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NEWS CONFERENCE

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 11:35 A.M. EDT

SEPTEMBER 23, 1975

TUESDAY

MR. NESSEN: Let me mention two additions to the President's schedule, or one addition today -- in fact right about now. The President is going to meet with three New York City bankers. Namely, David Rockefeller of the Chase Manhattan; Walter Wriston of City Bank; and Elmore Patterson of Morgan, together with Secretary Simon and Bill Seidman.

The meeting was requested by the bankers and the topic is New York City's financial difficulties.

Somewhat related --

Q Can you tell us when they requested it and when you agreed to it?

MR. NESSEN: Cliff, I really can't. It was added to the schedule today. But in any case, tomorrow --

Q When is that?

MR. NESSEN: Right about now.

Q Can you ask one of the gentlemen to come out here?

MR. NESSEN: I will try.

Somewhat related to that is tomorrow there will be 15 Mayors coming to see the President at 10 o'clock. They are the Executive Committee of the U.S. Conference of Mayors with the addition of Mayor Beame; in other words, it is the Executive Committee plus Mayor Beame.

The meeting is at the request of Moon Landrieu, the Mayor of New Orleans and also the Chairman of this Executive Committee.

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They also want to come in and talk about the New York City financial situation. Would you want me to run down the cities of these Mayors?

Q Sure.

MR. NESSEN: All right. As I say, Moon Landrieu of New Orleans will be there; Lee Alexander of Syracuse -- why don't we post this, maybe that would be the fastest way.

Q All right.

Q Who requested that meeting tomorrow, was that the Mayors?

MR. NESSEN: Tomorrow at 10 o'clock is the Mayors.

Q They requested it?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q They are discussing New York City's problems specifically?

MR. NESSEN: My understanding is they want to discuss the New York City's financial situation.

Q Ron, would you at least put in the request to have the Mayors come out here after their meeting?

MR. NESSEN: I will.

Q Pardon me, I mean the bankers.

MR. NESSEN: The New York bankers? All right, we will ask them.

Q Add the Mayors tomorrow, too, Ron. Can't we have them out here instead of out on the lawn?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Do you have any reason to believe the President might change his position against any help?

MR. NESSEN: No, I might put it even more positively. He does not intend to change his views.

Q Why is he seeing these people then?

MR. NESSEN: Because they have requested appointments to express their views and he wants to hear their views.

Q Is there any connection with the large, full-page ad that Chase had today in the paper advocating action to increase capital investments? Is that to be the subject of this?

MR. NESSEN: I have not heard of any connection between those two.

Q Did you see that?

MR. NESSEN: No, I did not.

Q Will you state the views of the President on the reasons why --

MR. NESSEN: I think if you read the interview of the LA Times, a very thorough and detailed spelling out of the President's views on New York City, we will get you a transcript here if you need it.

Q Ron, can you address the rumor here in Washington that the White House is considering some sort of protection for municipal bonds for cities throughout the country, something comparable to the FDIC for individuals?

MR. NESSEN: I have never heard of that proposal.

I don't have any other announcements to make.

Q Is the President going to continue traveling despite the growing sentiments that he ought to stay in the White House and cool it awhile?

MR. NESSEN: Well, Helen, I think you ought to get ahold of -- which we have here -- the remarks he made in the Diplomatic Reception Room last night, which I think really do express his views on this matter and I think he made clear in there something he feels which is that this is not something that applies only to Presidents but he believes that all elected officials, all public officials in our system of Government need to get out and meet the people they serve and the people they serve need to have an opportunity to meet them and hear them and express their views. And if they don't or if they can't, as the President said himself last night, something is the matter with our system.

If you look at the alternative you are talking about, as the President expressed it this morning, you are talking about putting a President in the Oval Office and keeping him a hostage there for four years and he does not believe that that is the way the system should work, because if it did, it wouldn't be the democratic society any more and it applies also to the Vice President, Senators and House members and other candidates for public office and all public officials.

If they have to become prisoners, then we won't have a democratic system any more.

Q Is he aware -- is the President aware of the preponderance of telephone calls and telegrams coming into the White House this morning urging him to spend less time traveling and take better care of himself?

