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

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 10:22 A.M. MDT

AUGUST 11, 1975

MONDAY

(Vail, Colorado)

MR. NESSEN: Let's move on so we can all get out and enjoy Vail.

The President, as you know, signed a fair number of bills and other matters on Saturday and Sunday in Washington, and we are pulling all that stuff together for release. None of it is ready right now, but I would anticipate a fairly hefty posting between 5 and 6 o'clock on legislation and other matters that he signed.

Q Can you give us an idea of which bills?

MR. NESSEN: This is working its way through the paperwork mill in Washington. I don't know what it is.

Q Given the deadlines, should we anticipate breaking up the shows in the second and third feed?

MR. NESSEN: No, I wouldn't think so. The only really major one -- it is not a major, major one -- is the President thought the only one that would be of great interest to you was the bill providing for the pay raise for Congress, the Judiciary and so forth.

Q Did he sign that?

MR. NESSEN: He has signed that, but it is more than a simple signing. He has to set what level it is going to be at. So, there will be a posting between 5 and 6 o'clock.

Q That will contain the details of these signings?

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MR. NESSEN: If it has worked its way through the machinery, it will be out this afternoon. Otherwise, it will be out tomorrow or tomorrow afternoon.

As for the President's plans, he is going to play golf, I guess, shortly. I told you last night who he is going to play with -- Dr. Lukash, Alan Greenspan, and the pro at the golf course, Bob Wolfe. We will have a protective pool following him from the house to the gate of the golf course, and tomorrow we will have open coverage for the golf game, for those who request it.

Q Why tomorrow and not today?

MR. NESSEN: For the same reason as the ski pictures at Christmastime and the golf pictures at Palm Springs. He likes to have a day to kind of unwind and work his swing out.

Q There is quite a difference. He hadn't been on skis for several months. He has golfed quite regularly.

MR. NESSEN: This was his preference, Phil, and he would like to have the pictures taken tomorrow.

Q Is there any significance in taking the doctor along on his first round? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: I don't think so.

Q Would there be any objection to illustrating our stories today about the bills President Ford is signing, if we get some pictures today of him leaving his house and getting into the car going to play golf?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know how you would do that, except down there at the gate, at the entranceway.

Q So, the protective pool never really does much of anything?

MR. NESSEN: Except protect.

Q There is no reason why that travel pool can't shoot for everybody's distribution, just holding a man in that location?

MR. NESSEN: We have gone through this again and again. It is a protective travel pool rather than a coverage pool.

Q We are now the victims of what you people want and when you want it. I would like to know why the sensitivity of the President on the routine coverage of his activities here?

MR. NESSEN: I don't sense any sensitivity on his part, Phil.

Q We can't film him leaving the house, we can't shoot film of him teeing off, we can do it tomorrow, whenever you people decide?

Q What is the difference, filming him from outside?

MR. NESSEN: As I said, the gate is public property.

Q That is not what we are asking. Is he reluctant to have this characterized as a total vacation by having pictures of the golf game the first day?

MR. NESSEN: It is not totally vacation, as you know. I don't really have much of an explanation beyond the fact the President would like the golf pictures tomorrow instead of today, as he has on previous vacations.

Q We also requested work shots today. We were more than willing to show the total picture.

Q The departure from his home this morning -- why no coverage of that?

MR. NESSEN: Look, he comes out the door and gets in a car, Phil.

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Q Either working or playing golf, you can appreciate the fact we want a picture of the President being in Vail.

Q Just for the record, when we went skiing the last time, the first day there were pictures of him on his skis, not necessarily tooling down the slope, but there was a scene setter for the activities.

Q We followed him up the the lift, and he talked briefly.

Q You may as well give on this -- it is so innocuous. (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: He is going to come out, get in the car and go and play golf, and the travel pool is going to follow him to the gates of the golf course.

After he gets back from golf, he doesn't have any specific plans for the day, but I will keep in touch and let you know if he has any.

The travel pool needs to leave now for his activities.

Sheila Weidenfeld, as she did at Christmas time, will be in charge of tracking down what the Fords do, if anything, in the evening and whatever other social events they have. She is working upstairs in the Press Office, and will be down later to tell you about it in person or post it on the bulletin boards.

I know you are all curious about the Court of Appeals decision in Washington. The President and his Legal Counsel's Office and the FEA have not actually seen the decision yet. Basically, all they have seen is the wire copy reports of the decision.

They will get and review the decision. Then the Department of Justice, the White House Counsel's Office and the FEA Counsel's Office, General Counsel, will review the decision and will recommend to the President whether to appeal. And with that advice from the Justice Department, the White House Legal Counsel and the FEA General Counsel, the President will decide whether to appeal the decision.

