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NEWS CONFERENCE

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH BILL GREENER

AT 11:29 A.M. EDT

AUGUST 27, 1975

WEDNESDAY

MR. GREENER: As most of you know, Ron is in the Cabinet meeting and will either come down and do a readout after that, or we will have a posting on it.

I have only one announcement.

The President called Deke Slayton this morning to see how he was feeling. He was unable to speak to the General because the doctors don't want him to be talking at this time. He will call back later.

That is all I have.

Q The President will call back later?

MR. GREENER: The President will call him later in the week.

Q Call him at the hospital?

MR. GREENER: Call him at the hospital.

Q Did you find out how much the President has to fly his airplane in a year and how much he has already used this year for travel?

MR. GREENER: Yes, I have something on it, Tom.

The appropriation for Presidential travel is \$100,000. This is used in conjunction with actual travel of the President. The appropriation for other travel, which pays for the staff and travel when the President is not involved, is \$190,000.

Q Is that in the White House budget?

MR. GREENER: Yes, these are budget items appropriated by Congress and subject to Congressional audit.

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Q When the President travels, the Defense Department moves him. Is the cost of that included in that figure?

MR. GREENER: The costs are paid for by DOD for the movement of Air Force One, but those costs are then billed to the Military Assistant at the White House.

Q So, \$100,000 is allotted for the President to travel in a year?

MR. GREENER: That is right.

Q Can you give us more of a breakdown on what that entails?

MR. GREENER: What it includes?

Q Yes.

MR. GREENER: It includes the President's expenses, hotel and per diem expenses of the staff which accompany the President. The President, of course, does not receive per diem.

Q Is the President staying within his limits?

MR. GREENER: Subject to Congressional audit, I am sure he will.

Q That is only 50 hours of Air Force One.

Q He has spent that much time on Air Force One in the last month.

Q Air Force One flies at \$2,000 or something in an hour.

MR. GREENER: As I said, Air Force One is paid for by DOD. That doesn't include the cost of flying Air Force One. It comes out of the DOD budget.

Q It doesn't include all the back-up or support airplanes, does it?

MR. GREENER: No.

Q Maybe I misunderstood you. I thought you said in the beginning that costs for Air Force One are billed by DOD to the White House.

MR. GREENER: No, I said the Military Assistant's Office. DOD does pay the cost.

Q How much do they have in their budget for this?

MR. GREENER: I will have to check for you.

Q This \$100,000 is the hotel and other incidentals?

MR. GREENER: That is correct; per diem expenses.

Q This does not include motor vehicles or other expenses?

MR. GREENER: No, it does not.

Q Or helicopters?

MR. GREENER: No.

Q Are motor vehicles billed to the Secret Service?

MR. GREENER: I will have to check. Some are, but not in total.

Q That is just cigarettes mainly, Bill. (Laughter)

MR. GREENER: The President's expenses, hotel and per diem expenses of the staff which accompany the President.

Q Bill, security would come out of the Treasury budget, or any expenses coincidental with the Secret Service?

MR. GREENER: You are getting me far deeper than I can answer right now, Russ. I will be glad to check on it.

Q What about the \$190,000 figure for the other travel where the staff of the President is not involved? Can you give us an example of that?

MR. GREENER: Sure, where a staff member is going to make a speech or meet with a group.

Q The White House pays for that?

MR. GREENER: Yes.

Q Does that include advance men?

MR. GREENER: I don't know how they are paid.

Q This is Presidential expenses?

MR. GREENER: I don't know the answer to that, but that is not included in the \$100,000. I will pull together the whole thing, and we will get back on this, and we will pull together all the questions you have, Secret Service and all of it. All I have is the one budget figure you asked for.

Q Can you get us a readout of how much has been spent during the first six months of this year?

MR. GREENER: Yes, I will.

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Q What about staff travel when the President does travel, who pays for their hotel rooms and that kind of thing?

MR. GREENER: That comes out of the \$100,000. That is what I said that was, the \$100,000, the travel and per diem of staff accompanying the President.

Q You said \$190,000.

MR. GREENER: Let's start again. There is \$100,000 for Presidential travel used in conjunction with actual travel of the President. It pays the President's expenses and the hotel and per diem expenses of the staff which accompany the President.

Q This is for travel only on official business, I take it?

MR. GREENER: Yes.

Q Not when he travels for the Republicans. Who pays the staff when he is traveling under the Republican National Committee's auspices?

MR. SPEAKES: Those directly connected with politics, there is a certain number that we worked out in this formula that will be paid expenses by the RNC. The others that are normally with the President, such as the Press Secretary, other aides who are normally with the President are paid just like they normally are because they are with the President wherever he goes.

Q Has that formula been worked out now?

MR. SPEAKES: It is being worked on.

MR. GREENER: No, it has not.

Q You said there was a \$190,000.

Q Where does the \$190,000 go? I'm sorry, I didn't understand that.

MR. GREENER: There is an appropriation for other travel which totals \$190,000. This is for travel by the staff when the President is not involved.

Q Is that like Baroody's road show where he goes in advance and sets up things? And that would be where the President is not involved and then when you arrive, being a Presidential staff member, you would fall under the \$190,000?

