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NEWS CONFERENCE

#257

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 12:50 P.M. EDT

JUNE 27, 1975

FRIDAY

MR. NESSEN: I am sorry to be late. I was trying to get the answers to a lot of questions, and some of the people I needed to talk to were in meetings, and so forth, so I didn't have -- it just took me a while to get to them.

Q Ron, for those of us who missed yesterday, could you go over that statement again? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: I think I will pass up that.

Shortly before 10:00, the President had a short meeting with Ambassador Dinitz, of Israel. The President asked Ambassador Dinitz to come in, briefly, for a short roundup on the Middle East situation.

Then, at 10:00, the President received -- or shortly after 10:00 the President received a farewell call from the Italian Ambassador who is leaving Washington in July and retiring from the Italian foreign service, after 43 years. He has been in Washington and at the UN for 25 of those years.

The President expressed during this meeting his appreciation for Ambassador Ortona's extensive contributions to American-Italian relations during the period since the end of the war. Ambassador Ortona has been the Ambassador here in Washington for the last eight years.

Shortly before 10:30, Senator Javits came in for a short meeting. Senator Javits requested this meeting to discuss an item with the President, and I don't have any further details on that meeting, either.

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Then, at a little after 11:00, the President had a meeting with his Energy Resources Council, and the purpose of this was to review the energy research and development plans which will be sent up to Congress on June 30. Frank Zarb and Dr. Robert Seamans briefed the President on the report.

The legislation which created the Energy Research and Development Administration requires that such a report be made to Congress on the 30th, or by the 30th of June. What will be in the report represents a series of meetings and discussions and decisions that the President has been having with the Energy Resources Council over the last six months.

At 12:45 the President will receive farewell calls from three members of the military who are leaving the support staff here at the White House. Colonel Chester Ward, who is Assistant Physician to the President, is going to be going to the Army Research and Development Command after three and a half years at the White House.

Lieutenant Colonel Americo Sardo is going to the Army War College. He was the Marine Aide to the President when he was Vice President, and also here at the White House; and also senior chief Albert McGavock, a stenographer, who is being reassigned by the Navy to Guam.

Colonels Ward and Sardo will receive the Legion of Merit from the President, and Chief McGavock will receive the Joint Service Commendation Medal.

Their families are coming in with them for this visit with the President. All three will be leaving the White House on July 1.

At 2:00, the President is receiving the recommendations of the Commission on Organization of the Government for the Conduct of Foreign Policy. That is known as the Murphy Commission. There will be an opportunity to take some pictures, if you would like, of the Commission turning over its report to the President.

The President is not expected to make any remarks there. There are copies of this report available from the Commission. Its address is 2025 M Street, Northwest, and its phone number is 254-9850.

At 2:30, the President will have a meeting with the National Security Council and, as you know, we don't state the agenda for National Security Council meetings.

At 3:00, here in the briefing room, we are going to have the briefing for you on the Clean Air Act amendments recommendations that the President is making. Before the start of the briefing -- let's say a half hour before the briefing starts -- you will have a statement by the President laying out his recommendations, and also a fact sheet on the subject.

The briefers will be four in number. They are the FEA Administrator, Frank Zarb; the EPA Deputy Administrator, Mr. John Quarles; the Deputy Secretary of Transportation, John Barnum; and the Assistant Secretary of HEW, Dr. Ted Cooper. That is at 3:00.

We have put out a number of announcements already, including the nomination by the President of Irving M. Pollack for reappointment to the Securities and Exchange Commission, and also the nomination of John Meier, of Englewood, Colorado, to be Chief of the Children's Bureau in HEW.

The President also has signed a proclamation designating the week beginning July 13 as Captive Nations Week. This is based on the joint resolution of Congress.

Also, the President is sending to Congress three reports. I think you have the letters that go with the reports, and we have copies of the reports here in the press office. They are the second annual report of the National Heart, Blood Vessel and Lung Program; the annual report on the administration of the Radiation Control Health and Safety Act, and the President's Report on Occupational Safety and Health.

There are a number of resignations from part-time jobs on various boards and commissions and, I don't think we probably need to go through that. We have posted it, I guess.

I think you have seen the announcement about Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh coming to the United States next year.