MR. NESSEN: Walt, I would hardly call it a preponderance. It amounts to 68 telephone calls and -- let me run through the numbers so everybody knows what we are talking about.

So far, as of 10 o'clock this morning, there have been 234 telephone calls or phone calls relating to the episode yesterday. All of them, 234 total, all of them obviously expressed dismay or opposition to what had been attempted. Most of them also contained their congratulations to the President, and so forth.

Of that 234, we have broken down specifically 119 phone calls and telegrams which expressed specific points of view and they were 68 in favor of curtailing public appearances by the President.

Q Have you any contrary number that says keep on going?

MR. NESSEN Five. Sixty-eight in favor of curtailing travel, five in favor of continued travel. Twenty-three in favor of increased gun control, thirteen in favor of increased precautions and ten which contained various other assorted comments on the episode.

Q Ron, what is the President's view of the calls for an investigation of the Secret Service?

MR. NESSEN: He had not himself this morning heard of any call -- I take it you are talking about some sort of Congressional investigation?

Q Right.

MR. NESSEN: He was not aware this morning there had been any. I am sure you all know and have made your own calls to the Treasury Department, after any sort of episode the Secret Service makes a report to its superior, which is the Treasury Secretary. They are in the process of making their report on the Lynette Fromme episode, and the one here where the guy crashed through the gate of the White House and the different ones, so there will be, I would have to assume, one on this.

In fact, I don't have to assume it, I know there will be a report.

Q They are in the process of making a report on Lynette Fromme?

MR. NESSEN: Of making their report, yes.

Q Ron, does the President think the Secret Service protection should be extended to other political Presidential candidates at this stage?

MR. NESSEN: You know that there is this Commission that was set up by law, made up of I forget how many Members of Congress --

Q Four Members of Congress.

MR. NESSEN: -- four Members of Congress and a public member. It is my understanding that Commission had been planning to meet soon anyhow. Actually before yesterday's episode, they had been planning a meeting and are going to hold that meeting, I understand, soon and they will take up the question -- again, this is my understanding -- of who should get Secret Service protection among other officials and candidates and also when those people should get protection.

Q Are you intimating they are going to move up the meeting as a result of yesterday's --

MR. NESSEN: No, I meant just the opposite. Actually, that the meeting was scheduled and will go forward.

Q When is the meeting?

MR. NESSEN: Jim 2:30 today in Mansfield's office.

Q Aside from the Secret Service review and report, is there at the staff level at the White House a review of (a) Presidential security; (b) a re-examination of the President's travel schedule which has been tentatively set?

MR. NESSEN: The answer, Tom, is no to both questions.

Q Ron, does the President know that 68 of these calls and telegrams favored curtailing his travels, and if so, what is his reaction to that?

MR. NESSEN: I think, Peter, he does not know the specific phone calls but I think I reflected to him this morning when I talked to him -- in fact I didn't know what the count was when I talked to him, but I anticipated it would run something like this and I anticipated there would be editorials and columns also reflecting that view, so I think he is aware of my belief that this is going to be the case. So we discussed it and his views this morning were basically the same as those expressed in the Diplomatic Reception Room last night and also in the statement we put out on the plane last night.

Q Before announcing those views, did he discuss it with his staff on the airplane on the way back, or was it a unilateral decision on the part of the President to make the statement he did, and the results of that statement -- is that why there is no staff review?

MR. NESSEN: No, all those things are not linked together, Tom. We did talk on the plane last night about what he would say when he came back here, if anything.

Q Are you saying just because of the second incident you are doing absolutely nothing at all, not looking at anything? Are you just treating this as a normal occurrence?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think, Peter, it is the White House that gets into detailed examinations of security precautions. It is the Secret Service, and they are doing that.

As we said after the Lynette Fromme incident, one of the purposes of these reports is to always look for ways to improve Presidential security.

Q I am not talking about security; I am talking about overall travel plans, his style, campaigning and all that. The Secret Service doesn't tell the President how he performs and acts as far as crowds are concerned.

Are you saying because of the second incident there is not even any consideration of any change?