In the meanwhile, I guess I should point out that the Court did not in this ruling issue any injunction to halt the \$2 tariff. This is something you should really check in Washington.

It is my understanding the Court has 21 days in which to issue such an injunction if it intends to. That is basically all I can tell you now.

The President is keeping in close touch with the decision, with his people who are reviewing the decision.

Q You referred to this as a \$2 tariff, does that mean the White House now concedes this is a tariff?

MR. NESSEN: Or import fee, whatever the exact title is that has been used. I was using tariff in the generic sense.

Q Has there been a recommendation from the Economic Policy Board for the President to knock down this tariff fee, whatever it is, once oil is decontrolled?

MR. NESSEN: Well, I think ever since the series of meetings at the end of last week, we have been saying that the President was reviewing a number of Administrative steps that he could take to soften the economic impact of immediate decontrol on August 31.

I think most of you who followed the energy story at all knows one of the things the President could do to soften the economic impact would be to take off one or both of the dollars on the import fee.

Q Isn't this a specific recommendation that he remove this from the Economic Policy Board?

MR. NESSEN: Peter, at the meetings he had last week, this was one of the options that he considered, but I don't think I ought to go beyond that because he hasn't announced a decision yet.

Q Hasn't there been estimates to the President showing how small an impact would be, or a lesser impact there would be if the tariffs were removed?

MR. NESSEN: You mean impact on the economy or impact on the conservation?

Q Economy, inflation, et cetera, basically the economy and the inflation factor.

MR. NESSEN: You mean by taking it off?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: It has had a three-cent effect on the price of gasoline. I think Frank Zarb estimates if you took off the \$2 tariff by way of softening the impact of decontrol the decontrol alone would accomplish two-thirds of what the President set out to do initially in January.

Q Where do we stand on the issue of the oil companies meeting with the representatives of the White House to voluntarily keep down the price of gas after decontrol?

MR. NESSEN: Again, that was among the various options that the President was considering at the end of last week and still is. All of these options are aimed at making an orderly transition from control to non-control, and I think it would be fair to say that one of the ideas being explored is a way to have the oil companies help to make this transition orderly in the national interest. But any specific mechanism has not been decided on.

Q Ron, has the President been in contact with Zarb since this proposal was submitted?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Did he talk directly with him?

MR. NESSEN: There has been a whole series of phone calls this morning. I am not sure the President talked directly to Zarb, but others have and have been back and forth between the President and Zarb, the Legal Counsel Office and the FEA General Counsel Office.

Q Was the President surprised or disappointed at this decision?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that I could characterize it with a word like that.

Q Did he have any indication this was going to come?

MR. NESSEN: He knew the case was in the process because you have already had a lower Court ruling upholding the import fees, and now you have had an Appeals Court ruling setting aside the import fees. He knew it was in place.

Q Could you give any estimate of the impact this decision will have on his decision on whether to keep the tariffs on or whether just to abandon in light of --

MR. NESSEN: I think, Aldo, there are really two separate questions here. His decision on whether to keep the tariffs on or take them off as a way of easing the impact on the economy is an economic question. This is a legal question and will have to be reviewed separately from its economic impact.

Q Ron, let's say, for the sake of argument, that he was almost ready to lift them anyway, why would he challenge the Court decision? It is totally meaningless.

MR. NESSEN: I don't agree. As you say, he had been moving along toward a decision on this strictly on economic grounds. Now you have a legal question. It might be that he would decide to lift the \$2 for economic reasons, but at the same time want to go ahead and appeal this case for the sake of nailing down the fact that he has the authority. Whether he uses it is an economic question. Whether he has it and fights to show he has it is a legal question.

Q I would like to ask you, is the President exploring options that he has to deal with the oil companies to bring about whatever increases they make in an orderly fashion in the national interest? What options does he have besides jawboning? Does he have any other kinds of legal action? He doesn't does he?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Jawboning is what he is considering, right?

MR. NESSEN: I think all of you know, who watched this the last couple of days, there is a question of -- well, there is an anti-trust element to this, and the President has been told that.

Q What, that he would not get the companies together and tell them --

MR. NESSEN: In certain circumstances, getting all the oil companies together and getting them to agree would appear to some Presidential advisers to be a price-fixing option.

Q Ron, is it true that the President is more disturbed about the appearance, the fact that he hasn't got the right to impose this excise tax, than he is about the decontrol thing?

MR. NESSEN: I wouldn't say more or less, Howard. I would say it is two separate questions, and he has been considering the economic question of whether to take it off or leave it on, and is still considering that purely on economic grounds.