I think those are all the announcements I have.

Q Is there a report, Ron, on the President and Dinitz and Kissinger meeting yesterday, and now he is coming to the White House?

MR. NESSEN: Cliff, I really can't go beyond the fact that the President asked him to come in for just a briefer view of the Middle East situation.

Q Does this indicate that the reassessment is over?

MR. NESSEN: I still don't have a time ---

Q Completed, I mean.

MR. NESSEN: I just don't have the timetable yet on the completion of the reassessment.

Q It is not complete?

MR. NESSEN: As far as I know, it is not.

Q Ron, yesterday at the Women's National Democratic Club, Ambassador Dinitz spoke rather strongly about the reassessment, asking whether U.S.-Israeli relations would be characterized by crisis-to-crisis reassessment. Was that discussed in today's meeting?

MR. NESSEN: It was a short meeting, Dick, and I don't -- I just don't have the exact details of what was discussed.

Q Is the White House now involved in the shooting of the FBI incidents in South Dakota; that is to say, has the President called Attorney General Levi and asked him for a report?

MR. NESSEN: As I understand it, the Justice Department is making an investigation, but the President has passed the word to the Justice Department that he wants to be kept informed about the shootings and that he is saddened by the tragic loss of life. He does expect a full investigation and the prosecution of anyone who is found to be guilty in that matter.

Q Ron, did Dr. Kissinger see the President this morning?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, he sees him, as you know, each morning, and he did have his regular morning meeting with the President. The time of it was 9:15. That is his normal time to see the President -- 9:15.

Q Who was with the President when the President saw the Ambassador?

MR. NESSEN: Kissinger was with the President when Ambassador Dinitz came in.

Q How long was that meeting?

MR. NESSEN: The meeting lasted from 9:58 to 10:09, an 11-minute meeting.

Q Ron, is this energy report going to have something of a program in it? What is going to be the nature of that?

MR. NESSEN: John is the expert on that.

MR. CARLSON: It is a long-range research and development for nuclear, solar, breeder reactors, and so forth.

MR. NESSEN: It is kind of an outline of the future. Does it have specific proposals in it?

MR. CARLSON: It is a broad, general plan. This is Volume 1, Volume 2 to go a week or so later. We will have a briefing Monday morning to explain the whole thing.

Q There is briefing today down at the National Academy of Sciences.

Q While we are on reports, could I ask you why the Murphy Commission report won't be made available here?

MR. NESSEN: As I understand it, the Murphy Commission was set up by Congress, if I am not mistaken, and it is not a White House report or a Presidential Commission. It is a group that, as I understand it, is required by the legislation to report to a whole large number of people, including the present Congress and some others.

Q That is the same as with Hruska, though?

MR. NESSEN: Just those two. It is not a Presidential Commission.

Q But neither was the Hruska Presidential Commission, the Commission on the appellate courts. It was required to report both to Congress and the President. Yet, the President had a ceremony. He received the report. He brought out Hruska to brief. What is the difference?

MR. NESSEN: He is receiving this report, too, Mort. You know, I don't think that there is any significance to the fact that the report is being put out over on M Street rather than here.

Q Ron, did the President and Dr. Kissinger discuss the results of that report?

MR. NESSEN: Of the Murphy Commission?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: The President has not gotten the Murphy Commission report yet.

Q It is all on the air. He could just turn on the air and listen to it all day.

MR. NESSEN: He has not read it.

Q There are a number of reports that indicate that the Commission will report...one of the recommendations will be that the post of Secretary of State and the post of National Security Adviser to the President not be held by the same man. Does the President have a view on that recommendation?

MR. NESSEN: Just generally speaking about the Murphy Commission report and its findings, the President wants to get it and he wants to review and study it. He does appreciate the work of the Commission. I think it is fairly well known that that is -- I have not seen the exact wording of that particular recommendation myself, but the President wanted to refer you back to some remarks he made to Walter Cronkite in the television interview in which the President said sometimes in the Government you get unique individuals who can very successfully handle a combination of jobs like Secretary Kissinger is doing today as head of the National Security and Secretary of State.

If you get that kind of person, you ought to take advantage of that capability and, therefore, under the circumstances, I would not recommend, nor would I want a division of those two responsibilities.