MR. NESSEN: Peter, let me just back up and sketch in a little bit of background. You know whenever there is a trip the Secret Service sends people out in advance and the White House sends its own people in various areas out in advance and they discuss the arrangements, and if there is any disagreement they either resolve it there or they move it gradually up through the levels of authority, and any fundamental disagreement between the Secret Service and the other advance people ultimately could be decided by the President, would be decided by the President, but there have never been those kinds of disagreements which means that the Secret Service has never had any disagreements about plans that couldn't be resolved at a much lower level.

Obviously, the President and those advance people and others on the staff have always followed recommended procedures of the Secret Service. I don't think that I ---

Q That isn't exactly what ---

MR. NESSEN: I don't think that actually I should discuss specific procedures or any possible adjustments in those procedures.

Q Is he aware that this woman was questioned by the police and the Secret Service the day before this happened and that she had a gun in her possession, and she was released?

MR. NESSEN: He is aware of that, yes.

Q Has he asked the Secret Service in any detail about why or how it was that she happened to be released under those circumstances?

MR. NESSEN: The point is he doesn't have to ask because he knows that routinely the Secret Service is doing a report on the episode and ---

Q What did he say when he heard she had been questioned?

MR. NESSEN: I didn't hear any specific comment on that.

Q To your knowledge, have any members of the President's staff disagreed with him and dissented from his position that he should continue to go out and not be held hostage in the Oval Office? Has any member of the staff said, "Mr. President, you have a higher obligation to see that order and continuity are maintained in the Government."?

MR. NESSEN: Has anybody argued with him and taken that position in a discussion?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: No.

Peter?

Q Could I ask you to be a little more precise in answer to my question? It was, how the President felt about curtailing his travel? He did not mention this last night. If I saw and read him correctly, he talked about not cowering and not capitulating.

I am asking whether he is taking into consideration the curtailing of the travel schedule he has been maintaining recently, and will in the future?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know what you mean by "has he taken into consideration."

Q Is he considering curtailing his travel schedule?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Is he considering modifying his style, where he would not be working the fences, for example; where he would go in through a basement door, for instance?

MR. NESSEN: I don't want to get into procedures or possible adjustments of procedures, but I think Dave Broder pointed out this morning that in San Francisco the President was exposed and in public for 15 seconds during the whole day from the time he got out of the car and went into that Post Street entrance of the hotel, and the time when he came out of the Post Street entrance and got into the limousine. It was probably a total distance of 20 feet, 10 feet both ways.

There was no handshaking on the streets in San Francisco and there was, if I recall, when the car went into the first hotel, which was the Hyatt House, it pulled into the basement, so I don't think it would be fair to say that he took any risk or flaunted himself in San Francisco.

Phil?

Q Has the Secret Service requested the President to curtail his travels?

MR. NESSEN: They have not, Peter. That is why I wanted to give a little bit of background for Peter Kumpa by explaining how the procedures work, which is with the advance men, and if there are disagreements they are worked out. If they can't be worked out they are moved up and eventually decided by the President, if they need be, and none ever have been.

Phil?

Q That was sort of the thrust of my question. Did the President discuss this matter of possibly he curtailing his schedule a little bit with Secret Service people aboard Air Force One last night before he came back with his second statement?

MR. NESSEN: No, he did not.

Q Wasn't that a change in style, the thing you just described where he didn't go across the street and shake hands? I can hardly recall him coming out of a hotel or near a crowd until this trip that he didn't go out of his way, unless he was on a very tight time schedule, which apparently he was not last night, to go to a crowd and shake hands.

MR. NESSEN: I think all of you who have been on the trips have observed, you know, the President's methods, so I think you have to make your own judgments.

Q Can we expect to see more of this type thing? Can we expect to see him do more of this straight to the car, straight to the hotel type thing?

MR. NESSEN: I think that falls into the area, Dick, of not really talking about procedures or any adjustments.

Q Ron, has anybody suggested any staff discussion, movement, action or anything in the White House since the President's statement in the Diplomatic Reception Room last night?

MR. NESSEN: Has there been any discussion?

Q Has there been any sort of action initiated, or discussion, on the President's security since he returned last night?

