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NEWS CONFERENCE

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 10:43 A.M. MDT

AUGUST 20, 1975

WEDNESDAY
(Vail, Colorado)

MR. NESSEN: We are handing out three short announcements. One is the designation of John C. Miller of Port Clinton, Ohio, to serve as Acting General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board; George C. Eads of the District of Columbia as Acting Director of the Council on Wage and Price Stability--that is pending the confirmation of Mike Moskow--and also the transmittal of a request for \$37.5 million this fiscal year, and \$125,000 in the transition quarter for the Navajo and Hopi Relocation Commission.

The President had staff meetings this morning with Cheney and myself, and will have some more meetings this afternoon after he returns from golf.

Q Any subjects for the meetings?

MR. NESSEN: I will get into that.

He expects to talk to Dr. Kissinger sometime this afternoon or this evening, before Dr. Kissinger leaves on his trip.

As you know, the President dropped in at a meeting that was going on here in Vail of two groups, one called the Great Plains Wheat, Inc., and the other called Western Wheat Associates.

There were about 40 members of these two groups having this meeting, and the President was asked to stop in -- this is the Board of Directors of the two organizations --

Q Are these companies?

MR. NESSEN: Wait a minute. These are nonprofit organizations.

Q Producer co-ops, are they?

MR. NESSEN: They are not co-ops.

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Q Lobby groups, or what?

MR. NESSEN: No, they are representatives of producers who have formed these nonprofit marketing organizations to protect the export of wheat.

They represent the Great Plains States and the Pacific Northwestern States where wheat is grown, and their aim is to promote the export of wheat.

A number of Senators from this area -- primarily Dole, Pearson, Curtis and Hruska -- requested that the President stop in.

I am told that you have a detailed pool report of what transpired at the meeting.

Q Not yet.

MR. NESSEN: I think there is a tape recording, in fact, of the session, so I will let it go at that, and you can listen to the tape to find out precisely what happened there.

Q How did these guys happen to be meeting out here? Is that just coincidence?

MR. NESSEN: As far as I know it is. It is their Board of Directors meeting at the Holiday Inn.

Q Were the four Senators there?

MR. NESSEN: I didn't go on the trip, but I don't think they were.

Q It was only the Republican Senators that asked the President to go to this thing?

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

Q Is there any political overtone to this?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think so. My understanding is these people are in the business of exporting wheat and want to talk to the President about the situation with the Russian wheat sale.

Q Did they come out here because the President is here?

MR. NESSEN: That is not my understanding. My understanding is they were having a meeting here and that it coincided with the President's stay here. Therefore, he was asked to stop in and see them.

On a couple of other items on the wheat or grain, I think you know that the President rode from the White House Conference in Peoria to the airport -- about a 20 or 30 minute ride -- with Labor Secretary Dunlop during which they talked about some of the problems with the wheat sale, primarily the feeling by some union members that they don't want to load the ships.

The President talked to John Dunlop again by phone this morning, again on the same subject. And when the President returns to Washington next week -- well, John Dunlop is keeping him totally informed on the situation and when the President gets back to Washington next week, he will attempt to find a solution to the problem through negotiations with the various parties involved.

Meanwhile, Dunlop will be working in Washington to lay the groundwork for what the President anticipates will be a negotiated settlement.

The President hopes the differences involved in this grain sale by the various parties involved can be resolved through negotiation.

He is hopeful that they will be.

Q Is he going to take a role in that himself?

MR. NESSEN: When he gets back next week, yes.

Q This seems to be a problem right now. Why can't the President address it now from Vail? Why is he not doing that?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know why you say he is not doing that.

Q You say next week when he gets back to Washington he will get involved personally?

MR. NESSEN: He talked to Dunlop yesterday and today, and Dunlop is carrying out the President's views on this.

Q There is nothing the President can do personally until next week?

MR. NESSEN: There is nothing the President can do other than what he asked Dunlop to do for him.

Q Is it true the loading won't take place until September anyway?

MR. NESSEN: The loading, I don't know.

Q Is the loading going on now or has it stopped?

MR. NESSEN: As far as I know, this is really the wrong place to ask. There were two ships where the union yesterday in Houston stopped loading, but a court in Galveston ordered the two local unions to go back to work. But this is really the wrong place to get those kinds of answers.