Those were the President's views when he was asked by Walter Cronkite, and they still are.

Q Ron, there were two men arrested by the FBI and charged with spying for the Soviet Union. Does this have any effect on detente?

MR. NESSEN: I saw an add to that story on the wire, and I never could find the lead to that story, and I just have not had time --

Q We have that problem in our offices, too.

MR. NESSEN: -- to follow that up. I am aware there was something about spies, and I just could not find the lead on the story.

Q Ron, when you met with the President today, did you discuss your remarks about the briefing yesterday, your remarks about the White House press corps, and did the President have any reaction to what you said yesterday?

MR. NESSEN: He didn't bring it up at all, and we had quite a lot of things to discuss today. At the end of it, I said, "I suppose you read the stories about my briefing, and he said he did, and he didn't have any further comment.

Q Did the President last night?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Ron, is he going to sign this bill extending the unemployment?

MR. NESSEN: It is our proposal, so he will sign it.

Q Ron, to go on from Fred's question for a minute, do you yourself have any further thoughts about your statement of yesterday?

MR. NESSEN: I would only say that I could have been a little clearer in my intention in making that statement, which was not to certainly make a blanket criticism of everybody in the room and not to react in an angry way or not to appear to be unable to take the pressure.

I should have made clear my intention to improve the briefings in such a way that they are of more use to you and to your readers and viewers.

Q Ron, I believe Mr. Lisagor some time ago wrote in a column that he thought it would be a good thing if you cease daily, automatic briefings and brief only on specific occasions, and I understand he expressed that view to you. What do you think of that view?

MR. NESSEN: The one other thing I might have been more clear on yesterday was that there is no plan right now to abolish the briefings, and I thought I made clear that there was some consideration to improving the briefings so that more news would come out.

As you know, we have had scheduled for two or three weeks now to go up to Camp David this weekend and talk about how to make the Press Office better in general, and one of the subjects on the agenda is how to improve the briefing. I think probably we ought to wait until we have done that. Also, some people asked to come in and see me yesterday, and we talked about --

Q Oh, come on now, Ron. You know better. You invited them.

MR. NESSEN: In response to I guess 12 or 15 phone calls from people who wanted to see me individually, and I could not see all of them individually, I didn't have the time, so I invited them all to come at one time.

Another thing I might not have made as clear as I might have yesterday was that I thought that improving the briefing was a two-way proposition and that while we were thinking of ideas to improve, I would assume that people out there were, and in fact, people have, as you point out, Peter, and some others here have, come to me in the past weeks and months with ideas.

When we get back from Camp David, we ought to in some form sit down and sort of look at each other's ideas and put them together in a way that does improve the briefings.

Q Was yesterday's briefing the subject of discussion at the staff meeting this morning?

MR. NESSEN: It was not.

Q Ron, since all of us are going to be affected by the decision you make, could I ask you to post a list of the people who you met with yesterday so we might have some idea who is representing us in these discussions?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think anybody was representing anybody, Aldo. I think it was a question that a lot of people had called me to ask further questions for writing stories and some had called to express views, and they were there just for their own personal reasons and didn't in any way pretend to represent anybody other than themselves.

Q Is that a no, then?

MR. NESSEN: Would I post, do you mean?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: Aldo, it is the same thing as my afternoon phone calls and people coming in to the office, except that we have got everybody in at one time because I didn't have time to see everybody altogether.

Q Ron, there is something very funny in this meeting you had in there yesterday. I still think you ought to post the list. I think that is a very good suggestion because there is some funny business about that.

Q Just a minute. I was one of the people at the meeting, Sarah --

Q Put up the list. I don't give a damn. I don't care.

Q Sarah, as one of the people at the meeting, I can tell you why I was there, if that will be of any help. I called to see Ron, and in response to my call, I was told that he would see me at a quarter to five, so I came over. I didn't think there was anything funny about it.

Q You thought you were just coming to see him personally. You didn't think you were coming to a meeting.

MR. NESSEN: He certainly was not in there representing you.

Q Ron, one further question about yesterday's statement, if I may. As I am quite sure you are aware, the statement has generally and widely been interpreted as an attack on the press and criticism of the news media to cover the White House. Do you regret that?