Now, a decision to appeal this -- if he makes that decision -- would be a legal question to demonstrate that he has the authority to do it. But I wouldn't say that one has more weight than the other. They are two separate questions.

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Q Do you think the President made a good deal?

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

Q You talked about the President's house renting for \$110. Has he actually rented that house since he has been President? Have any people been living there? Is he losing that income? Has that changed since he became President, people coming out and actually living in the House?

MR. NESSEN: Maybe Pam knows the answer to that.

MISS CONKLIN (Vail Associates): I believe it is on the rental market. It is used by the Bass family.

Q Would he be losing \$110?

MISS CONKLIN: If there were a request for it, it would be rented. It seems a lot more houses are rented in the summer, for people are looking for accommodations for particular groups.

Q Can you answer that question yes or no?

MR. NESSEN: It sounds like the answer is it is up for rent, and if people want to rent it, they can rent it.

Q Has it been rented by strangers since he has been President?

MISS CONKLIN: I will check.

Q Is Dick Bass using that house this week?

MISS CONKLIN: I think he is staying at the lodge.

Q Is he staying in the President's condominium?

MR. NESSEN: He did at Christmas. We will nail all these details down.

Q Can we get pictures of Dick Bass leaving --
(Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: We will get that tomorrow.

Q Ron, has the President had any communication with Frank Carlucci, the Ambassador to Portugal, on the uprisings there?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that he has had any direct contact with Carlucci. Obviously, he gets his daily intelligence briefing and Scowcroft is out here, so he is being kept informed of that situation, as well as any other international situations.

Q Has there been any backing off from the 99.9 percent certainty he will veto the extension?

MR. NESSEN: No, absolutely not.

Q Is there any time the President has put on for getting his people to review this and recommend?

MR. NESSEN: No, because I don't even know how long the decision is, how many pages it runs, and neither does he. It is a question of getting it right, reading it, having the lawyers read it as lawyers, so I don't have any idea, and neither does he, as to how long it will take.

Q This is a housekeeping question. Could you go over again who the President is staying with and some of the arrangements he has made?

MR. NESSEN: The house where the President is staying is owned by a man named Dick Bass, a Texas businessman. It is the same house where the President stayed at Christmastime.

The President also owns a condominium here in Vail, which has turned out to be too small now for the kind of business he needs to conduct, the people he needs around him, and so forth. The Bass house at this time of year rents for \$175 a day. The President's condominium normally rents for \$110 a day. So, there is a difference of \$65 a day.

What the President has done is to give Dick Bass his house to use, he has taken over the Dick Bass house, and there is a difference of \$65. That \$65 is going to be split between the President and a friend of his named Jim Brown, who is a ranch owner from Utah and an old friend.

So, they will split the \$65, meaning each will pay \$32.50 per day. Jim Brown is not here yet. He is coming on Wednesday. His wife is here and his daughter, Jennifer, is here, and Mrs. Ford.

Q Do you know how old the daughter is?

MR. NESSEN: Sheila can probably get that for you. She is a teenager.

Q Did you find out how many will come from the Jim Brown family?

MR. NESSEN: Only Jennifer will come from Jim Brown's family.

Q Can you tell us who else on the senior staff is here and who else may be expected?

MR. NESSEN: Rumsfeld and Nessen, Greenspan and Scowcroft are the only ones who are here now. Zarb will be coming toward the end of the week for the symposium and, at the moment, that is all I know who are coming.

Q Do you know when the President is going to address the symposium yet?

MR. NESSEN: Friday, and I think it will be at the morning session.

Q Will Zarb come on Thursday?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have his exact plans. If they haven't run out, there is a very good booklet explaining the symposium back on the message desk, and the local papers both had good articles on the background of the symposium, lists of speakers, topics and history. If they run out, we will get more, or you can read the local paper.

Q What has the President actually done this morning, and who has he met with?

MR. NESSEN: So far, Rumsfeld, myself and Major Barrett.

Q Ron, do you anticipate the President will have a decision on this Court of Appeals ruling in time to reveal it at the symposium?

MR. NESSEN: I wouldn't think that that would be something he would -- first of all, I don't know what the timing is on making the decisions, but it strikes me as something he would not use that as the occasion for.

Q We will have a prepared address beforehand, right?

MR. NESSEN: As far as I know.

Q Getting back to that decision, you said Zarb said -- I didn't remember that -- that the decontrols would accomplish two-thirds of what the President --

MR. NESSEN: I don't think I ever said that to the public. Maybe he said that at a briefing last week, but that is his view.

Q The question is, would the tariff provide the other one-third?