Q Where was Dunlop when the President spoke to him by phone today, in Washington?

MR. NESSEN: In Washington.

Q Does the President intend to sit down personally with representatives of the unions?

MR. NESSEN: I think one of the things Dunlop is working on, as I say, in preparation for next week, John Dunlop is in contact with the unions, and since all the plans have not been made for next week, it is not possible to answer that question.

Q Ron, has the President contacted or tried to contact George Meany on this matter?

MR. NESSEN: Well, the President is working through Dunlop on this matter.

Q Has he talked to some AFL-CIO leaders?

MR. NESSEN: I think I will leave it that way, that he is working through John Dunlop.

Q Has John Dunlop contacted Mr. Meany?

MR. NESSEN: You will have to contact his office, I don't know.

Q You mentioned the President hopes the differences can be solved through negotiation. Does the President have the authority to order them to do this? Is there an alternative to negotiation?

MR. NESSEN: I just think the President is so hopeful this can be resolved that he hasn't really looked beyond that step because he expects it to be done that way.

Q I thought it was sort of implied.

MR. NESSEN: No, he expects it to be done that way.

Q Do you know what powers he has?

MR. NESSEN: I don't.

Q Ron, are we in a period where it really depends on what those wheat and corn reports are? Are we really just spinning our wheels now until those reports come in?

MR. NESSEN: The wheat crop is something like 90 percent. I don't think that applies to the wheat crop. I think when Secretary Butz suspended the sales, he did say that they would be suspended until the next crop report comes in on corn.

Q Isn't that tomorrow?

MR. NESSEN: No, I think it is at least three weeks away. The next corn report will be out on September 11.

Q Is that kind of a jawboning effort by the President?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think I would use that word, Bob.

Q I know you said he didn't like to do that.

MR. NESSEN: No, but he expects it to be resolved through discussion.

Q Does he expect it to be resolved before he gets back to Washington? Is he hopeful this will happen?

MR. NESSEN: It is possible.

Q Does he base his expectation on anything Dunlop has told him so far?

MR. NESSEN: I wouldn't say that, no.

After that meeting, the President went off and played golf at the Vail Golf Course with the following partners -- John Purcell, who is the owner of Purcell's Restaurant in Vail; Fred Angelo, owner of the Gondola Ski Shop; and John Buxman, of the Village Market.

Q What is that?

MR. NESSEN: It is a grocery store.

Q Is he going to the restaurant tonight?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know what his plans are for tonight.

Q Will he eat dinner at Purcell's Restaurant?

MR. NESSEN: Only if he wins. (Laughter)

Q A housekeeping item. Will it be possible to release the hold on the Vail telephone numbers so in order to call here we don't have to call long distance to Washington to get the White House to put us through to Vail?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know anything about that.

Q You have a White House number here you ordered your staff not to give to us, and the only way we can get through is to call the White House in Washington.

MR. NESSEN: I will have to look into that.

Q Could you give us the number?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know the number.

Q It is 476-1450.

MR. NESSEN: That solves the problem.

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Q What else was discussed today?

MR. NESSEN: Dick Cheney had a fair amount of paperwork on various items to go through, and there was some talk of bringing the President up to date on the status of the grain problem. And then I went over with him what I thought would be some questions you would ask.

He did talk to Dunlop by phone. He has a long detailed report on the status of the grain matter, and then when he gets back this afternoon, he is going to have some more meetings on routine paperwork. And Bob Goldwin, who is over at the Aspen Institute, will be coming around to talk to him about 4:30.

Q Who is the grain report from?

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

Q When he talked to the grain people this morning, he used a lot of figures, talking about the August figures and a lot of farm figures. I didn't know if they were new figures or previously published ones.

MR. NESSEN: We will play the tape here and John can stay and tell you which are the previously announced ones.

Q Are there any secret understandings between the United States and Israel in connection with this new interim peace agreement?

MR. NESSEN: I think Henry said the other day -- didn't he -- that there would be no secret agreements made.

Q He didn't say that.

Q He said there would be no secret agreements that were not submitted to the House Foreign Relations and Senate Foreign Affairs.

Q So are there secret agreements or understandings?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know of any, Helen. I think as a general practice, you know, Henry has nothing back, the agreement is not concluded, and it just seems to me at this particular delicate moment, it would be better not to talk in very much detail about what might or might not happen as a result of this round of negotiations.

