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NEWS CONFERENCE

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 12:45 P.M. EST

JANUARY 10, 1975

FRIDAY

MR. NESSEN: The President came into work this morning at 8 o'clock and he spent about 45 minutes meeting with Dr. Burns to discuss the economy and to discuss the proposals and recommendations that the President is about to make.

At 2 o'clock this afternoon the President will be meeting with his economic advisers to continue making his decisions on the economic program.

Q Do you have some names?

MR. NESSEN: It is the Economic Policy Board, and I think there will be a chance to take some film and photos of that.

At 3:30 the President is meeting with Speaker Albert to discuss issues that will be before the 94th Congress and to discuss the economy and energy.

At 5:30 today the President will meet with Congressman Ullman. Both of these meetings are part of the President's continuing consultations with Members of Congress and part of his cooperative efforts with Members of Congress.

Q Is he prepared to tell Speaker Albert when he wants to make the State of the Union?

MR. NESSEN: As I say, they are going to discuss the legislative program for the Congress. I think that could come up, Aldo.

Q Does he want to know from Mr. Albert when the Democrats are going to make their economic presentation?

MR. NESSEN: Out of idle curiosity, perhaps, but not in terms of deciding on what date to make his. (Laughter)

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Q Ron, on the economy, there are reports that the President will make a televised speech on Sunday. I will broaden that. Is he going to make a speech between now and Monday night?

MR. NESSEN: Let me tell you precisely where it stands today, and it is that the President has not decided any timetable for presenting his proposal.

Tom, you were trying to say something.

Q Can you rule out a speech this weekend, then?

MR. NESSEN: The decision simply has not been made. I have been saying that, and it still has not been made, and it is not likely to be made until probably late tomorrow afternoon.

Q Is that one of the things he is considering, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: Bob, he simply has not decided yet.

Q Is there any particular reason why he has not made up his mind?

MR. NESSEN: First of all, he would like to get his decisions made so he has something to say. I think that is important, to have major decisions before you go out and tell Congress about it.

Q What you are saying, Ron, is he will have his package ready by tomorrow afternoon or tomorrow evening?

MR. NESSEN: He will know by tomorrow afternoon when it will be ready to go.

Q Why tomorrow afternoon? What is the timetable between now and then?

MR. NESSEN: There are a lot of meetings that are scheduled that should culminate by late tomorrow afternoon and some knowledge of when the decisions will all be made.

Q Will he make that known tomorrow afternoon?

MR. NESSEN: I would think it would be good to come around tomorrow to the White House.

Q What time?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know.

Q The later the better.

MR. NESSEN: The later the better? But Sunday newspapers have early deadlines. Let's try noon.

Q Are you going to brief at noon, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: We will post, or brief, or be available, something like that.

You have the Albert and Ullman meetings and, as you know, Senator Mansfield was in here the other day to report on his trip to the People's Republic of China. At that point, they also talked about legislation for the new Congress, including the economy and energy.

Then, to continue his consultations with Congress, he will be meeting Senator Scott and Congressman Rhodes tomorrow. We don't have an exact time on that yet.

Have you got an announcement of the Prime Minister of Pakistan coming to the United States?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: Do you need for me to go through that again? Probably not.

Q Ron, we are told the Democrats supposedly are to reveal their economic plans on Monday --

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q -- at a news conference. Is there any chance then, from what you have said, that the President would make his known at least in broad terms before then?

MR. NESSEN: Dick, when he decides we will tell you when it is, but the decision has not been made yet.

Q In other words, that possibility remains open?

MR. NESSEN: The decision has not been made yet.

Q Ron, Mr. Ullman yesterday said the Ways and Means Committee would approve a one-year emergency tax cut of multi-billion dollars by March 1. Does that fit in with the President's program?

MR. NESSEN: Bill, I am going to follow what the President instructed his senior staff and not go into the details of his proposals until he has had a chance to make them.

Q Does that include Mr. Hartmann?

MR. NESSEN: What do you mean?

Q I am asking in connection with the fact that he is speaking at the Press Club Thursday and giving what the Press Club says is a preview of the President's State of the Union Message. Clearly, unless they are wrong, if the President has not done his by then, it seems to contradict what you are saying. Something is wrong somewhere.

Q What was the question?

