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NEWS CONFERENCE

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 12:05 A.M. (Brussels Time)

MAY 30, 1975

THURSDAY

(Brussels, Belgium)

MR. NESSEN: Let me do the easy part first, although I am not sure which one is the easy part.

We have four announcements that are being passed out here for those of you from Washington who may find them of interest. They are also being passed out in Washington. They are following:

The President is announcing the appointment of William E. Dunn of Salt Lake County, Utah, to be a member of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations for a term of two years. He is a Salt Lake County Commissioner who served as Mayor of Murray, Utah, from 1966 to 1970.

Q Can we dispense with this?

MR. NESSEN: I think you will find some interest in one of them.

Q You say they were put out in Washington?

MR. NESSEN: They were all four put out in Washington. I am sorry. There are only three. I said four.

The President asked Congress to consider amendments for the 1976 fiscal year budget of \$4,355,000, and also asked for a request of \$1,089,000 for the transition period of the new budget; that is, July 1 to September 30, 1976. The purpose of this money is to fund the Federal Election Commission.

The third item being passed out is a veto by the President of the Emergency Employment Appropriations Act. You have a statement by the President, which is self-explanatory.

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Q Were all these offices called? Can we be sure of that?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Now for the business of the evening. I hope you will not be disappointed with what I am giving you.

Q Was the veto actually while we were here or was it vetoed before we left Washington and announced here?

MR. NESSEN: It was vetoed on the 29th, which was yesterday, and it was signed at the White House before we left yesterday.

Q Why would he veto something like that?

MR. NESSEN: Read the statement. It explains it.

Q It is after midnight. You better find out.

MR. NESSEN: We will find out. It is dated the 29th.

Q What was the question, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: Was the veto today; I mean, on Wednesday or Thursday. We will check that.

The veto message has the wrong date. It was vetoed on the 28th in Washington.

The President and President Giscard are the only two heads of state here, as you probably know. The others are heads of Government, and so they walked into the dinner together.

President Giscard is the senior head of state, having been in office the longest, so he sat on the King's right and President Ford sat on the King's left during dinner.

After dinner, we adjourned to the room called Salle des Glaces, the Hall of Mirrors, for coffee, and in that room, the President and President Giscard talked for about ten minutes with others. At 10:35 they left and went to le Petit Salon Blanc, where they met until 11:02.

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Q The times again, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: Twenty-seven minutes.

President Ford was accompanied by Secretary Kissinger and General Scowcroft, and President Giscard was accompanied by Foreign Minister Sauvagnargues.

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Q Why was he there?

MR. NESSEN: The President wanted him there. He normally takes notes in these meetings.

The subjects discussed at the meeting were Southeast Asia, European relations, unification, Portugal, the Third World, assistance, and energy.

Q What language was spoken?

MR. NESSEN: English. There was no translator in the room.

Frankly, I really cannot elaborate beyond that. There was an explaining of views on all five of those issues.

On the subject of energy, it is obvious that the exchange of views had to do with how to proceed further on the Producer-Consumer Conference. Beyond that, I simply don't have any more to give you.

Q What about security? Can you give us some background?

MR. NESSEN: European security. I have given you the subjects discussed.

Q What was the subject?

MR. NESSEN: European relations and unification.

Q What does unification mean?

MR. NESSEN: I will not be able to elaborate on what I told you.

Q Was he talking about NATO?

MR. NESSEN: Tomorrow, I anticipate we will have a briefing after the final NATO meeting. We have not picked the location yet, or the briefer, but we will let you know in plenty of time tomorrow. It is possible that the briefing may be at the NATO press center.

Q We would rather have it here.

MR. NESSEN: There will be a final communique from the NATO meeting which will be prepared and issued at NATO, but we will make sure there are plenty of copies here for everyone.

Q Ron, is there any possibility that President Ford will hold a press conference tomorrow afternoon?

MR. NESSEN: There are no plans for that.

Q You say there are no plans? Is it possible he will hold a news conference?

