will probably be most interested in: William J. Fellner, the member of the Council of Economic Advisers. He has been planning to leave for some time. He has agreed to stay on until somewhere around the 1st of February to help put together the annual economic report to Congress.

MORE

#115

There is also the resignation of the member of the Atomic Energy Commission in that packet. I think those are the two major ones.

Also in your packet, the President is issuing a statement in which he has announced that he has acted on a number of additional cases brought to him by the Clemency Board. I think the statement there is self-explanatory.

Q Does that end the program?

MR. NESSEN: There is a deadline which I think is tonight at midnight.

Q Does that mean it is over?

MR. NESSEN: I am sorry. It is January 31st.

Q How many does that make now?

MR. NESSEN: I will get Tom to check on that.

There are two Executive Orders in this packet. One exempts a member of the ICC, Willard Deason, from the mandatory retirement age of 70. The second is a technical order revoking all Executive Orders which prohibit American citizens from owning gold.

New Year's Eve plans are for the President and Mrs. Ford to have a dinner with their family alone at about 7:30.

The Fords also have asked some of their friends from Vail to drop in during the evening either to stay briefly or to stay through New Year's if they can. That is the New Year's Eve plans, to stay home.

I will find out whether he has signed any additional bills or taken any additional action this afternoon and let's count on having a posting at 5:00, although I can't promise there will be anything at 5:00. If there is, we will post at 5:00 or I will be here at 5:00 to see you.

Q One question: On the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act, is there a money figure that Congress put in the bill?

MR. NESSEN: There was an authorization figure and then there was a somewhat smaller appropriation figure. Is that not in there?

Q I don't see it.

MR. NESSEN: This may be only the authorization and not the appropriation.

Q But they didn't authorize a specific amount?

MR. NESSEN: They did appropriate a somewhat smaller amount. Tom is dealing with all these bills and I can get that number for you.

Q Does the gold thing change anything today?

MR. NESSEN: No, it formalizes what happens today or clears the way for it.

Q The job has a \$2.5 billion authorization. It is the unemployment compensation authorization. That doesn't seem to have a figure.

MR. NESSEN: Outlays depend on how many people apply for it.

Now, to catch you up just a little bit, the President, in his jobs bill, requested \$2.25 billion and Congress appropriated \$2-1/2 billion. In other words, Congress appropriated \$250 million more than the President requested. The jobs bill will create about 100,000 new jobs.

Q Is that before or after the increase? Does the increased money change the job figure?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know what the old job figure was, Walt, but this bill will create 100,000 new jobs.

Q Ron, is the surtax dead in the President's program for next year?

MR. NESSEN: You know, the President has said that he would rather not have his proposals and recommendations and ideas that he is considering discussed publicly. I see they are being discussed publicly. I think it would be fair to say that the economic proposals that the President will send to Congress in his State of the Union Message will not include a 5 percent surcharge.

Q Will they include a tax cut?

Q Ron, by extension, can we assume that he will now ask for a tax cut?

MR. NESSEN: I wouldn't assume that, Ralph. I am saying that simply because that has not been decided yet.

Q Ron, since you are coming clean on New Year's Eve, how about Mr. Lynn's status?

MR. NESSEN: Mr. Lynn's status has been clearly announced by the President of the United States. I think I said yesterday that the official announcement, like all official announcements, awaits the completion of his clearance.

Q Is it his clearance or his successor's at HUD's clearance?

MR. NESSEN: No, his clearance.

Q I thought he was already cleared.

MR. NESSEN: I think we said before if you get a new job in the Administration, you go through the clearances again.

Q Why was the 5 percent surcharge dropped?

MR. NESSEN: Because the economic situation has changed considerably from October 8th.

Q Can we assume that the President now is more concerned with fighting recession than fighting inflation?

MORE

Q Ron, without the 5 percent income tax surcharge, how does the President intend to pay for unemployment assistance and other programs that the 5 percent was to have covered? Does it mean he will apply other revenue raising features, or are we simply going into the red?

MR. NESSEN: Russ, that really gets into the details of what his new economic program will call for and I don't think I better go that far.

Q To the best of your knowledge, has the President ever made any statements on the record on the subject of a tax cut?

MR. NESSEN: Did you ask him about a tax cut, Helen?

Q Yes, but he wouldn't say.

MR. NESSEN: If he won't say, I won't say.

Q Is there anything under consideration to raise the price of crude oil \$3.00 a barrel?

MR. NESSEN: I can't go into the details of the energy program, either.

Jim.

Q To get back to Russ Ward's question as to possible revenue offsets, would it be fair to say the Administration has not yet made a final decision, or made up its mind on whether or the extent to which it will seek revenue offsets?

MR. NESSEN: For the unemployment compensation and jobs program?

Q It is going to cost a lot of money.

MR. NESSEN: It is fair to say he has not made his final decision on his economic program --I think I will stop. He has not made his final decisions on his economic program.

Q Ron, are you making any New Year's resolutions?

MR. NESSEN: I always resolve to stop smoking but I never do it.

Q Has the President made any New Year's resolutions?

MR. NESSEN: I think he told somebody on the slopes today that he was going to make them later today, make them tonight.

Q What resolutions is he going to make?

MR. NESSEN: He is not going to make them until later today, Ralph, so how do I know what to announce?

Q Are you going to have a briefing tomorrow?

MR. NESSEN: I thought we would not have a briefing tomorrow but we could have a posting at noon if that is all right.

Q Is he going to have champagne tonight?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Is there going to be a report on the CIA story?

MR. NESSEN: No, I won't say any more about the CIA than we have already said.

Q There is a report that The New York Times has substantiated the story.

MR. NESSEN: I won't say any more on the CIA story.

Q Do you know how many friends have been invited tonight?

MR. NESSEN: They are probably not all going to be there at the same time because it is a drop-in and leave, if you want to. Fifteen couples at some point in the evening have been invited.

Q Ron, you seem to have a list. Can you post the names of the invitees?

MR. NESSEN: They are mostly friends he has been seeing in Vail -- the Browns, Kindels, Rumsfelds, Nessens, Scotts, Weidenfelds and the Hoegers.

I have no problem with posting the list.

Q Before you go, do you have any travel to announce?

MR. NESSEN: We are going home on the 2nd.

Q Do you have any travel plans, domestic or foreign, that you can announce?

MR. NESSEN: No.

THE PRESS: Thank you.