MR. NESSEN: I was wondering about that. (Laughter)

We have two routine resignations, which are Stanley Miller, resigning as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, and M. S. Meeker, resigning as Chairman of the Committee for Purchases of the Blind and other Severely Handicapped.

I believe we have given you the recommendations to the President by his Labor-Management Committee, haven't we?

Q No.

MR. NESSEN: That will be out here momentarily. You are going to get the recommendations to the President from his Labor-Management Committee on the subjects of the economy and the energy. The President wants to say that he is giving very serious consideration to these recommendations.

I was very impressed by the fact that the Labor-Management Committee made these recommendations unanimously. I believe it is the first time, or perhaps one of the few times, that representatives of labor have agreed to the recommendation for an investment tax credit.

Q Does the work of the committee go on? Is the committee an ad hoc committee?

MR. NESSEN: No, the committee will go on, but this is one of their projects.

The President was impressed by the fact that these recommendations were constructive.

Q Any abstentions?

MR. NESSEN: No, it was unanimous. You know who the members are. They are listed on the sheet that is coming. It is really a shame you don't have it in front of you, but you will soon.

I have given you the President's remarks.

I have seen a couple of stories in the paper and I have had a few queries here, and I thought I might volunteer something to straighten out what may be a misapprehension. It has to do with Erwin Griswold, who has been appointed by the President to the Commission investigating activities of the CIA.

I have seen a couple of stories suggesting that the White House had no knowledge of some conversations Mr. Griswold had with the Special Prosecutor. The fact of the matter is that at the time the President or members of the White House staff first got in touch with Mr. Griswold about this possibility, Mr. Griswold pointed out to the White House staff members that he had had conversations with the Special Prosecutor.

He then came in and talked to various members of the White House staff and then talked to the President and explained precisely what it was that had happened.

With that foreknowledge, the President made a decision that he wanted Mr. Griswold on the Commission. The President said that he concluded that the conversations with the Special Prosecutor did not involve anything that would disqualify him from service on this Commission, that he considers Mr. Griswold a man of stature, experience and integrity.

As far as I can see, those are the announcements.

Q Ron, this morning Congressman Brooks' office has verified all the figures reported in the Jack Anderson column this morning, such as the \$160,000 more than the \$200,000 appropriated has been spent in San Clemente for things like charges for Mr. Nixon's flight from here to San Clemente, his magazine subscriptions, maids, butlers, chauffeurs, so forth and the upkeep of Key Biscayne. I have a two-part question.

First, when the President asked us to Whip Inflation Now, how can he tolerate all of this, plus the cost of sending briefings to San Clemente, since it has been verified, these figures?

MR. NESSEN: The figures come from a letter that the President sent to Congressman Brooks -- actually, Roy Ash sent the letter on November 18.

Q How does the President justify these excess expenditures over and above the appropriations?

MR. NESSEN: I don't understand how you mean in excess of the appropriations.

Q The Congress appropriated \$200,000 and he has already run up \$367,000 for things like maids and butlers and magazine subscriptions and so forth. Why do we keep sending briefings to Mr. Nixon?

MR. NESSEN: As we have said before, it has been the tradition to keep former President's briefed on major foreign policy developments.

Q Ron, I didn't understand the first part of your answer. Were you confirming the report that former President Nixon has outspent his authorization?

MR. NESSEN: I am not confirming that he outspent his appropriation. Let me start this way: Roy Ash sent a letter to Jack Brooks, Congressman Brooks, on the 18th of November spelling out the amount of money that had been spent.

What I am saying is that the question of did he outspend his appropriation is not correct because some of this money does not come out of funds appropriated for the transition. That is what I am saying. I could run through it item by item, if there is any interest in it.

Q Could you release the Roy Ash letter, please?

MR. NESSEN: I am told that if the addressee -- that is Congressman Brooks -- wishes to do so, that there is no problem with doing that, but the policy here is not to release letters until the people that the letter is addressed to agreed to that.

Q Would you please read us the letter?

MR. NESSEN: How do you want to do this? Do you want the labor-management report now?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: Let's take a moment for that, then, so I can familiarize myself with these figures.

Q Ron, without releasing the letter, can't you post those figures?

MR. NESSEN: I am going to give them right now.

Out of \$367,000, \$107,000 of it is salaries. These are salaries of people who have been detailed from either the White House, the Defense Department or other Government agencies, as the law provides. Under the previous law, there was no limit on the number of detailees that could be sent there.