MR. GREENER: That is correct.

Q Would you repeat again, the Air Force One travel as far as you know --

MR. GREENER: Is paid for out of Department of Defense appropriations.

Q Is that billed on a per hour in-flight or per hour on-the-road in any capacity at all?

MR. GREENER: That is per hour in-flight. However, I will have to get the exact figures. I believe when it remains overnight, I believe they do something like add an hour of charges. I don't know that definitely and I will have to get that in answer to some of the questions Russ asked, and others.

Q Does that take in landing fee, too?

MR. GREENER: I don't know, I will have to check on it.

Q I came in late, Bill, but how much does the DOD have appropriated for this?

MR. GREENER: I don't know, I said I will get all those figures.

Q Bill, how often during the day or night does the President hear from the Secretary of State while he is in the Middle East?

MR. GREENER: He has been getting regular communiques from him and I don't know the exact number, day or night, he has been getting those. You are asking about direct contacts such as by phone?

Q Yes, how often does he talk to him?

MR. GREENER: I don't know, I will have to check for you. As you know, with the tremendous time difference, when he is available it is the middle of the night and vice versa.

Q The reason I ask the question, I wonder if you can shed any light on the conflicting reports we are getting out of the Middle East where the Egyptians and the Israelis are now expressing guarded optimism, but not so guarded either, but Dr. Kissinger is still kind of sounding pretty gloomy about getting things down in print, getting things down in writing. It is a lot different from general principles, he says.

I would like some clarification as to which way it is.

MR. GREENER: Bob, I don't think we are going to comment on negotiations, not at this stage.

Q Why?

MR. GREENER: Because they are very delicate negotiations, as you know.

Q I am not asking you to comment on the negotiations themselves, I am asking for a characterization of the atmosphere of the negotiations.

MR. GREENER: I will be glad to try to get something for you on that.

Q On this matter of travel, Bentsen said this morning -- he is running, too -- that Ford is violating the regulations of the Federal Election Commission of a couple of weeks ago in which he said after a candidate has formally announced, such expenses are charged to the candidate, so he thinks when Ford travels and it is charged off to the RNC, that violates both the letter and the spirit of the law. What is your reaction to it?

MR. GREENER: My reaction is that the trips the President has taken so far have been in conjunction with raising funds for either the State or National Committee and that is why they have been paid for by the Republican National Committee. None of the money has accrued to the President Ford Committee.

Q Are you going to ask the Federal Election Commission whether this is consistent with that regulation of a couple of weeks ago?

MR. GREENER: As you know, we are working on the formula and have been and there will be contact with the Federal Election Commission to get all sorts of readings. I wouldn't know about this particular one.

Q What is the White House's direct reaction to Senator Bentsen's charge that you are violating the spirit of the law? Do you feel this is unfair criticism?

MR. GREENER: I would rather just answer positively, we feel we are operating within the law.

Q Bill, on another issue, while I was gone there was a news story that the Congressional Black Caucus met with Dr. Kissinger and after this announced that the President was going to lobby for the repeal of the Byrd Amendment. I am wondering if I am inaccurate in recalling that Congressman Ford supported the Byrd Amendment. Is this accurate, is the President going to propose the Byrd Amendment be repealed? If so, where will we get the chrome? Will we buy it from the Soviet Union, or what?

Q What is the Byrd Amendment?

Q It says where there is strategic material and we have to buy from a Communist country, we will not honor sanctions. It has to do with Rhodesian chrome.

Q Is this true, the President is going to lobby for the repeal of the Byrd Amendment?

MR. GREENER: I will have to check on that for you, Les.

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Q Do we have the bill yet?

MR. GREENER: We do not have the bill as yet.

Q Bill, speaking of the meeting between the Black Caucus and Secretary Kissinger, has the President been kept informed about the status of Ambassador Carter in connection with the Tanzania business?

MR. GREENER: The President is aware of it.

Q Has he discussed the matter with anybody, with the Secretary of State?

MR. GREENER: Has the Secretary of State discussed it with anyone?

Q Has the President discussed it with the Secretary of State or anybody else?

MR. GREENER: Not to my knowledge, no.

Q About the matter of the firing of Ambassador Carter?

MR. GREENER: Not to my knowledge, no.

Q Bill, Evans and Novak have a piece this morning, the central part of which is the FEA has drawn up a bill to allocate natural gas from one pipeline to another. Do you have anything at all to comment on that?

MR. GREENER: Nothing other than what we said yesterday; that is, there are a number of options we are looking at. The recommendations have not been made by Frank yet, much less to the President. Until they finish the meeting tomorrow with the Governors--however, for your guidance in that area, after the meeting with the Governors, Zarb will be down to brief.

Q What time?

MR. GREENER: The meeting is at 11:00. I don't know what time it will break up.

He will be down, and we presume there will be one or two Governors down with him.

Q How many Governors will be there? There are 17 or 14. I have seen both figures.

MR. GREENER: Seventeen were invited. A couple declined.

Q Who?

MR. CARLSON: Governor Carey and Governor Moore, I believe, are two that declined.

Q Did Governor Brown decline?

