

This Copy For _____

NEWS CONFERENCE

#340

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 11:35 A.M. EDT

OCTOBER 8, 1975

WEDNESDAY

MR. NESSEN: Let me start off with a couple of little announcements here.

One is that the President is going tomorrow to the Navy Yard to attend ceremonies commemorating the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Navy. He will have brief remarks there. He will leave the White House at about 11:50 and get back here around 12:45.

I don't know what that is going to do to the briefing. Let me think about that this afternoon and post it.

The ceremonies will be held in a park near the Admiral's quarters. In event of rain, the ceremonies will be in the museum on the grounds of the Navy Yard.

There will be open press coverage, and everybody should be there and set up no later than 11. For those who don't want to go, the remarks will be piped over here to the briefing room.

Credentials to get in there; your White House pass is fine, Metropolitan Police pass or Senate and House Gallery pass.

There will be a travel pool going from here with the President.

Further, I think the President will be working here in the office on Saturday morning. Saturday afternoon I would look for golf at Burning Tree, and Saturday evening I anticipate that the President will go to Camp David and remain there overnight.

MORE

#340

Next week, the President will be making two trips.

On Tuesday, October 14, he will be going to Hartford, Connecticut, and on Thursday, October 16, he will be going to Louisville, Kentucky. Both of those events are Republican fund-raisers, out and back the same day.

Any other details I will get as the trips are put together more.

The President wanted me to let you know that he is grieved by the death of Fred Morrison, who I think many of you know. Fred, for a long time, was on the radio with Four Star Extra, I guess it was called. He later went to the Republican National Committee and most recently has been at the Department of Transportation.

The President has known him over the years and will be contacting the widow.

The public reaction to the President's speech of the other night announcing his tax cut program, as of 10:30 this morning telegrams, letters and mailgrams, 162 favored the President's program; 13 were opposed; nine had comments of various kinds.

Q Pretty light response, isn't it, Ron?

Q Is that just for today?

MR. NESSEN: No, this is cumulative, total.

Phone calls, 17 in favor, seven against, one comment.

To do the arithmetic, the total is 179 in favor, 20 opposed, ten various comments. The letters are just beginning to come in. Now, this is almost all telegrams, mailgrams and phone calls, and the first of the letters have now begun to come in.

I would like to make, and I hope this is taken in the right spirit, a factual correction of something that appeared in a New York Times editorial this morning. There is enormous respect here for the New York Times, and the only reason I do this is because of the fact that the New York Times is a great molder of public opinion, and I just felt that it would be proper to correct a factual mistake before it got set.

I hope you will let me say that there is nothing critical at all about this. It is strictly a factual mistake.

The Times this morning, on an editorial on the tax cut proposal, said that one of the reasons for the sharp increase in the total Federal budget lately in its view was that Social Security and other trust fund outlays were included in the budget for the first time during the Johnson Administration, and that this accounts for the big jump in Federal spending.

The fact is it is true that Social Security and other trust funds were added to the total budget in the Johnson Administration, but the budget figures for previous years, back to 1940, were revised to show what they would have been if Social Security and other trust funds had been included.

On page 367 of your budget book for this year, there is a footnote saying that data from 1789 to 1939 are for the administrative budget, but from 1940 on, the figures are as they would have been had the budget been unified.

I just thought I would straighten that out, but as I say, there is no criticism here at all implied.

Q Would somebody repeat that, what you just read out for us, please, Ron?

Q Both you and Senator Scott and Congressman Rhodes are terribly careful about criticizing the press. If they got it wrong, they got it wrong. Why do you have to apologize for it?

Q The Times hardly ever does. (Laughter)

Q I got them on a \$17 billion error, Bill, a typographical.

Q They paid it back.

MR. NESSEN: That is my story today.

Q Ron, on these phone calls and so forth, generally, don't the comments run into the thousands? Do you attribute this to the fact that it was only carried on one network?

MR. NESSEN: No, I would just think that the mail is only now beginning to come in, and I think that will move it up.

Q Ron, what was the time that elapsed between when the President decided to make this speech on taxes and when he did it?

MR. NESSEN: The approach that was finally chosen has been discussed here, or began to be discussed here, at Vail at Christmastime of last year. The actual hard work of putting this program together began two months ago.