There is a new Appropriations Act, which has now gone into effect as of December 27, which sets a limit of \$70,000 on salaries to detailees up through the end of the transition period, which is February 9. On February 9 all detailees to San Clemente cease.

\$47,000 living expenses. These funds have been paid on a per diem basis at a rate not exceeding \$40 a day for the detailees who have been legally detailed to San Clemente.

Q Is that for the detailees?

MR. NESSEN: Correct. That does not come out of the transition funds, and neither does the detailees' salaries.

\$2,419 miscellaneous travel.

Q Is there any further breakdown on that?

MR. NESSEN: These are funds paid for commercial flights from Washington to San Clemente and return for detailees. This expense is necessary to support the detailees and does not come out of the transition funds.

\$8,440 for former President Nixon's flight of August 9 from Washington to San Clemente. That covers the portion of the flight from Washington to a point near Jefferson City, Missouri, when he ceased to be President.

Q Do you mean it cost the Government \$8,000 to get this man from Washington to Jeff City?

MR. NESSEN: The remainder of the flight from Jefferson City to El Toro Marine Station was done under the orders of President Ford and the military is paying the cost of the remainder of the flight.

Q How much is that?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have the figure.

Q Is this \$8,400 chargeable to the transition? You didn't say.

MR. NESSEN: It is not because he was President of the United States at that point.

Q Ron, I don't understand the difference between the military paying it and the Government paying it.

MR. NESSEN: During the flight from Washington to a point near Jefferson City, Missouri, he was President of the United States and that portion of the flight is covered by that. The remainder of the flight was done under orders of President Ford and was charged to the military, and I don't have a figure on it.

\$3,147 packing and moving. This is an estimate of the cost of Interior Department personnel who loaded the Nixon's personal belongings in a van on the White House lawn. However, there was no actual money spent. This was only an estimate of what it would have cost.

There was about \$300 of Government money paid to a private contractor who owned the trucks which took the belongings to Andrews Air Force Base.

Q Is this \$2,000 in addition to the \$3,100?

MR. NESSEN: The \$300 paid to the guy who owned the trucks.

Q Is that included in the \$3,147?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

\$2,000 for gasoline for about a dozen vehicles, which are at San Clemente, used by the detailees and not by the former President. The vehicles are there on a lease arrangement with the Chrysler Corporation, which runs out on February 9. They are the gas and lease expenses considered part of the support for the detailees.

Q What is the date of that?

MR. NESSEN: The agreement runs out February 9 when the support of the former President runs out.



Q How much does the leasing of automobiles cost?

MR. NESSEN: It has been \$1 a year. It is now around \$600 a year.

Q That is the car lease?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

\$9,000 for office expenses. This is partly used to handle the million pieces of mail and to set up the office operation.

\$83,000 to store and crate the Nixon papers. This is an estimate of the rental value of space at the Suitland Record Center, the Archives in Washington and the Executive Office Building, where most of them are stored.

The bulk of these are under court order, and the White House has been unable to move them anywhere and was consequently forced to store them.

The new Presidential Recordings and Materials Preservation Act, passed by Congress in the last session, makes these materials the property of the Government and, consequently, the responsibility of the Government to store them.

\$30,000 in expenses, including \$20,000 for three courier flights, which you know about.

\$4,000 for personnel and operating costs for the White House Communications Agency at San Clemente and Key Biscayne, which is included in the \$30,000.

Q Could you be more specific on the previous figure you mentioned of \$30,000 in expenses?

MR. NESSEN: I said \$20,000 of that is for the three courier flights, \$4,000 of that is for personnel and operating costs and where the other \$6,000 is, I don't know.

Let me see if Jack Brooks knows.

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Q Were these courier flights to take briefing material out there, or are they something else?

MR. NESSEN: No, that was to take briefing materials out.

Q That is stopped now, Ron. How are they getting them out there now?

MR. NESSEN: When they are sent, they are sent by secure communications.

\$52,160 cost to the GSA to operate and maintain facilities at San Clemente -- the Former President's Act, which is the name of an act, says that the Government shall maintain an office for former Presidents. There are three buildings on the Coast Guard property adjacent to the former President's property. His office there as well as space for the Secret Service, military and other Government agencies are included in this expense, rental, utilities, salary of the building manager and other employees required for the upkeep. This \$52,160 is the cost of maintaining the office as required by the law.