MR. NESSEN: My feeling is that, as I said, I wish I had been clearer in stating my intention, which was to improve the briefings and to get more news out. I should have been clearer in indicating that this was no blanket statement covering everybody in the briefing room.

I read some of the stories, and I got the impression that it was more or less taken that way. I think you know that it was certainly not my intention, and I don't think it came across that way.

Q Certainly not your intention to what? I am not clear. Certainly not your intention to what?

MR. NESSEN: To make the kind of wider, broader accusations that you have mentioned.

Mary?

Q I wanted to ask about something too trifling in comparison with this. Did the President give his personal approval to the new expedition of the Glomar Explorer, which is now going forth to recover the second half of the Soviet submarine?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that it is going forth to recover the second half, Mary.

Q It is, nonetheless, going forth, is it not? There was a picture in the paper yesterday of it taking on supplies.

MR. NESSEN: I just don't know what the plans of the Glomar Explorer are. I will find out, though.

Q Ron, in his column today, Tom Wicker raised the question for President Ford about his position on warrantless wiretaps. What is the President's position on that, warrantless wiretaps?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that position, Tom. I will have to check.

Q Ron, does the President have any reaction to Indira Gandhi's imposition of a dictatorship temporarily or permanently?

MR. NESSEN: I just don't think the White House ought to comment on the internal workings of the internal affairs of another country, so we would not have any specific comment on that.

I was asked yesterday about the one aspect of it, which is press censorship, and I think some of you know that the Administration has often expressed its opinion that it opposes censorship of the press or abridgement of the freedoms of the press anywhere, and I don't think I could go beyond that in commenting on India's internal situation.

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Q Ron, what can you tell us about the UN approach today with the U.S. and South Korea to have the UN role in Korea changed?

MR. NESSEN: I was not aware of it, Steve, I am sorry. I will have to look into it for you.

Q Ron, I would like to ask one more question about this press thing. You were quoted in the Post this morning as saying that after the infamous June 6 briefing that you were considering resigning. Obviously you didn't, but are you still considering that?

MR. NESSEN: No, I am not. And I really didn't consider resigning. I think that was probably too strong. You know, I sort of wondered or mused as to whether it might not be better to have a press secretary who would be believed more than I apparently was, but it never got beyond the stage of kind of mulling that over in my own mind.

Q Ron, what was Herbert Klein doing here today?

MR. NESSEN: Well, he came to see me, for one thing, and I was not able to see him because I was busy with a lot of other things.

Q What was the question?

MR. NESSEN: What was Herb Klein doing in the White House today?

He comes to Washington periodically and he has a lot of friends here, including Margita and myself, and others, and he did not see the President. He was supposed to see me and I didn't see him.

Q Ron, last week we had a briefing on the President's crime message and the message received a great deal of fanfare. One of the things that was said then was that the legislation to implement this proposal would be sent up this Wednesday. It was not sent up Wednesday, it was not sent up Thursday, and I am now told that it may not be sent up until Congress returns from its latest vacation.

What is the hangup?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. I know we said it would go up on the 25th and we will find out why it didn't.

Marty?

Q Ron, just to clarify any discussions you may have had or may not have had with members of the staff about yesterday's briefing, did anyone else represent any opinions that the President might have had to you?

For example, did you talk with Don Rumsfeld and did he perhaps pass on some comments that the President had, or his own observations?

MR. NESSEN: No, nobody passed on any comments from the President. Other people had their own views but there was no very long or serious discussion about it.

Q Did you hold a series of meetings with people to get their views on this subject?

MR. NESSEN: No, I didn't because you know, really, I thought it was something that was very narrowly focused to some of our own day-to-day problems in making the briefing work better and really nobody in the White House seemed to think it got very much into their area.

Q Ron, does the President share the view of the CIA Director that it is appropriate to continue surveillance on files, keeping of files on Members of Congress?

MR. NESSEN: Well, the CIA Director has assured the President that a small number of files that they have on Members of Congress are in each case kept for legitimate reason. At the same time, the President has emphasized again the view that he expressed, I think a while ago, concerning spying on any American citizen, Member of Congress or not, and he is assured that the files kept on the Members of Congress does not violate his view against spying on anybody.