Q Yes, but when did he decide to make this speech?

MR. NESSEN: Do you mean at this specific time and place, or what?

Q You can say he has always been interested in cutting taxes, but when did he decide that he was going to make this speech?

MR. NESSEN: As I say, the hard work on putting this particular plan together began two months ago.

Q When did he decide that he was going to let it out?

MR. NESSEN: When he made his final decisions, which was pretty much over the weekend.

Q Over last weekend?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Ron, did the original proposal for this concept come from the Secretary of the Treasury last year at Vail?

MR. NESSEN: I would say that basically the President decided that this was the direction he wanted to go in. I think any of you who have followed economics over the years know that Bill Simon is on public record as favoring this approach for many years.

Q Ron, is there any plan in the White House now to change procedure and give Congressmen an idea of what the next year's budget will be before they have to vote on a proposal that says that you will cut back taxes and you will have a tax reduction and cut back the budget?

MR. NESSEN: Sarah, the President just completely disagrees with any idea that Congress cannot do this. It can do this.

Q I realize that, but I say is there any plan in this Administration to change this? The budget does not come out until, say, next January, and they will be expected to vote on a blank check for cuts right here.

MR. NESSEN: Congress imposed upon itself, and the President signed after the Congress had imposed upon itself, the mechanism for setting an overall budget ceiling. In previous years, a subcommittee here and a subcommittee there have initiated spending programs without any reference to what they would add up to in the end.

Congress, under its own reforms, imposed upon itself a procedure to set an overall budget ceiling under which individual programs would fit. Congress merely has to follow its own procedures to do this.

A budget of \$395 billion will be submitted to Congress in January, as always, by the President.

Q Ron, that ceiling won't be set, however, until some time next spring, March or April or May. You don't anticipate them waiting until then to decide on the tax cut?

MR. NESSEN: The President does not understand why Congress says it can't do this. I mean, Al Ullman of the House Ways and Means Committee stood up on television yesterday morning and said "We can't cope with this."

The President does not believe that, and the President does not believe the American people will accept that. The President believes the American people are in favor of what he is proposing, which is, one, get inflation down, create jobs, stop the growth of Government at the rate it has been growing, and give people more of their own money to decide how to spend instead of sending it down here to Washington and letting Congress decide how to spend their money.

The President believes that is what the American people want. He believes that is the right course, and he cannot understand why the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and others throw up their hands and say, "We can't do this." He believes they can do this.

Q Will the White House be making its own recommendations?

MR. NESSEN: In the budget in January.

Q Ron, you are pretty emphatic about what Mr. Ullman said. It seems to me that everybody would agree with what you just said. Nobody would disagree. The point is, how they do it. Mr. Ullman made a lot of sense today when he said, "How can we vote on cuts without knowing what the budget is going to be of the President?"

MR. NESSEN: Sarah, the mechanism, the mechanics, this is ridiculous for 435 people elected by the people to stand there and whine and whimper and say we can't do this. The people want their money to spend the way they want to spend it, and that is what the issue is.

Q They didn't say --

MR. NESSEN: The issue is not which subcommittee is going to handle, what parliamentary maneuver we are going to use. That is not the issue. The issue the President has proposed is should the people be given more of their money to spend the way they want to spend it.

If Congress cannot figure out how to do that, then the American people, the President believes, will make their voices heard very loud and find somebody who can do it for them.

Q Ron, in January will the specific recommendations for that amount of money that the President wants a cut be made in across-the-board programs?

MR. NESSEN: John, the budget will come in at \$395 billion. In order to get a \$395 billion budget, you have to propose the specific cuts to get to \$395 billion.

Q The budget does not go into effect until the last part of 1976, but the tax break will go into effect in January. What happens for the first nine months?

MR. NESSEN: That has got to be one of the most ludicrous arguments I have heard.

Q It was a ludicrous question.

MR. NESSEN: It is not a ludicrous question. It is a good question, Saul. If Congress would like to start cutting the --

Q Make up your mind, Ron. (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: It is a good question, but a ludicrous argument that is being made. If Congress wants to cut the budget now, the President would be more than happy to have them cut it now or January 1 or last July 1 or whenever.

The President is not saying hold budget cuts until next October 1. He has been urging budget cuts ever since he came here.