MR. NESSEN: Two things have happened, Dick. One, the Secret Service routinely will make a report; and second, I raised with the President what I anticipated would be the thrust of a lot of your questions. As I say, I didn't know about the phone calls and telegrams but I anticipated that and I anticipate what no doubt will be written in columns and editorials, and I presented to him that that was coming and asked had he thought about it and what was his response to it. I reflected back to you what his response was.

Q Ron, is there any feeling in the White House that the day has come when the Secret Service is going to have to not only check out the identities of these people on lists in various cities who are potential threats, but also follow them or detain them in order to protect the President's safety?

MR. NESSEN: Mort, I don't see how we can really address that question at the White House. The Secret Service is charged with the protection of the President and other public officials. What they decide is the best method for that is really something you have to get from them.

Q Wait a minute, is that not a step that would come to the White House for decision? If they were going to actually decide to curtail people and detain them, is that not a potential controversial decision that would reach the White House for decision?

MR. NESSEN: Wait just a second. Okay, Mort, that is a fair question and I think it is probably a premature question because as far as I know, the Secret Service has not made that decision, and, if they made that recommendation, or decision, I would track on it and find out where the decision was made but I think it is just premature at this time.

Q There was a statement made last night -- well, it was a comment -- Franklin Delano Roosevelt hardly left the White House and he did his famous Fireside Chats and yet he was elected four times. Is it necessary to go out to the country with all the communications so sophisticated today?

MR. NESSEN: I think the President stated his views on that last night.

Q What is the President's view today, and does he have any feeling as to whether he is the target or the Presidency is the target? Does he have any feeling about why he is getting shot at? Really, this is not a routine thing. You come out here like it is going to be a routine report and everything, and I think there is an anxiety in the country concerning the President's safety.

MR. NESSEN: I think the President believes that the two episodes that have taken place in the last three weeks, the actions represent a tiny, tiny minority of Americans and, as he said, the actions of such a tiny minority can't be allowed to keep the President and Vice President and the other public officials hostage. His view is that it, by no means, represents anything other than the isolated actions of a very few people.

Q Why did he have to bring in the House and Senate members today? They haven't been shot at or brought into this before.

MR. NESSEN: But I think the reason he raised that was that the suggestions that a President curtails his travel, he looks upon it as -- what he is looking at is what kind of society it would lead to where the President would be a prisoner here and, if the President needs to take refuge in the White House, I mean, if you follow that belief to its logical conclusion, then all public officials would have to hide in a bunker.

Q Does he think this is a personal attack, does he think they are aiming at him? Does he have any feeling --

MR. NESSEN: Helen, I frankly didn't talk about that particular question but he did not himself raise it either.

Q What is his mood today?

MR. NESSEN: I would say his mood today is quite serious and businesslike.

Q Didn't Mrs. Ford grab him and hug him and kiss him and tell him she was glad he didn't get killed?

MR. NESSEN: What happened was Mrs. Ford arrived at the airplane about a minute or two after the President had gone into his cabin. We were sitting there and she didn't know anything about it. She said something like, how was your day, or how did they treat you, or something like that. Then, the President told her what had happened and, as I say, she took it quite calmly and, frankly, didn't have any -- she was seated across the table in his cabin from him. She did not get up from the table or lean over and kiss him or hug him. She took the news --

Q She was on board before he got on board?

MR. NESSEN: No, he was on board before she got on board.

Q What did she say?

MR. NESSEN: Not very much, Tom. She didn't have a particular verbal response to it.

Q She must have said something, Ron.

MR. NESSEN: I am not sure I was getting everybody's quote down at that point.

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Q Aside from the President's statement of his intention of not cowering in the White House, isn't he worried, isn't he apprehensive, doesn't he have trepidation about going out the next time? Doesn't it mark him in any way or does it just pass right over his head? Did you get any sense of how he feels about this?

MR. NESSEN: As far as what he has displayed that you could see on the plane, or here this morning, or last night when we got back, I didn't detect any.

Q Ron, you mentioned that you brought up to the President a number of subjects that you anticipated arising in the future. Do you anticipate an increased call for gun control and did you raise it with him, and what was his answer to it?