MR. NESSEN: Yes. Frank believes if you have only decontrol, total domestic decontrol, and if you lifted the import fees--I say if--if you remove the \$2.00, in other words, and had only the decontrol of the price of old domestic oil, you would save one million 400 thousand barrels per day on imports by 1977.

As you know, the goal was two million barrels a day, so the difference comes in lifting the \$2.00.

Q The two million would be achieved? If he could keep the tariffs on and the decontrol, he would have everything he wanted, is that right?

MR. NESSEN: If he decided to do that.

As you remember, the original plan in January was designed to save two million barrels a day on imports, two million below what they ordinarily would have been by the end of 1977, two million barrels a day if the full program had gone into effect.

If you only decontrol old oil on August 31 and if you remove the \$2.00, you would save instead, by Zarb's estimate, one million 400 thousand barrels a day on imports by 1977.

Q How much are we saving now?

MR. NESSEN: I haven't seen the latest figures, but Frank has talked about them.

Q Does he know how much gasoline would go up on that premise?

MR. NESSEN: I will have to get some updated figures, but hasn't he talked about 5 to 6 cents a gallon?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: I think that is right.

Q The President is considering this kind of an option?

MR. NESSEN: We have said all along, Helen, he is considering various steps to ease the economic impact of decontrol.

Q Is that figure 4.4 million barrels a day a result of the price mechanism?

MR. NESSEN: The price mechanism and increased domestic production, yes.

Q Then why do you want to mitigate the impact?

MR. NESSEN: Because, Jim -- I know that John Osborne asked that question the other day -- this is an extremely complicated matter, and it is not black and white. We need to push ahead with an energy program for the reasons the President has stated, which is to get rid of dependence on foreign oil and the amount of money that we are spending overseas which doesn't get into the American economy, which gets into the foreign economies running at \$25 billion a year. We need to keep that money in America. We need to conserve fuel. We need to stimulate domestic consumption.

At the same time, you have to balance that so that you don't unduly affect the present state of the American economy. So it is a balancing procedure. It is not either or.

Q Does the President expect to meet with any Republican and party leaders from this part of the country or from Colorado while he is here?

MR. NESSEN: I have not heard of any plans to do that.

Q Ron, has the White House received any reaction to the 60-minute interview from the public of Mrs. Ford?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I am aware of. It was only on last night.

Okay, we will post somewhere between five and six. If there is anything important before then, we will get in touch with you.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

(AT 10:47 A.M. MDT)

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 5:20 P.M. MDT

AUGUST 11, 1975

MONDAY

(Vail, Colorado)

MR. NESSEN: We will just do this quickly. I will just walk you through all this paper because there is so much of it.

There is a short notice to the press about tomorrow's golf game and golf partners. There is a small notice to the press about the President's dinner guests--the President is having dinner at home--and who he is having dinner with.

The package of bill signings -- I don't know how many are here -- 16 bill signings. Some have explanations with them.

He did sign the bill that has to do with Executive pay raises and Congressional and Judicial pay raises. As you know, the next step in that is for him to recommend a level of pay raises that will come by September 1, to take effect on October 1.

The exact level is not recommended yet. He must do that before September 1.

There is an Executive Order here, a technical amendment to the law concerning some authority for the Transportation Secretary. John Carlson is here to help you with that.

The President is announcing his intention to name Mike Moskow, who many of you know to be, Director on Wage and Price Stability, and a statement by the President having to do with a bill changing tariff schedules on watches and watch movements and a law which extends the life of the Council on Wage and Price Stability to September 30 of 1977.

I guess the last other item is the decision on whether to appeal today's Appeal Court ruling. No decision has been made by the President on that. He has not gotten the full recommendations of his various legal advisers. I think we can say flatly there will be no decision made tonight, which will save you the trouble of hanging on.

Q Will it be made tomorrow?

Q When will it be made?

MR. NESSEN: I can't say, Russ, because I don't know when the legal advisers will have completed their analysis of the decision.

Q What did the President have in mind this morning when he said he would have a decision later today?

MR. NESSEN: I never like to fathom what is in the President's mind, but perhaps he thought it would take the advisers less time to pull together their recommendations than it has.

Q They have not reported back to him at all yet?

MR. NESSEN: He has gotten some preliminary views from them but not a final recommendation.

Q Apart from the package, how many pieces of paper -- I have six. It is difficult to keep track.

MR. NESSEN: You should have one package stapled together and six other additional separate pieces of paper.

Q How many cooks and house-type people did the President bring?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. I will have to check.

Q Would you expect this decision tomorrow?

MR. NESSEN: I just don't have any way of knowing.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 5:24 P.M. MDT)