Q What will the revenue side be, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: I will have to do the arithmetic.

Q What is the gap?

MR. NESSEN: There are various gaps. You mean the gap between the -- the deficit, right?

The President's program calls for \$395 billion in spending and a \$28 billion budget cut, leaving a deficit of between \$40 and \$44 billion.

As he said yesterday, this is the start of a historic turnaround in the way we run our economy, in the way we run our society. If Congress will go along with what the President and the American people believe in, we will have a balanced budget, hopefully, in three years.

Q Ron, the Budget Control Act, if I am not mistaken, does provide certain specific procedures for Congress to follow, and they include a concurrent resolution on May 1 and October 1 to set an overall ceiling on the side of the budget.

If the President is saying they could do it if they want to, is he saying they should change the budget control law?

MR. NESSEN: Phil, this is nonsense.

Q I am sorry.

MR. NESSEN: You are not nonsense.

For the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and other Members of Congress 535 of them, who are supposed to be down here doing the people's work, to stand up on television, on the floor and elsewhere and say "We can't do what the American people want us to do" is nonsense.

Q What is the answer to your question?

MR. NESSEN: My question is that the President and the people expect Congress to do this, and there are ways to do it. Now, haggling over what kind of resolution and who passes it first is nonsense in this debate.

The issue, as I have told you, is giving people more of their own money to spend and the issue is that for the first time Congress is now required, whenever they vote to spend money, to recognize that they are voting to spend somebody's money -- your money.

Q Excuse me, Ron. The speeches are very stirring, but I detect no answer to his question, which is --

MR. NESSEN: The answer to the question lies up at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, Ted.

Q Excuse me, Ron.

MR. NESSEN: The Congress of the United States didn't waste any time finding a mechanism to raise its salary, and damn fast, and they can find a mechanism to cut people's taxes damn fast.

Q The question was, is the President saying they should change the law?

MR. NESSEN: The President is saying they should do it, and they can do it.

Q Ron, let me ask you this one more time.

Q I may be wrong, but on the face of it it seems to do what the President is asking, either it requires a change in the law that has established these procedures or for Congress to break the law and just ignore the procedures established by the Budget Control Act.

MR. NESSEN: Phil, it is just, as I say, silly to believe that people who are elected to come down here and do the people's business can't do it. There are mechanisms to do it. They found a way to raise their salary. They can find a way to do this.

Q The Administration set the sense of Congress resolution, nonbinding sense of Congress resolution.

MR. NESSEN: I just don't think that discussion of mechanism is necessary.

Q Ron, is there any reason why we can't have a little change down here and let the Executive Branch put out a list of item by item or whatever they think the cuts ought to be?

MR. NESSEN: Be right here in January, as always, in the budget.

Q Why can't they do it now since he has already made this proposal? Surely the President has got to know.

MORE

#340

MR. NESSEN: The budget procedure is underway, as you would expect it to be this close to the period when the budget has to go up there, and there is a calendar of when the President will review each page of the budget and when he will hold his meetings.

The budget, with the cuts, will go on schedule. The President is not asking Congress to sit down today and decide how much goes for defense, how much goes to HEW. The President is asking Congress to put a ceiling on spending as its own mechanism requires it to do.

That is all that is being asked now, and within the \$395 billion ceiling next year, they will vote on one appropriation bill after another, but for the first time, they will know that they must work within that ceiling.

Q But couldn't the President, in his leadership, provide for the people of this country some suggestions of where the cuts should be?

MR. NESSEN: It won't be just suggestions, it will be the specific cuts in the specific programs, page after page after page in the January budget.

Q I mean now, and couldn't he give the suggestions now?

MR. NESSEN: He is working on it. I showed you the calendar.

Q Ron, with words like whine and whimper and nonsense and silly and ridiculous and the strength of your words, doesn't this portend to show the White House President's decision to use this in the proper sense as a political battleground with the good for nothing 94th Congress coming up?

MR. NESSEN: Dick, if you are saying did the President sit down and draft this program solely or primarily --

Q No. Pardon me.

MR. NESSEN: Wait a minute. I know what you are asking. Let me answer it this way.

If you are asking whether he sat down and drafted this solely or primarily so he would have a 1976 election issue, the answer is no.

If you are asking whether he sat down and drafted this primarily or solely to draw a line between himself and Congress, the answer is no.