MR. NESSEN: I did. I guess fairly well sometime. I used to be in that business myself.

Ironically, the President was asked about gun control on the Westinghouse taped television show immediately before --

Q No change?

MR. NESSEN: That's right. What he said there was, and what he believes still is, that the way to control the illegal use of guns is to have certain prison sentences for people who use guns in the commission of a crime.

Secondly, the so-called cheap handgun or Saturday night special, which to the President, has no use other than -- that he can see -- legitimate use other than the commission of a crime. He has proposed, as you know, outlawing its manufacture. He has also proposed other steps to make it more difficult for people who shouldn't have guns not to have them.

In fact, I dug out the bill this morning to test my memory on it and the bill that the President has sent to Congress contains a cooling off period, which you may recall, for buying a gun so that if you went in to buy a gun one morning, you wouldn't be able to take delivery of it that day. There would be a period of up to 14 days.

Is that legislation here?

Q Is that any gun?

MR. NESSEN: I have the legislation here. It would have a cooling off period of 14 days during which the gun store owner would be required to check out certain facts about the person's past to make sure they should have a gun.

Let me get that language for you here -- it is coming.

Q Why is he so adamant against registration? You register fishing licenses. You register for everything else. What is the problem here?

Q Ron, how does the President differentiate between a Saturday night special and a chrome-plated .38?

MR. NESSEN: One of the things that took so long about drafting this legislation was to draft it so that the definition of a Saturday night special would be precise. But, anyhow, this section that I am talking about in his gun control proposal says that the gun store owner would have to make sure that -- that is not the section I want.

Just to summarize for you, there is a cooling off period provided in his proposal so anybody going into a gun store to buy a gun would have to wait up to 14 days to take delivery while the gun store owner found out whether he had a prison record or in any other way was disqualified from owning a gun.

Q Would that section have prevented her from getting either of the guns she had?

MR. NESSEN: I think we are skirting just a shade close there to the judicial process that the woman is involved in. I think I better probably not say anything that could be involved in her case.

Phil.

Q Ron, has the President had any telephone call or telegram from Governor Brown or any foreign leaders?

MR. NESSEN: I didn't hear of any. He didn't mention any this morning.

Q What about Ronald Reagan?

MR. NESSEN: No. He had a call from the Speaker this morning who told him about this Commission meeting. That is the only phone call I know that he has taken relating to this episode.

Q You seem to be telling us, Ron, that the President is not interested in his own protection sufficiently enough to inquire why the Secret Service, for instance, did not put surveillance on this lady, and several other questions involved in the incident? Is that correct? He has made no personal inquiry into this or has not directed any White House inquiry into this?

MR. NESSEN: Don't you see, he knows this Secret Service report is being made. There is no need to order one, it is made routinely after any episode.

Q Nobody in the White House has made any inquiry into those aspects of the case, as to how this lady was able to get there with her pistol?

MR. NESSEN: Why would you order an investigation when you know that a report is already being drafted?

Q My question is, are we correct in assuming that the President is not sufficiently interested to have the White House make some inquiries into these matters?

MR. NESSEN: You can put it in whatever terms you would like but the terms I want to put it in is that a report is being made and there is no need to go and say, "I want a report," when you know that the report is coming.

Q Will any outside agency review Secret Service procedures in this matter or will it be entirely an in-house investigation and report?

MR. NESSEN: Certainly it goes to the Treasury Secretary, Ted, who is in charge of the Secret Service, so I don't know that you could call it an in-house report.

Q By the time this report is made -- we don't know how soon it will be. On the basis of the former record, it could be several more weeks. The President may be out a couple more times. If you have another situation where there is no surveillance after they find someone with a gun, what happens? Isn't there any urgency about this report?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know what the timetable of the Secret Service is and I think you need to check with Jack Warner on how soon it will be.

Q Ron, you said a while ago there are no differences at a high level between what the Secret Service recommended and what was actually done by the President. That doesn't seem to be true according to-- I believe it was a letter, I can't give you the name of the man by whom it was written, since the Fromme incident, in the Washington Post--a Secret Service man, who told of definite recommendations they made that the President disregarded.