\$34,540, Key Biscayne -- that is the cost of the GSA of maintaining and operating the facilities at Key Biscayne, which stopped on December 31, 1974.

Total, \$367,878.

Q How much of that is charged against the \$200,000 appropriation?

MR. NESSEN: I am not sure how that breaks down. I mean, he has got expenses that we don't know anything about that he will pay out of his money. I don't know how you break that down.

Q Ron, the figures you gave us cover the period from August 9th until November 18th, is that correct?

MR. NESSEN: November 7th -- it took 11 days to get the letter written, I guess.

Q Can you give us a similar breakdown from November 7th until now?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have it here, Gaylord.

Q Can you get it?

MR. NESSEN: I guess we can get Roy Ash's people working on it if there is that much interest in it.

Q Did you say the number of detailees that these sums covered?

MR. NESSEN: I can give you the number of detailees at present who will be there until February 9th. Do you want the names or the numbers?

Q Names.

MR. NESSEN: Ron Ziegler, Frank Gannon, Diane Sawyer, Nora Vander Sommen, Rosemary Woods, Marjorie Acker and eight people who are mail assistants, switchboard operators, corpsmen, et cetera.

Q What is the number of Secret Service agents that former President Nixon has now, and how many will he have after February 9th?

MR. NESSEN: You will have to check with Jack Warner, Walt. I have no idea.

Q That list of detailees does not include Manolo and his wife.

MR. NESSEN: I think we announced about two months ago that they had left the payroll.

Q I know, but that is an earlier period.

MR. NESSEN: No, I am saying this is the current list.

Q Ron, could you tell us under what law the payments were made to Key Biscayne when the law states the former President will be provided an office? In stating that is part of the San Clemente expenses, what legal basis is there for the \$34,540 for the Key Biscayne operation?

MR. NESSEN: Not on anything to do with the President's house but on the military and staff quarters, officer quarters, whatever, the lease ran until December 31st, and these were expenses necessary to keep the property up until the lease ran out. I remember talking to Art Sampson one day and his saying that there was a considerable vandalism problem then, there, and I think that is part of this.

Q It costs \$10,000 a month to protect two vacant houses?

MR. NESSEN: Gaylord, I am giving you the figures as I have them. I have no way of going beyond the figures into a philosophical justification for them.

Q Who was the owner of those houses?

MR. NESSEN: I think the GSA would be able to tell you that; they are the ones who leased them.

Q Did they ever announce them?

MR. NESSEN: I have no way of knowing.

Q Are these the Abplanalp and Rebozo houses?

MR. NESSEN: Jim, the GSA leased the houses. I have no way of knowing.

Q Another question -- do you have anything there that would elaborate on this flight from Washington to Jefferson City? From time to time we have been given the cost of operating Air Force One. That is about a two-hour flight; it is something over \$4,000 an hour, which, my memory does not tell me that Air Force One costs \$4,000 an hour to operate.

In other words, what I am saying is, why did it cost something over \$8,000 to fly the former President on a two-hour flight from Washington to Jefferson City?

MR. NESSEN: I guess we have to look that one up, Jim. I have no idea.

Q Ron, when you were asked how much, I think you said you could not tell us how this really broke down as to how much over the \$200,000, is that correct?

MR. NESSEN: I said that the figures are not comparable, Dick. Many of the expenses I have given you were ordered under Congressional legislation and therefore didn't come out of the transition funds.

Q Just for clarification then, would you mind -- just in terms of items one, two and three, which ones of these clearly did not come out of the appropriations?

MR. NESSEN: \$107,000 for detailees' salaries, \$47,000 for detailees' living expenses, \$2,419 of miscellaneous travel for detailees. The packing and moving, \$3,147, was not a real expenditure anyway, it was a bookkeeping transaction. \$2,000 on gasoline to support the detailees. The storage of the Nixon papers -- \$83,000 for storage -- some of the \$30,000 for courier flights.

The GSA expenses on San Clemente and Key Biscayne, I guess most of that did not come out of the transition funds. Most of that is legislative.

Q I suggest that very, very little was spent.

MR. NESSEN: Well, of this particular money, yes, but whatever else he spent you would have to get from him. I mean, what he spent his money for, we don't have a record of that.