MR. CARLSON: He has not responded yet.

Q Carey and who?

MR. CARLSON: Moore from Virginia.

Q Where is Carey from?

MR. CARLSON: New York.

Q Did they say why they declined?

Q Yesterday Ron told us that President Ford had seen a memo outlining plans for the Federal presence in Boston, including U.S. Marshals, when school reopens. He didn't answer the question, however, whether the President approved the use of Marshals there and whether he plans to take any affirmative steps to use the leadership of his office to insure calm up there.

MR. GREENER: I have nothing to add to what Ron said yesterday on this point.

Q Can you tell us whether he does plan any affirmative action to back up the Justice Department?

MR. GREENER: To back up the court order?

Q Back up the court order and the Justice Department enforcement of it. He has been very heavily criticized by the U.S. Civil Rights Commission on this matter, for not exerting the leadership of his office. Can we expect anything from him?

MR. GREENER: Just as Ron mentioned, he has the memo and has seen it, and I have nothing to add to that at this time. I understand what you are asking, and I don't have an answer for you at this time.

Q Last year he taped a radio and television message for the people of Boston. Does he plan to do that again this year?

MR. GREENER: I know of no such plans at this time.

Q Bill, it has been five months since the resignation of Alexander Butterfield as head of the FAA. Why has it taken so long to appoint a permanent administrator and does the President anticipate appointing one soon? Does he have anybody in mind?

MR. GREENER: You know the standard. I have no announcement to make of any appointments today in that area.

Q What is the hold-up? There must be something. It is a rather important job with the safety of aviation involved. They have an acting administrator, who is a career man. He seems to have support, but he is not politically right, apparently.

Can you find out if it is just going to go on indefinitely this way?

MR. GREENER: I will be glad to check for you.

Q Bill, on personnel, is Warren Rustand still on the payroll here?

MR. GREENER: Yes.

Q Is the President aware of the LA Times story today of Mr. Rustand's involvement in other outside projects?

MR. GREENER: I don't know whether he is or not, Phil. I haven't heard of it.

Q But he is still on the payroll?

MR. GREENER: Yes, he is.

Q Bill, this is the 27th. I believe this is the deadline for the reply on the Nixon papers. The committee on the Hill has given you until today. Is there a reply?

MR. GREENER: Buchen and Art Sampson are both testifying up there today in closed session, aren't they?

MR. HUSHEN: We will check that. I think they are.

MR. GREENER: That is all I have on it.

Q Do you expect a statement later today on the death of Haile Selassie?

MR. GREENER: Yes, I do. We will have one, and it will be as soon as I can run it through the people.

Q What is the Moynihan meeting about?

MR. GREENER: It is one of the regular meetings with his Cabinet. It is his first one with Mr. Moynihan.

Q Is the President going to address the U.N. General Assembly?

MR. GREENER: I have no plans on that at the present time, Helen.

Q Bill, you keep talking about the great time difference between the Mideast and here and the difficulty of the President talking to Secretary Kissinger on the telephone. There hasn't been one telephone conversation?

MR. GREENER: I said I didn't know that, and I said we will check on it right away and find out. Either I will have it or Ron will bring it down when he comes back from the Cabinet meeting.

Q Has the President had any comments or expressed any interest in the liberation movement in the Azores being run out of Fall River?

MR. GREENER: I have heard nothing.

Q He has said nothing?

MR. GREENER: I have heard no comment.

Q Do you have any reaction to Chairman Ullman's statement analysis report that he will support an extension -- that he will propose an extension of the income tax cut?

MR. GREENER: The only reaction is the President has already said that -- he said this in answer to one of the questions on the trip in Milwaukee -- it is too early to make such a decision now, but he will keep an eye on it and should they need additional stimulus, he would be taking action at that time.

Q Going back to the case of Mr. Rustand, can you give us the President's views on his staff members having outside investments and holdings while they are in office?

MR. GREENER: The only thing I have on that is the President, as you know, has a very strong stand on conflict of interest to the point that we have all been briefed, signed and discussed proper conduct of such actions. That is the only thing I have on it for you right now.

Q Is the President going to make a speech before the IMF committee meeting?

Q That is the International Monetary Fund.

MR. GREENER: I know of no plans at this time.

Q Last night, after Mr. Meany left, it was indicated there would be further meetings between labor people and Administration people. Can you give us anything more specific on that this morning as to when we might expect another meeting?

MR. GREENER: I can't give you any time. I can tell you Secretary Dunlop is in daily contact with them.

Q There was a story this morning there was some progress, there is about to be a breakthrough in at least one area in this.

MR. GREENER: I know the story, but I have nothing to add.

Q Can you confirm or deny?

MR. GREENER: I can neither confirm or deny.

Q What are they discussing at the Cabinet meeting? Do you have an agenda?

MR. GREENER: Primarily upcoming Congressional actions. Ron will be down and give you the whole thing.

Q Has the White House received the oil price control extension bill?

MR. GREENER: No.

Q Do you think it will come to the White House today?

MR. GREENER: We are not the controlling factor there, Helen. It is supposed to be either today or tomorrow.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Bill.

END (AT 11:41 A.M. EDT)