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NEWS CONFERENCE

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 12:05 P.M. MDT

AUGUST 15, 1975

FRIDAY
(Vail, Colorado)

MR. NESSEN: One of the items just handed to you is a duplication of what Phil just gave you about partners. Bob Slifer is a Vail businessman, a real estate man, actually. In fact, he is the one who handled the houses that the press has used. He has known him since the President has started coming out to Vail.

The other item is a small dinner the President is having this evening with some of the officials and participants in the Aspen Institute.

Q Is that open for coverage?

MR. NESSEN: No, it isn't.

Q Why not?

MR. NESSEN: It is a private discussion, reception and dinner.

Q How come they are all male? There are no women participants in this?

MR. NESSEN: The Aspen officials proposed the list of participants. We don't choose them.

Q What are the topics to be discussed?

MR. NESSEN: Some of the areas that you see listed as the participants, heads of the various sections -- for instance, Doug Cater on communications, Bob McKay on law and so forth, and they have prepared some thoughts and the President will presumably lead the discussion into the fields he is most interested in discussing.

Q Why can't we have coverage on that?

MR. NESSEN: It is a private discussion, reception and dinner.

Q Isn't that a little odd for these distinguished people to come to the President's house and there is no coverage?

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MR. NESSEN: As you know, Helen, he does this all the time in Washington through lunches and dinners and so forth. It is just a continuation of that.

Q Is it a sit-down dinner in the house?

MR. NESSEN: It is a buffet dinner.

Now, just to carry you on, it is golf, and that takes care of today. Tomorrow I would again look for golf, sort of late in the morning, and before that, there will be a series of staff meetings -- we are talking about Saturday now -- Cheney, myself, the speech writers will be in to see him in the morning about the next series of speeches coming up next week.

I would expect Henry to have a meeting with the President in the morning. Zarb and Greenspan, I would expect to see the President in the morning.

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Q When will Henry be in?

MR. NESSEN: Henry is coming in sometime late this evening.

Q Will he see the President?

MR. NESSEN: He may pop into this dinner, if it is still going on when he arrives.

Q Have you got an approximate time of his arrival?

MR. NESSEN: I really don't, Ralph.

Q Where is he coming in to?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have any idea where he is coming in.

Q Will you be able to get that?

MR. NESSEN: If I can find out.

Q Where is he staying?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

As you know, Frank Zarb and Alan Greenspan will be here at ten o'clock tomorrow morning. This will be a news conference, or briefing, whatever you want to call it. It will be open for film and sound recording, if you would like.

Whether Henry has anything that he wants to say out here and in what form he wants to say it, I just need to sit down and talk to him either tonight or in the morning, and I will relay that to you as soon as I have it.

Basically, that is it.

Q How about Bangladesh? Has the President been on top of that situation or do you have anything --

MR. NESSEN: I don't have anything other than that the Government and the President are following the events, and we have nothing beyond that.

Q What event?

MR. NESSEN: Is the President keeping up with events in Bangladesh. The answer is yes.

Q Ron, do you know whether Kissinger is going to the Middle East next week?

MR. NESSEN I don't know.

Q Do you think it will be announced from here if he does go?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. As I say, I need to sit down with him tonight and find out what it is he has to say, if anything.

Howard?

Q On the golf course today, Dr. Lukash was spotted putting something on the President's hand. Has he got blisters or something from playing too much golf, or a bandaid, maybe?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. He may.

Q Will you find out?

MR. NESSEN: Yes. We will have to wait until he gets back from playing.

Q What activities do you anticipate Sunday?

MR. NESSEN: Staff meetings in the morning, golf, maybe church, and that is it.

Q Are you going to brief?

MR. NESSEN: I would hope not to, but we will have a better idea tomorrow.

Q What is Mrs. Ford doing? Is she out and about?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know, frankly. Sheila is, of course, here.

Q Will Mrs. Ford be at the dinner tonight?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, she will.

Q Will she be the only woman?

MR. NESSEN: Unless Gloria Brown comes.

Q Could you find out for us?

Q Do you mean the Aspen Institute recommended only men to attend this?

MR. NESSEN: They all appear to be men to me, Helen.

Q I think it is interesting because they took up the whole question of women's roles for about two weeks.

MR. NESSEN: This is the list they offered when the President indicated he would like to see them. We had no role in the choice of people.

Q Ron, when they invited him to speak to the Institute, did they suggest a subject?

MR. NESSEN: No, they didn't.

Q Can we get a report afterwards of what they might have talked about?

MR. NESSEN: I could do that, yes. In the morning would be all right, wouldn't it?

Q Yes.

Q Could you give us a little further identification? I know some of the names are familiar. This Robert O. Anderson. Is he with the State Department?

MR. NESSEN: No, he is not.

Q Can you identify Anderson a little better?

MR. NESSEN: He is Board Chairman of Atlantic-Richfield.

Q Tom Wilson?

MR. NESSEN: Frank Keppel is a former Commissioner of Education. Hal Sonnenfeldt is over there for the week. You know who he is. Harlan Cleveland, you know, is the former Ambassador to the UN, and also Ambassador to NATO, I believe.

Let me wait until the list comes. Doug Cater, you know, was an official in the Johnson Administration.

Q Ron, does the President feel uncomfortable meeting with an oil man or two tonight?

MR. NESSEN: Do you know Robert O. Anderson at all?

Q No.

MR. NESSEN: You ought to talk to some people who know Robert O. Anderson. He has a doctorate degree of philosophy, I believe, devotes most of his time to the Aspen Institute and devotes most of his time to the kind of issues, long-range problems, that the Institute deals with.

Anderson, we have talked about. Slater is full-time President of the Institute. Hunt is a former State Department official. I don't have his exact title. Doug Cater, as you know, was in the Johnson White House. McKay is a former Dean of the New York University Law School. Walter Orr Roberts is a meteorologist, a well-known meteorologist from Boulder, Colorado.

Harlan Cleveland is a former Assistant Secretary of State, former Ambassador to NATO, and former President of the University of Hawaii. Waldermer Neilsen is former president of a number of universities and foundations. Tom Wilson is a former official of the United Nations and UNESCO and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State. Frank Keppel, former U.S. Commissioner of Education and former President of Time-Life educational programs. I don't think the President is uncomfortable meeting with a former Time-Life official.

Q It starts at five and dinner at six or seven?

MR. NESSEN: It starts at five, an hour and a half discussion, reception at 6:30, dinner at 7:00. I would anticipate that the discussion would go on all through the reception and dinner.

Then I guess the next time we will be together -- I don't really anticipate we will have a posting at five. You might just touch base in here at five, if you want to.

Q We are going to get the Kissinger rundown, aren't we?

MR. NESSEN: If we can get it, yes. So I guess ten o'clock tomorrow morning for Zarb and Greenspan will be the next thing. What I think I will do is, after Zarb and Greenspan, whatever items I have to put out, I will come in after Zarb and Greenspan.

Q In case we are all out of the place, could you post the Kissinger details?

MR. NESSEN: If I can get them, I will.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

(AT 12:15 P.M. MDT)