Q Ron, under what law does the President spend any money to provide Mr. Nixon with these briefings, when I believe it was suggested on Capitol Hill by a Senator that Mr. Nixon might be considered a security risk? Under what law does he spend any money to provide the -- you say tradition. We have never had another President resign in disgrace as the President said he resigned in disgrace. How does he go on doing this, Ron, under what law?

MR. NESSEN: I will check the statute number for you, Les.

Q Another question on just simple bookkeeping. When you start talking about salaries of detailees, that comes out of your White House operating funds, does it not?

MR. NESSEN: No. No.

Q Where does that come from?

MR. NESSEN: Those who are detailed from the White House are on the White House payroll; those who are detailed from the Pentagon are paid by the Pentagon, and those who are detailed from GSA are paid by GSA, et cetera.

Q Other Government sources?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q That is right?

MR. NESSEN: Whoever they are detailed from pays their salaries.

Q One last question. Gaylord was asking you a question about that \$34,540 figure. I would like to ask you, can you assure us that any of the money which is listed as cost to GSA of operating the President's Florida home did not go from GSA to former President Nixon?

MR. NESSEN: I have never heard that, but I think you really need to talk to the GSA about how it spent its money.

Q On this Communications Agency expenditure, I was not clear in my mind, did you say that is or is not charged to the transition fund?

MR. NESSEN: I am told it is not.

Q Does that end on February 9th?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, as far as I know.

Q Where is the secure communications that the briefings are being sent to, is that El Toro, or is that at San Clemente?

MR. NESSEN: Coast Guard station.

Q Are the briefings continuing?

MR. NESSEN: I have not heard of any going out there lately, but we need to check. They were going out about once every 10 days or so. We will find out if any have gone out recently.

Q Do you agree with the statement that former President Nixon is one of the best expense account artists in history?

MR. NESSEN: Bill.

Q Ron, has President Ford had any reaction to the expenditures that were made?

MR. NESSEN: I have not heard of any, Bill.

Q A collateral question. Has the White House or President Ford personally refused to send to President Nixon memorabilia, forward mail, keep wooden elephants, this kind of thing?

MR. NESSEN: Former President Nixon has access to his memorabilia. These items are located in his former EOB office and in the EOB office on the fourth floor. Rosemary Woods' is housed in his former EOB office. It is my understanding that former President Nixon could have personal access if he desired.

Q He can have personal access, or could someone else go in and get them?

MR. NESSEN: Somebody else could go in and get them.

Q Are we talking about tapes and documents?

MR. NESSEN: Memorabilia includes cartoons, pictures, an elephant collection, gavels, some gowns that belonged to his daughters and some gowns that belonged to his wife.

Q Where does he or someone speaking for him get the idea, then, that they cannot have these things?

MR. NESSEN: I have no idea, Norm.

Q Well, he can't take them out of there, is that it? He can look at them.

MR. NESSEN: My understanding is that memorabilia that belonged to him before January -- representatives of the White House Counsel's Office met with representatives of the former President recently and worked out an agreement, which is basically as follows:

Point one, the GSA will coordinate an inventory of these memorabilia. That inventory is now under way.

The inventory will be presented to the U. S. District Court for its approval.

Point three, if approved, the memorabilia will be transferred to the possession of the former President.

This agreement covers the period that is prior to his becoming President in 1969 and after he left the Presidency on August 9, 1974.

The Presidential Recording and Materials Preservation Act, passed by Congress in its last session, has some language which could be interpreted as preventing the former President from gaining possession of his memorabilia acquired during the period when he was in office. We anticipate further discussions with representatives of the former President on this."

Q Will you release the five points you just read?

MR. NESSEN: Three points -- I just gave them to you.

Q I thought there were five.

MR. NESSEN: Three.

Q What are the dates that the memorabilia were accumulated that he can't have? Is that just from before and after?

Q Ron, could I go to another subject?

MR. NESSEN: Sure.

Q Ron, could we go to this recommendation of the Committee and one other subject?

Q When was this Committee formed, Ron? Do you have a date? Can you refresh our memory somewhat?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have the precise date.

Q Just roughly.

MR. NESSEN: It seems to me it was set up very close to the period of time when he was holding the economic summit meeting or immediately after that, which would have been roughly October.