Q Has the President determined whether there is a CIA file on him?

MR. NESSEN: He applied for a job at the CIA back before World War II and -- I am sorry, FBI. He applied for a job at the FBI and he assumes that an investigation was made of him and that there are files at least at the FBI on him.

Q Why was he rejected? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that he was rejected. I don't know how -- maybe he got a better job offer.

Q Before World War II he applied?

MR. NESSEN: Before World War II.

Q Nixon didn't get a job with them, either.

Q Ron, seriously, the President has traveled fairly widely abroad and it is quite possible that there would be a CIA file on him.

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that he has ever asked the Director whether there is a file at the CIA on him. He did mention the other morning that he is fairly confident that there is an FBI file on him, if for no other reason than the fact that he once applied for a job there.

Q The law requires that that file be maintained 35 years.

MR. NESSEN: Is that right? Are the 35 years up yet?

Q I don't know.

MR. NESSEN: This is the year to destroy it, it seems.

Q It has to be.

Q The FBI compiled quite a file on him during the investigation of the Vice Presidential nomination.

MR. NESSEN: I would think that would be the other occasion when there would be material gathered on him, because in fact we know for sure that there was an FBI investigation.

Q Ron, the question, however, dealt with the issue of whether there is a CIA file on the President and on Members of Congress, not FBI files. The CIA, as we are all quite aware, is prohibited from operations in this country and I rather suspect that the questioner had that in mind when he asked whether there was a CIA file on the President as there are over 75 Members of Congress, and what the President thinks of this in light of the CIA's charter which is to not operate in this country.

MR. NESSEN: Not quite that. I frankly have not asked him whether he thinks there is or whether he knows there is. He has traveled extensively overseas. I don't know of any other connection he has had with the CIA. I can ask him whether he believes there is or whether he knows there is a CIA file.

Q Ron, does the President believe it is proper for the FBI or the CIA to keep a file on a President?

MR. NESSEN: As I say, in the case of the FBI, the files there are one, if there are any -- and he assumes that there are -- partly it would come from his job application, partly from the investigation when he became Vice President.

Q Does he think it is proper?

MR. NESSEN: He has not said otherwise.

The question of what would be legitimate purposes for the CIA keeping files on Congressmen, as I understand it, Director Colby spelled out what the reasons were. If I recall it, the vast majority were people who had either applied for jobs at the CIA and therefore had been investigated for jobs, and files were kept, or who had gotten security clearances for one reason or another, and then I think there were a very small number of cases that did not involve that but that the Director explained it and he has given the same explanation to the President, and the President accepts his belief that they are legitimate.

Q Ron, since the President seems reasonably confident that both FBI and CIA files, where they are kept on Members of Congress, are kept for legitimate reasons, wouldn't it be a good idea for him to ask to see those files as they respect to him to see if in fact the kinds of things that are being kept about Congressmen are things that he does feel are appropriate?

MR. NESSEN: I covered his confirmation hearings and that was quite a lengthy FBI report, it seems to me, several hundred pages.

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Q It was not prepared for that purpose?

MR. NESSEN: Do you mean the previous one on his employment application?

Q And anything else that might be in there. You know, rumors from neighbors or anything that occasionally get into FBI files, and I don't know what is in CIA files about Congressmen. Wouldn't it be a good idea for him to look?

MR. NESSEN: As I say, he has made his views clear about no spying on any Americans, including Members of Congress, and he has also been assured that what files there are contain legitimate material and are kept for legitimate reasons.

Q Ron, there was a time when I covered State and we were told that the daily briefings were in fact piped back to Langley. Do these briefings go back to Langley in any way here, either through live tape or tape that is sent out there or transcript? Is a transcript of this briefing sent to Langley?

MR. NESSEN: A transcript of this briefing is circulated within the White House and I think it is also circulated to Cabinet members, mainly so that they know what the President's thinking is on a variety of issues.

Q Does a transcript of the briefing go to the Central Intelligence Agency?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know whether they are on the distribution list or not.

Q Ron, could you tell us what the weekend plans for the President are?

MR. NESSEN: The weekend is almost here, isn't it.

Q He can't go to Camp David. You will be there.