They said other Presidents besides Ford disregarded these recommendations, too, but the Secret Service can't do anything about it. They make the recommendations but the President goes right ahead and doesn't carry out their recommendations.

MR. NESSEN: I did look into this. I did determine what procedure was used, and the advance people and the Secret Service advance people have never had a disagreement that was not resolved far short of a Presidential decision.

I know that Jim Deakin, I guess, had heard in Sacramento -- somebody had told him that the Secret Service had been strongly opposed to the walk to the State Capitol, for instance, and that the President himself only that morning had said, "No, I am going to walk."

What I did was to show Jim and the others one of the diagrams that shows various parts of the Presidential trip dated, I think, eight or nine days before, showing that the walk had always been planned and there was no disagreement with the Secret Service. That may be the incident you are talking about.

Q You said the President did not plan to curtail his travel schedule because he is concerned about what kind of society it would lead to if he was a hostage in the Oval Office.

My question is, has he expressed any concern about the chaos and Government disruption and dislocation that would occur as followed after the Kennedy assassination, for example, if one of these people were to get through?

MR. NESSEN: I think, Walt, that really goes right back to what he was saying last night and what he said this morning, if you follow the theory to its conclusion -- the President becomes a hostage in the Oval Office to a very tiny minority, other public officials do, and we no longer have the system of Government and society that we want.

Q That is not necessarily so. It is not an either/or. It could be just a cooling off period.

MR. NESSEN: He doesn't have any trips scheduled for a couple of days.

Q Ron, could you answer Helen's question on gun control? "Why is the President" -- the word Helen used -- "Why is he so adamant in opposing it?" Then she pointed out since there is registration for fishing licenses and other items like that.

MR. NESSEN: You know the President has held his view consistently on guns. He himself doesn't own guns, doesn't use guns, has never been hunting, as far as I understand.

Q Consistency is not necessarily a virtue.

MR. NESSEN: Anyhow, it is his view and that is all I can tell you.

Q You cannot explain why the difference, Ron, in your conversations with him, between such other simple licensing procedures?

MR. NESSEN: No, but I suggest it is the kind of subject that might lend itself to a question to the President the next time you have an opportunity.

Q Doesn't the President honestly believe that there is seriously something wrong with the country? I mean, there isn't any if, and or but about it any more, is there?

MR. NESSEN: He does not believe that there is anything seriously wrong with the country. He believes these two episodes have involved people who, by no means, represent the vast majority of Americans, as he said last night.

Fran?

Q Two questions: Are you tallying both the telegrams and the telephone calls on this?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, I have lumped them together.

Q Was the President wearing a bullet-proof vest yesterday?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Does that have anything to do with reports the investigation itself might be more dangerous than not wearing one?

MR. NESSEN: I hadn't heard those reports.

Q There are tests that show that if a bullet strikes in the chest it could shatter the ribs and cause the ribs to puncture the internal organs; therefore, if the bullet hits above the abdominal cavity, the vest could be more dangerous than if not wearing it.

MR. NESSEN: You have done more research than I. I had not heard that.

Q Ron, when is the President's next trip?

MR. NESSEN: I don't believe we have made any formal announcements of the President's next trip, partly because all the details have not been worked out. I guess most of you know he does plan tentatively to make a trip to the Middle West at the very end of the month.

Q There was a long list of States announced last night as to where he was going. Can you review that for us?

MR. NESSEN: Where was that? I didn't see that.

Q Cronkite had it.

Q Are you talking about this coming weekend?

MR. NESSEN: You mean the one coming up, at the end of this week?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: No, he is not going out of town this weekend.

Q Is there a trip next weekend?

MR. NESSEN: On the 30th. When is the 30th -- I think it is a week from today.

Q How many days?

MR. NESSEN: It is not totally arranged yet, Ted.

Q Does the President think he is taxing the police departments of all these big cities to some extent? They have to put on extra men, dip into their own treasuries and they are all uptight around the country.

MR. NESSEN: No, I haven't heard him say that at all.

Q Ron, the tentative plans that you described to a pool in California for a return visit to California, are they still where they were when you discussed it with the pool?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, they are.