Q Ron, you have carefully avoided giving us any specific details of recommendations that the President has been given so far over the last two or three weeks on the economy and now you have released this. Are we to attach any special significance to the fact that you are publicly releasing these specific recommendations?

MR. NESSEN: No, I would not attach any special significance. I think, first of all, part of your question is not right because, as you know, the auto makers were in here and they gave their recommendations, which we listed in some detail here.

He has met with a number of Members of Congress, whose recommendations you are familiar with. I think we have said that during the meetings in Vail and here he took into consideration the recommendations of the Joint Economic Committee and others so I don't think it is correct to say that we have not revealed what other recommendations.

Now, as far as this one specifically goes, the significance of putting it out and of the President's words about it is that he was impressed by the fact that labor and management representatives were unanimous in their recommendations and that he considers the recommendations to be constructive and that he is giving them serious consideration.

Q Ron, can you answer a technical question on this? On the economic initiatives, they suggest a reduction in individual income taxes effective January 1.

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Is this talking about taxes for income earned in 1975 or is it talking about a reduction in the 1974 taxes, which had to be settled up by April 15?

MR. NESSEN: Let's check that while we are here.

Q I have two questions. One is the investment tax credit rate. They recommended it go up to 12 percent. What is it now?

MR. NESSEN: It varies. It is 7 for some industries and 4 for others.

Q And they want to make it 12 across-the-board?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q A \$70 tax credit per exemption, does that mean that for a family of four the amount of their annual tax would be cut by four times \$70, or \$280? That is a tax credit rather than a reduction.

MR. NESSEN: We should have had somebody here from this group.

Q Do you know how long the tax will continue? Is it permanent or one year, two years, three years? What does it say?

MR. NESSEN: It does not?

Q It does not.

Q It says effective January 1.

MR. NESSEN: If you will give us just a second, we will see if we can get somebody here. I apologize for not having somebody here.

Q One more that you can answer. You said at the beginning the President was impressed with the fact that they were unanimous in recommending an investment tax credit.

MR. NESSEN: In all their recommendations. He is impressed with the fact that labor and management were to sit down and --

Q A dollar recommendation?

MR. NESSEN: He is impressed with the unanimity of all their recommendations.

Q How closely did representatives of the White House work with the committee in preparing these proposals?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think they worked closely in preparing the proposals, but they certainly worked closely in pulling them together and showing them to the President.

Q Can you tell me when the President received these recommendations?

MR. NESSEN: Oh, a while back. Certainly more than a week ago. A week or more ago.

Let me say on that point that the Labor-Management Committee suggested that its recommendations be made public.

Q Ron, you mentioned at the outset that the President is giving very serious consideration to the recommendations of the Labor-Management Advisory Committee. I take it then that you were in effect saying the President is giving very serious consideration to a \$15 billion tax cut starting January 1?

MR. NESSEN: I think he is giving serious consideration to their package of recommendations, which is not to say he is going to accept every one of them.

Q Is he seriously considering every one of them?

MR. NESSEN: Obviously.

Q Ron, does that mean the economic thinking is on line with the President's thinking?

MR. NESSEN: Not at all, Bill. I don't see how you can draw that. I say he is considering them, but he is considering all these other recommendations I mentioned, too.

Q You are aware of the fact, of course, that a number of stories were out today before this release that he has already approved a \$15 billion tax cut?

MR. NESSEN: I know that, Bob.

Q In light of that, can you make any comment on that?

MR. NESSEN: Only to say that I am going to follow his instructions and not reveal his proposals until he does.

Q Has he already decided basically what the tax cut is going to be without going into the figures?

MR. NESSEN: How do you know he has decided on a tax cut?

Q Well, all right. Has he decided whether he will have a tax cut and if so, what sort is it going to be?

MR. NESSEN: He has not made the majority of his decisions.

Q Can you tell us in what areas the decision has not been made?

MR. NESSEN: The meeting at 2:00 is to clean up as many of the last decisions as he can.

Q Ron, can you tell us what area that we are discussing?

MR. NESSEN: I have not really seen the agenda yet. Maybe I have an agenda.

Q On Mr. Griswold, was the plan to make him Chairman of the Commission until the matter of the Special Prosecutor came up?

MR. NESSEN: To make Mr. Griswold Chairman? As far as I know, Vice President Rockefeller was the President's choice.

Q You indicated, I think, before people were announced that it would not be somebody in the Government.

