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NEWS CONFERENCE

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 10:13 A.M. MDT

AUGUST 13, 1975

WEDNESDAY  
(Vail, Colorado)

MR. NESSEN: The President had his staff meeting in the morning as usual. In fact, they are still going. In addition to Rumsfeld and myself and Scowcroft, who normally sees him every day, he is meeting this morning with Paul Theis and the speech writers to go over the Friday speech as well as the whole series of speeches that are coming up in the next couple of weeks.

If the rain stops, he will play golf, a little, perhaps, later than usual this morning, teeing off about noon if the rain stops. He will be playing again with Bob Wolfe, the Pro out there, and with a gentleman named Marshall Sterling.

Q Who is he?

MR. NESSEN: The majority leader of the New Hampshire House of Representatives.

Q Is he a Democrat?

MR. NESSEN: He isn't, Ann. The majority in the New Hampshire House is the Republican Party.

He is here for a meeting of some kind. I don't know exactly what it is. He also is here to spend some time with some friends he has in Vail. The President heard he was here and invited him along to play golf. There is a friend who will make up a foursome -- Stanwood Sterling. He is a friend of Mr. French and operates a business in Denver, Colorado.

Other than that, I don't have --

Q What kind of business?

MR. NESSEN: Veterinary supply business.

Q Is the President going into New Hampshire to campaign for Louis Wyman?

MR. NESSEN: The answer is that he supports Louis Wyman, and he is considering how he can contribute to Wyman's campaign, but at the moment, we don't have anything to announce.

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Q Ron, are you through?

MR. NESSEN: Not quite.

That is the golf, and beyond that, there is nothing on the schedule.

Q What happens if it rains?

MR. NESSEN: The President will not play golf.

Q Will he work?

MR. NESSEN: He will stay around the house and do what most of us are going to do today, I guess.

Q What is that?

MR. NESSEN: Nap. (Laughter)

I don't have anything on dinner for the evening yet.

Let's see, on the speech for Friday, that is one of the things the President is working on today. I anticipate that there will be a text in advance, and Bill Roberts is tracking on the coverage arrangement because they are somewhat complicated for some reason, but we will have it for you.

Q What time?

MR. NESSEN: 9:30 in the morning tentatively.

Q Is it correct it is up at Eagle's Nest?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, that is the complication.

As you know, Helen Thomas is speaking to that symposium tomorrow.

Q No, Friday afternoon.

MR. NESSEN: Do you expect to have an advance text, Helen? (Laughter)

Q Yes.

Q Will there be a travel pool?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, a travel pool will go with Helen, but it is only a protective pool, so don't jump out of the car and try to ask her questions. And we will have a briefing on her speech later to elaborate and clarify anything she may have said.

Q May I pick my own Press Secretary?

Q What will be the subject of the President's speech Friday?

MR. NESSEN: Energy.

Q Will he make any major announcements?

MR. NESSEN: Can we characterize your speech as a major speech, Helen?

Q Newsy.

MR. NESSEN: A newsy speech. (Laughter)

Q Can you tell us how the President will get to the Eagle's Nest? Will he take the gondola?

MR. NESSEN: Bill is working on the plans. I don't have it right now. We will have all the arrangements posted this afternoon.

Q What aspects of energy? Will he be laying out his new program?

MR. NESSEN: Since the speech is being worked on today, Helen, I think we will wait and see what they come up with.

Q Is the President going to talk to Carlucci?

MR. NESSEN: There are no plans for the President to talk to Carlucci. I think the State Department said Henry would be talking to Carlucci. There are no plans for the President to see him.

Q While you are on that, anything more on Kissinger coming out here?

MR. NESSEN: No, I don't have anything more on him. Dick was wondering whether there was any change in what we said.

Q What about the oil, the Court ruling, anything on that today?

MR. NESSEN: I wouldn't anticipate an announcement today.

Q Is Jack Ford coming in today?

MR. NESSEN: You will have to ask Sheila.

Q Has the President finally gotten the recommendations on the oil, the Court ruling and what he should do?

MR. NESSEN: I think he has, yes.

Q Is he going to make a decision today?

MR. NESSEN: I think he is probably pretty well going to review that today and make his final decision.

Q Make his decision today?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know when he is going to make the decision, Ralph. You know I don't want to see -- maybe we are making a mistake building this up into a big guessing game. I have assumed, and I think everyone has assumed, that it would be -- from the beginning -- appealed.

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Q Can we say that? Can we say he is going to appeal?

MR. NESSEN: No, I would just say that -- well, I assume he is going to, and I have ever since the ruling.

Q Is he likely to announce this on Friday at the speech?

MR. NESSEN: I doubt it, John. As I said yesterday, I think the legal aspects of this will probably be handled out of Washington. We will let you know, but I would expect it to be handled someplace else other than Vail.

Q Will he expand or clarify his decision or talk about it at all?

MR. NESSEN: In the Vail speech?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: He may touch on it. It won't be a large segment of the speech.

Q Are there other decisions other than the basic one of whether to appeal that the President is considering in this matter?

MR. NESSEN: It is complicated by a number of factors, Bob, and I have read a number of things you have written. I think it has brought out mostly the complicating factors, so I think you can't decide it on the spur of the moment.

Q You say he pretty much has the decision made. Are you referring only to the appeal --

MR. NESSEN: I said he pretty much has the recommendations in hand, not the decision.

Q Does that include recommendations for whether or not -- the veto of the extension and ways to ameliorate it?

MR. NESSEN: It is a separate question, Steve. It is an economic question, Steve. I think probably he will want to have at least one or two more talks with Frank Zarb after he arrives before making that decision.