Q When are you going?

MR. NESSEN: He has, I think, as many of you know, been invited to take part in two Republican fund raising dinners in California toward the end of October, very near the end of October. He has not made a formal decision to go yet.

Q Ron, this Secret Service reassessment, or the investigation, is that really an investigation of how these incidents occur, or does it also include a reassessment of the adequacies of the procedures?

MR. NESSEN: No, I think what we said about the Lynette Fromme report being compiled by the Secret Service is that in all cases the purpose of these reports is to look for any better ways to protect the President and so that would be the purpose of this one also.

Q Ron, I would like to follow up a question Bill asked earlier. Since they are still working on the Lynette Fromme report, it is unlikely they will have a report on yesterday's incident until he moves out again.

Has there been a request to Simon to speed this thing up so they can get it?

MR. NESSEN: That, as I say, is something you need to check with Jack Warner on because I don't know that.

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Q Ron, has any thought be given to the --

MR. NESSEN: Let me give you this. I am sorry, Jack gave me this a little while back and I didn't read it. I am told the Treasury Department will be issuing a statement shortly and this statement will spell out the status of the report which Treasury has asked the Secret Service to compile on the Sacramento incident and also the statement will discuss what the Secret Service will be doing about the incident yesterday.

The man to call over there -- and he has told Jack that he will be available to take your calls -- is Assistant Secretary Dave McDonald. He is in charge of the enforcement area of Treasury. His phone number is 964-2033 and I think the easiest thing to do also would be for us to get a copy of the statement and have it available here, although at the moment I can't tell you what the time will be on that.

Q You don't mean he is just going to issue it one-by-one. Is he going to make a formal statement?

Q Are they going to have a press conference over there?

MR. HUSHEN: I couldn't tell, it didn't sound like just a statement.

Q Isn't he a member of that Commission? Doesn't he have to meet with Mansfield at 2:30? He is the conduit on that, isn't he?

MR. NESSEN: He is the conduit, that is correct.

Q Ron, the question arises in this series of incidents whether the President or some psychological atmosphere, doesn't incite this tiny minority --

MR. NESSEN: I know, this is the cooling off period theory, I believe.

Q It is not just the cooling off theory, it's got to do with the way the President responds to these things, saying he is not going to be held hostage. Is the White House at all concerned that he is somehow responsible for the incitement of these people? This is not two, but three, including the guy in St. Louis, who was very close and with a gun, and there have been a spate of death threats. Obviously, the nuts in the country are somehow aroused.

MR. NESSEN: I didn't put it to the President quite in those words this morning but the President feels that his travel and his demeanor and the things he has said publicly about this, to him at least, do not represent any kind of actions or remarks that could be considered as flaunting himself or his office in front of people who might belong to this tiny minority, nor does he feel that anything he has said or done represents in any way a dare or an egging on of these individuals.

Let me tidy up the record on one thing so it doesn't come back to haunt. I said that there had never been a Secret Service recommendation which could not be resolved with the advancement short of the Presidential level. There was one decision that reached the Presidential level and that had to do with a helicopter flight he made out to Andrews with the Vice President aboard the same helicopter. The Secret Service was not wild about that idea but the President did. That was one of those decisions, the only decision that reached as high as the President for resolution.

Q What about the time he was going down in that mine?

MR. NESSEN: I heard about the thing and I never did take time to track it down but that is an example of one that was resolved at a level short of the President.

Q On the bankers, are they out? Did John tell you what the score is?

MR. NESSEN: Phil.

Q On the helicopter thing, did the Vice President and the President end up riding together?

MR. NESSEN: They did, yes.

Q The President overruled the Secret Service?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, that is correct.

Q Did he do that last night?

MR. NESSEN: No, the Vice President was here last night. It wasn't last night, Phil. You remember, they went out to see Kissinger going to the airport to get on the plane to Europe, right?

Q That was a political decision. I remember, because Mr. Rockefeller had just been assaulted by Mr. Callaway, verbally, that is. Is there any decision involved in his current decision to keep going as he was?

MR. NESSEN: I am going to have to decline to accept your premise.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

(AT 12:19 P.M. EDT)