MR. NESSEN: Yes. When we went through that the other day and I said that nobody in Government, I was thinking of Cabinet Secretaries or Assistant Secretaries or something like that.

Q Ron, do you have an announcement of the Executive Director of that CIA Commission?

MR. NESSEN: No, we don't have that yet.

Q Ron, your statement attached to the recommendations assumes that the income tax recommendation is not limited to 1975 because he talks about the reduction of taxes.

MR. NESSEN: Per year, yes.

Q But that is not in the text. You can't read that into the text as you have.

MR. NESSEN: Are we getting anybody here from the labor-management?

Q Ron, can you deal with the report that the total economic package runs somewhere in the neighborhood of \$47 billion?

MR. NESSEN: I can't but I would stay away from that.

Q Ron, what would you stay away from?

MR. NESSEN: A total package of -- I don't even know what a total package means.

Q Is that too low, Ron, \$47 billion?

MR. NESSEN: I just think I would stay away from that figure. I don't know what you add together to get \$47 billion.

Q While waiting for that, can you describe any reports that the President had today on the situation in South Vietnam, or any studies that he made. Did anyone report to him? Did he meet with anybody?

MR. NESSEN: As you know, he meets with Secretary Kissinger every morning and Brent Scowcroft. I don't know whether that specifically came up today. I don't have anything new to give on Vietnam.

Q To follow up that, Ron, an editorial suggested the President should report what the U.S. is doing to induce President Thieu to fulfill that part of the Paris peace accords which calls on the Joint Communist Provisional Revolutionary Government and a National Council of Reconciliation to organize elections.

The question is: Will the President so inform the U.S. or are the taxpayers expected to go on supporting the Saigon regime for another decade or so? I mean, where is the end of all this tremendous support to Saigon?

MR. NESSEN: The South Vietnamese Government has proposed on several occasions the full implementation of the Paris accords, including elections in South Vietnam. On the 21st of November, as you probably recall, Les, President Thieu called for a resumption of the talks with the Communist side to work out the implementation of the political provisions of the agreement.

As you also probably recall, the Communists did not respond affirmatively to that, and rather than to return to the conferences, which had been held both in Paris and Saigon, they launched a military action.

Q Ron, there is a published report that Secretary Kissinger wanted to send the Enterprise and accompanying ships into South Vietnamese waters and the President overruled him. Is that correct?

MR. NESSEN: I am told by the people involved that there is nothing to that.

Q Who involved? The President?

MR. NESSEN: The people involved.

Q Ron, another question on their recommendations. Under their national energy policy recommendations, on page 3, under subchapter 2, the first recommendation is that the present environmental restrictions on energy production and use should be stretched out over time to reduce energy consumption and facilitate immediate expansion.

Does that mean you are proposing a relaxation of auto emission standards and any relaxation of other -- such as water pollution -- standards for factories?

MR. NESSEN: I really would rather have somebody from the Labor-Management Committee to explain in detail the recommendations that are obviously not in as great a detail as you want.

Dr. Dunlop, who is the Chairman of the Labor-Management Committee, will be here at 2:30 to brief you in detail about these recommendations.

Q Is that for sound and camera?

MR. NESSEN: I don't see why not.

Just to clear up a couple of the questions, a reduction on individual income taxes would be for the income under their recommendation of income earned in 1975, but really I think since I --

Q What was that?

MR. NESSEN: I say a question was raised earlier concerning a recommendation in the economic field of what tax year would this cover, their recommendation. I am told that it will cover the taxable year or income earned in 1975.

Q The other phrase, then, is not correct in the statement, this \$15 billion?

MR. NESSEN: As I say, Dr. Dunlop will be here in an hour and I think it would be best to let that committee speak for itself.

Q Are you sure it is the 1975 year, or is it the filing of returns in 1975 for 1974?

Q Ron, that is pretty important. So is the other one.

Q It is the tax bill for 1974, I think.

MR. NESSEN: Can't we wait for Dr. Dunlop?  
A reduction in withholding for 1975 for income earned  
in 1975?

Q This has nothing to do with the rebate  
in 1974, then?

MR. NESSEN: This is their recommendation that  
the reduction they propose be on income earned in  
1975.

Q And the withholding, is that what you  
are talking about?

MR. NESSEN: Why guess at what they mean when  
he will be here shortly?

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 1:25 P.M. EST)