Q I heard that Dr. Kissinger met with the Sperling group yesterday and sort of gave out the general guidelines of what is going to happen.

Do you know anything about this?

MR. NESSEN: I knew he was going to have breakfast with the group.

Q Is their report correct?

MR. NESSEN: I have no idea. I wasn't there, Fran.

Q Can we find out?

MR. NESSEN: As I said, at this delicate time, I don't think we will go into much detail of what might or might not happen.

Q I have a press release this grain group put out over at the hotel, and I can give a brief resume.

MR. NESSEN: Okay, we are going to play the tape, and you can add what you picked up over there.

Q I would like to ask one other question in terms of -- the President said there must be a better way than busing for school integration. Does he have any ideas on that subject?

MR. NESSEN: I think over the years, he has been consistent in his view on that, and he has from time to time mentioned other ideas. Without making this an exclusive list, some of the ways that he has talked about in the past are upgrading the quality of the schools, especially the quality of the schools in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

This might be done, among other ways, by improving the pupil-teacher ratio, providing better equipment and textbooks. As he said, the aim of the expertise is to provide a quality education to everyone, and he would want to make sure that every student did get a quality education, especially the disadvantaged children.

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Q That isn't what the Supreme Court said.

MR. NESSEN: Let me finish.

There are other ways. I think what you are getting at is that this does not deal with the integration, it only deals with quality education. There are a variety of ways you could increase the amount of integration without busing, such as the location of new schools, the changing of school boundaries, the pairing of schools and so forth.

Q The what of schools?

MR. NESSEN: Pairing.

The President, for instance, has noted the decision of the day before yesterday involving the Detroit school system, and the judge in that case very much echoed the President's own thoughts that busing ought to be -- I really don't want to paraphrase the decision and overgeneralize it, and you should look up the decision -- but in general what the judge in the Detroit case found was busing should be used only as a last resort. That court decision would more or less mirror the President's views on busing.

Q So, he does approve of busing as a last resort?

MR. NESSEN: He feels there are many other better ways to do it.

Q But he approves of it as a last resort?

MR. NESSEN: He feels there are better ways to do it.

Q But if you change the boundaries, you still have to get the children to schools on buses.

MR. NESSEN: Not necessarily.

Q That doesn't necessarily do away with busing?

MR. NESSEN: Not necessarily.

Q Does pairing require busing?

MR. NESSEN: Not necessarily.

Q How do you pair without busing?

MR. NESSEN: It has been so long since I have gotten into this story, I am trying to remember some of the examples of pairing. Let me get a little further information on that.

Q Ron, when you talk about changing school boundaries, does that mean the President approves of such cases as Richmond, Virginia, where they talked about making the intercity and the white suburban schools in one district? Does that mean the children could be taken to any school in that area?

MR. NESSEN: I didn't talk to him specifically about the Richmond decision.

Q In general, on that kind of principle he would approve of creating a school district that included the intercity, plus the suburban in a single school district.

MR. NESSEN: I didn't ask him about that.

Q Apparently the President does not necessarily agree with the judge, who supposedly said "Busing, as a last resort," because you are not willing to say the President does approve of busing as a last resort.

MR. NESSEN: I am just saying he feels there are many better ways to achieve a quality education. But, as he told you himself yesterday, it comes as no news that the President is certainly going to uphold the court rulings.

Q Ron, does that complete the statement? I didn't understand this. Does that statement express the President's views?

MR. NESSEN: In general.

Q Those are the President's views, yet you will not say the words yourself?

MR. NESSEN: All I am saying is that there are many ways to provide quality education and integrated education without busing, and the President believes in that, but, nevertheless, will, and is strongly committed to upholding court rulings.

Q Does the President plan to present some sort of alternative plan to busing?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think so, Phil, because those of you who followed his Congressional career know that this is a consistent position with him over the years. For a long time he, for instance, supported the annual Eshleman amendment in the House, which provided about six different alternatives to busing, if I am correct in that, Jim. You probably followed that closer than I did. So, it is a consistent position.

Q He is not going to do anything now to urge passage of new legislation?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know of any, no.

Q Do you know what day that judge's decision was, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: I think it was Friday or Saturday. We may have a copy up in the office, but I sent mine over to the President.

Q Do you know if-the President has anything planned for Saturday evening?