MR. NESSEN: There are no plans for it.

Q Has there been discussion with the President about a news conference tomorrow afternoon?

MR. NESSEN: No, there has been no discussion with the President about a news conference tomorrow.

Q You are saying there will be a briefing probably at NATO, but the President will not take part?

MR. NESSEN: Helen, I said there will be a final briefing, perhaps there, and who will do the briefing and the precise time has not been decided.

Q Will this be in the late afternoon?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, that meeting is over at 6:30, I believe, so it would be about the same time as tonight's meeting. We will post it for you tomorrow.

Q The communique is for the whole NATO meeting?

MR. NESSEN: That is correct.

Q Were any other subjects discussed with President Giscard?

MR. NESSEN: Those were the subjects discussed.

Q Why was the President 15 minutes late for the NATO Meeting today?

MR. NESSEN: Fifteen minutes late?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: I don't believe he was 15 minutes late, was he? He fell behind in his bilateral meetings, I am told.

Q Ron, can you say who wrote the President's speech today at NATO?

MR. NESSEN: The President wrote it, with the help of his advisers.

Q Can you say what was discussed apart from the Giscard-Ford meeting after dinner tonight.

MR. NESSEN: My partner was from Iceland and we talked about Iceland and, also, his experience of seven years in Washington, but I was not able to listen in on each of the conversations.

Q Ron, did you bother to inquire how the President and the French President could discuss five complicated subjects like this in 27 minutes?

MR. NESSEN: Peter, I didn't inquire. I didn't ask that question.

Q Could you say whether they discussed full membership participation in NATO? Did they discuss whether or not France had to be a full member of NATO?

MR. NESSEN: No, these were the topics.

That is it for tonight. I don't anticipate any briefings during the day tomorrow until the final wrap-up of the NATO meeting.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 12:17 A.M. Brussels Time)

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 4:11 P.M. (Brussels Time)

MAY 30, 1975

FRIDAY

(Brussels, Belgium)

MR. NESSEN: I have a word or two of information for those interested.

As I told you yesterday, in accordance with the law, the President has sent a revised budget to Congress. This has been passed out in Washington. There has been a briefing in Washington and the stories written in Washington. But those of you who need to keep up with this sort of thing, we have a limited number of copies of the highlights of the budget available.

We will also post the four pages of it on the bulletin board. For those of you who absolutely need a copy, we have a limited number of copies.

As you know, there are four texts for tomorrow, an arrival statement, a "thank you" for the key to the city, a luncheon toast and a dinner toast, and probably a farewell statement in Brussels. We expect to have these at a reasonable hour today.

Pool No. 16, which is to go to the Residence, will be leaving immediately after these few announcements I have, and they should meet Larry Speakes in the back of the hall.

I think perhaps your pool has told you that two bilateral meetings were added to the President's schedule today, one with the leaders of Iceland and one with the leaders of Canada.

The President's plans for the evening are to have a private dinner. The precise plans are not worked out yet. If he should leave the residence for this dinner, we will obviously have a travel pool go with him.

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Q What time?

MR. NESSEN: I said the plans are not definite. Whether he will or not, we don't know.

There will be a briefing here at 7:30 this evening, wrapping up the President's activities in Brussels, and the briefer will be the President.

Q What will be the format of that?

MR. NESSEN: I think the President will probably have some things to say initially and then will take questions.

Q Are you planning on 30 minutes?

MR. NESSEN: I think probably a shade less than 30, somewhere around 20 or 25.

Q There isn't any reason not to call this a press conference, is there? What is the difference?

MR. NESSEN: I give up.

Q Ron, you mentioned a private dinner. Are you talking about persons other than Mrs. Ford?

MR. NESSEN: He and Mrs. Ford and whoever else they care to invite to dine with them. We just don't have the precise details on that.

The NATO communique is supposed to be coming out very shortly, and Ed Savage is out there and will bring back 200 copies with him. That should be arriving actually quite soon, so if you are interested you should probably wait around.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 4:15 P.M. Brussels Time)