MR. NESSEN: He has one visitor tomorrow, I know. Pele, the soccer player is going to be on a tour of the White House and the President asked him to stop in briefly.

Q To kick around a few things? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: Yes, to kick around a few things.

That is the only appointment I know of. There may be some staff meetings in the morning. If the weather is any good, I would think that he would play golf. Other than that, he will be here this weekend.

Q Ron, I wonder if I could return to this question of intelligence for one minute on a related aspect of it. The Senate committee headed by Senator Church has begun an investigation of reports and allegations that the National Security Agency has been monitoring telephone calls of American citizens within the United States, and these same allegations have been received by the National Commission on Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance.

I have several questions about it. Is the President aware of these reports or allegations? Has he asked for any inquiry or any report on them? Does he know that the NSA is or is not doing this? In short, what does he know about it?

MR. NESSEN: And when did he know it?

Q No, I am not interested in when he knew it.

MR. NESSEN: Jim, I think what you are talking about is several stories really that talked about electronic surveillance from certain embassies in Washington and then certain countermoves that were taken by the NSA, and that the countermoves, according to the stories, alleged that in the course of their countermoves they listened in on conversations. I think that is what you are talking about.

Q I never refer to somebody else's story. I was referring to my own story. I was not referring to the Chicago Tribune story.

MR. NESSEN: As I say, there were several stories.

Q I am talking about the allegations that have been presented to the National Commission on Wiretapping that the NSA was doing this and in violation of Federal law.

MR. NESSEN: Let me say that the extent that the President wants to talk publicly about allegations of surveillance by other countries is in the Rockefeller Commission report, and he does not want to go beyond that other than to say, as he did at the news conference the other night, he has great confidence in the American intelligence and counterintelligence forces to deal with any such alleged surveillance, and thirdly, that Members of Congress have been made aware of the subject discussed in the Rockefeller Commission report.

Q Ron, none of this is what I was asking about, however. I know what the President said at his press conference but I didn't ask you about these allegations or reports on what other countries might do or are doing.

I asked you about reports and allegations that are being investigated by the Church Committee that the National Security Agency, an agency of this Government, was monitoring telephone calls from American citizens which according to two different laws would be a violation of law, and I asked you whether the President heard these reports, whether he knew whether they were true or false, what if anything he had requested in the way of information about these allegations.

MR. NESSEN: Well, Jim, the most I can say about that, and I know what you are talking about, is that he has confidence in the intelligence and counter-intelligence forces to deal with any such alleged surveillance, and I really can't go beyond that.

Q Just a strike question.

Q Frank has something.

Q Does the National Security Agency monitor American telephones?

Q Frank has something, Ron.

Q Wait a minute. Let Bob finish the follow-up.

Q It is not a follow-up, it is a simple question. Do they, or not?

MR. NESSEN: Well, Bob asked do they or don't they, and the only answer I can give to that is that the President has confidence in the intelligence and counter-intelligence forces.

Q They are doing it?

MR. NESSEN: I just can't go beyond that.

Q Ron, while I disassociate myself from the suggestion attributed to Mr. Lisagor, thank you. (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: Well, wait a minute. I am not quite finished yet. I want to finish up a few left-over items.

Q Before you leave that, may I ask you another related question?

Ron, before you leave, may I ask you a related question to that intelligence matter?

MR. NESSEN: Wait a minute, now.

The question was, does the CIA read the transcripts of these briefings and the answer is that the Cabinet Secretaries do get the transcripts and the purpose of that is so that they stay current on the President's thinking on various issues.

Director Colby is not on the distribution list. The only way that he could get one is if he called up and asked for one from the press office.

Q He is smarter than that. (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: That is right. He has somebody out there as an agent.

The press office says that -- Joy, frankly, says that she does not know of any time when the CIA has called and asked for a transcript.

Q Unless someone in our midst is bootlegging.

MR. NESSEN: That is right.

Q Was the President informed that former President Nixon would be testifying before a Watergate prosecutor and members of the grand jury?

MR. NESSEN: Was he informed ahead of time?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: The first he saw of it was a wire service story that I took in to him this morning.

Q Has he had any phone calls with Mr. Nixon recently?

MR. NESSEN: No, not recently.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

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(AT 1:28 P.M. EDT)