Q When is Zarb coming in?

MR. NESSEN: Tomorrow.

Q Do you still expect Secretary of State Kissinger to come in?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, I am fairly sure he will come.

Q Ron, on that subject, a spokesman for Anwar Sadat was quoted today as saying they expect Kissinger back on the scene over there possibly this weekend. Can you comment on that, and has Kissinger been in touch with the President on that?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have anything on that at all.

Q Will he fly to the Middle East from Vail?

MR. NESSEN: I have not heard that.

Q What will he consider other than the basis of making an appeal?

MR. NESSEN: You are talking about the legal decision?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: Bob, I tell you, I am not enough of a legal expert to get into that, but in Washington they can help you with that.

Q Who?

MR. NESSEN: Frank Zarb, or the General Counsel of the FEA.

Q When you say you have assumed he would appeal, presumably that does not mean that that has any real bearing one way or another whether he will take the tariff off?

MR. NESSEN: No, I have tried to make clear since we got here there are two separate questions. One is a legal question of do you appeal to try to have the authority of a President to do this upheld, and the question of what you do about the \$2.00 import levy that is now in place is a separate economic question that was under consideration before the court ruling.

Q If he removes the tariff for economic reasons, wouldn't the legal issue then become moot?

MR. NESSEN: I just don't know enough about the legalities of this and would rather not talk about it.

Q Ron, do you assume the speech on Friday will outline some of the options that he has for mitigating the impact of decontrol?

MR. NESSEN: I think since the speech is still being written, it is silly to talk about what he might or might not talk about.

Q Is there any likelihood of an announcement in that speech?

MR. NESSEN: It is still being written, and he wants to talk to Frank before it is wrapped up.

We will go ahead and have our posting between five and six, if there is anything to post. We will get the word on whether golf is rained out at some point before noon, I guess.

Q Ron, Church is still claiming this morning he has had no response from the White House on the subpoena. Has anybody told him the position you outlined yesterday?

MR. NESSEN: I feel sure Phil Buchen has or the Justice Department Civil Division has. We have until the 25th of August to respond to the subpoena. I think the position is clear and Phil outlined it in Washington. I know some people called him from here, and I did. Church was told by letter.

Church requested the documents for the two periods in 1970 by letter and was told by Phil in response, in writing, that that was not possible because these particular documents were under an injunction by Judge Bryant in the case involving the Nixon tapes and documents.

So, we were unable to deliver because we did not have full custody or control of those documents. Church then, with that knowledge, nevertheless subpoenaed the documents and it is now, as I say, a matter that the Civil Division of the Justice Department is reviewing to find out how to respond to the subpoena, which requires an answer by the 25th of August.

Q That is the only reason they are being withheld?

MR. NESSEN: Yes. You know the record of cooperation with the Church Committee is total. They have received everything they have asked for and, in fact, they have received a number of things they did not ask for because they didn't know they existed and were voluntarily offered these items by the White House.

Q Senator Church continues to complain the White House has not produced the documents. Has anyone told Church what the White House position is?

MR. NESSEN: You have to start with the notion that these documents are under control of the court and not under control of the White House. It is not possible to deliver.

Q You don't have an objection? If the court says they can have them, fine with you folks?

MR. NESSEN: As far as I know, that is the position Buchen has taken. These items are not in our control.

Q You talk about the great cooperation with the Church Committee. Does this latest move puzzle you? Do you think they are trying to get the White House in the middle of something?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. You will have to talk to Phil Buchen about that.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 10:27 P.M. MDT)

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 5:00 P.M. MDT

AUGUST 13, 1975

WEDNESDAY

MR. NESSEN: We are giving out now for this posting one sheet on which are contained the coverage plans for Friday's Presidential speech at the Eagle's Nest. You are going to love the starting time on that one.

Secondly, there is a very short notice to the press concerning the President's dinner plans for tonight, which are to stay at home, and a short notice here about a meeting and reception the President is having about now.

Let me put you on to something I myself don't have much information on, but I think it is something that might interest some of you, and actually some have inquired about it.

There was a mountain climber accident this afternoon, and the Vail Fire Department asked for White House assistance. One of the two helicopters, which are kept at Avon during the President's visit here, was dispatched to help.

I don't have any other details except for the contact that I will give you to get the information about this episode. The man's name is Jim Olsen of the Mountain Rescue group, and his phone number is 476-5671.

Other than that, I don't have anything. The golf plans for tomorrow are not firm yet. I expect him to play, but I don't have anything on the game, and I would propose that we proclaim a lid until 10:15 tomorrow morning.

Q Do you know what he is going to do tomorrow?

MR. NESSEN: I expect he is going to have his meetings with staff people in the morning and then play some golf, but I don't have the plans for it.

Q What time is Zarb due in tomorrow? Will he be in tomorrow?

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MR. NESSEN: I don't have anything on Zarb's schedule yet.

Q How long has this Colorado Republican set-up been arranged?

MR. NESSEN: Apparently just a short time because it wasn't on the schedule.

Q Ron, was the President aware of the mountain accident and aware that one of the helicopters went to assist?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think he was.

Q Will they get the information?

MR. NESSEN: When they get all the information pulled together, the President will be given a report on the episode.

Q Has the President finished his golf game?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Do you know what time they got in?

MR. NESSEN: There is a pool report. The pool gave a report here somewhere. It is up here, I believe.

Q Who authorized the White House to dispatch the helicopter.

MR. NESSEN: Bill Gulley.

Q What is his official title?

MR. NESSEN: We will get it for you, Fran.

I will see you in the morning.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 5:09 P.M. MDT)