MR. NESSEN: So it doesn't conflict with your own plans?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: I don't know of anything. In fact, I don't know anything about tonight, for that matter.

Q Ron, can we work out something so that the pool gets notified and can operate in a rather decorous manner in following the President to these places?

MR. NESSEN: I thought we had given an early alert to the pool today on this meeting with the grain organizations.

Q I am talking about the evening's social events.

MR. NESSEN: When he goes out in the evenings -- if he goes out in the evening -- it is probably likely there will not be a pool going with him, Fran.

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Q Why not, there is in Washington?

MR. NESSEN: Many of these decisions to go out in the evening are made at the last minute on a few minutes notice.

Q We don't mind, we can catch up if we are told. And we think we should be told when he goes out in public

MR. NESSEN: He doesn't have any plans to go out that I know of.

Q Can we do the tape?

MR. NESSEN: Why don't we.

Let's see, I guess we will have our regular five o'clock posting today. It might deal with any dinner plans he has, or tomorrow morning, anything that comes from Washington.

Q You are not expecting any big posting?

MR. NESSEN: No, I am not.

I have to go over and see him again this afternoon, so Bill Greener will take care of the posting.

Q Ron, in answer, I think, to Aldo's question about whether the President might meet personally with these people about the grain, you started to say that was one of the things under consideration while we are away. Is that one of the things Dunlop is working on to try to arrange?

MR. NESSEN: It is hard to say. If Dunlop can resolve it himself, there would be no need for a Presidential meeting, but Dunlop is just exploring the whole matter right now, and it is too early to say whether the President would meet with them or not.

Q That could be a possibility?

MR. NESSEN: I would say it might be a possibility.

Q A meeting with union people?

MR. NESSEN: Various people involved, yes.

Q Can we have the tape now?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

(AT 11:08 A.M. MDT)

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH BILL GREENER

AT 5:00 P.M. MDT

AUGUST 20, 1975

WEDNESDAY

(Vail, Colorado)

MR. GREENER: President Ford is having dinner this evening at 7:30 at Ted Kindel's house. We don't have the guest list yet, but as soon as we get it, we will pass it out to you. It is a very small private party.

He is meeting tomorrow at 10:45 with Dr. Neil Jacoby. Dr. Jacoby was a former member of President Eisenhower's Council of Economic Advisors. He is a member of the Management Committee of Occidental Petroleum.

Q A member of what?

MR. GREENER: The Management Committee.

He is coming to discuss with the President the process used by Occidental Oil in their shale development. It is called the in situ process, as opposed to the retort process, which you saw at Rifle.

Q You don't think he will get into the evils of the excess profits tax while he is there, do you?

MR. GREENER: I have no idea.

The President will be playing golf at 11:30 tomorrow at the Vail Golf Course, and the foursome includes former Governor John Love, Ross Davis -- he is a Denver businessman.

Q What business?

MR. GREENER: He is in charge of -- I don't know the name of the firm -- but a large management firm. That firm is the one that manages the President's condominium.

And Mr. Heath Larry, who is an executive with U.S. Steel.

Q Does the President have any financial arrangements with Vail Associates or any of the Vail real estate developers at the present time?

MR. GREENER: Not to my knowledge, but I will be glad to check it for you, Fran.

Q Did he phone Kissinger this afternoon? We were told he would phone. Has he phoned?

MR. GREENER: I don't know. I will be glad to check for you.

Q When is the President going to talk to Kissinger, or has he?

MR. GREENER: That was the question Ralph just asked me. I said I don't know, I will check.

Q How about what was discussed in the phone call with Meany today?

MR. GREENER: Well, the President stated ahead of time that the purpose of the call was to ask Mr. Meany to work with Secretary Dunlop and to advise him if there were any outstanding matters that needed his attention, that he would be back and discuss them with the leaders at that time.

Q Did he ask Meany to cool it?

Q Any outstanding what?

MR. GREENER: Problems that were unresolved.

Q Bill, the call was placed from the President to Meany, is that right?

MR. GREENER: The President called Mr. Meany and then Mr. Meany returned the call.

Q He asked him to work with Dunlop?

MR. GREENER: That is it.

Q What did Meany say to that?

MR. GREENER: I have nothing on the conversation.

Other than that, there is a lid for the evening until 10:15 in the morning.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

(AT 5:03 P.M. MDT)