If you are asking is this an issue about which the American people are vitally interested, the answer is yes.

If you are asking whether if Congress does not do this, whether it will be an issue next year, the answer is you are damn right it will be because the people will make it an issue next year.

The President does not have to make it an issue.

Q How does the President know how the American people are thinking? You said "the American people" about 50 times now. Through 162 phone calls?

MR. NESSEN: One of the things that has happened as he has gone around the country, and not when he is shaking hands in crowds, but when he is sitting down with groups, is to get a feeling of what people want.

He reads the polls, just as you do. He sat with a bunch of Governors yesterday of various political complexions and got their support for this. He sat down with a group of mayors the week before, or so, and got from them the view that they want more of the money to stay in their towns so their people can decide how to spend it.

Q Ron, yesterday the House and Senate had 31 votes out of 535 for the President. How does that square with what you say, that that is what the people want?

MR. NESSEN: I don't understand exactly the question.

Q 31 Members voted to support the President in the override of the school lunch program.

MR. NESSEN: Oh, that program.

Q That is a cut, and that is what he wants in this program. How does that square?

MR. NESSEN: The issue here is, is Congress going to face up to the fact that every time they vote to spend money they are voting to spend your money.

Q Did anybody ever question that?

MR. NESSEN: This will force Congress to face that issue. I mean, that school lunch bill, among other provisions, provided free lunches to students at schools whose tuition is higher than the poverty level. Parents who are paying more than \$5,000 a year tuition for their kids are getting free lunches.

Congress has got to face up to the fact that that is peoples' money they are spending, and that is what the President's proposal is designed to do.

Q Is he going to veto it?

MR. NESSEN: Which?

Q The school lunch.

MR. NESSEN: He can't veto it now. It has been overridden.

Q Is the President doing this because the people want it or because it is the right thing to do?

MR. NESSEN: I started off, I think one of the very first things I said, was that the President believes this is right for America to make this historic change, historic turnaround in our economy and in our society.

Q How does this portend to change the society?

Q Could you refresh my memory about what the President did with the pay raise bill?

Q Question?

MR. NESSEN: Peter was asking to refresh his memory about the pay raise bil.

Q The mechanism for raising salaries, which you mentioned a minute ago. Did the President sign that bill?

MR. NESSEN: At 5 percent, which is the ceiling he recommended.

Q That is the ceiling that went through?

MR. NESSEN: Peter says, didn't the President sign the Federal pay raise. Yes, at the 5 percent that he recommended.

I think one thing to keep in mind here, and maybe it has been lost, is that a \$395 billion budget is not a cutback of anything. It is an increase of \$25 billion over this year, and so it is incorrect to portray \$395 billion as a cutback of anything. It is a huge jump in the budget.

Q How did he reach this figure, pray tell?

MR. NESSEN: What figure?

Q \$395 billion?

MR. NESSEN: Do you mean why \$395 as opposed to \$394?

Q Or \$423.

Q It will rise automatically if Congress does not cut back.

MR. NESSEN: It will rise automatically with no new programs whatever. Just the laws that are on the books and the normal increase in the number of people eligible for various programs, the budget will go to \$423 billion, a jump of \$53 billion in one year.

All he is asking Congress to do is to hold the increase at \$25 billion instead of \$53 billion to get started on the process of stopping this growth of Government spending.

Q Could I follow that, please? If it contains no new programs, does it then not include programs the President has recommended, which are a continuation and increase in revenue sharing and the Middle East aid package?

Q And could we add to that the energy?

MR. NESSEN: The EIA increase would be nominal in that fiscal year.

Q How about the other?

MR. NESSEN: Let's see.

Q Revenue sharing and the Middle East package.

MR. NESSEN: Included in the \$423?

Q They are both included?

MR. NESSEN: Yes. and so is the minor figure for the EIA, I believe.

Q The other two were the Middle East and the revenue sharing.

MR. NESSEN: It is built into the \$423.

Q Built into \$395?

MR. NESSEN: Built into the \$395.

Q Ron, can I change the subject slightly?

Yesterday in Knoxville the President was talking about the possibility of helping New York City and New York State, and he seemed to me to be shifting his ground somewhat and saying that he did not have the legislative authority to move in to help bail out the City of New York.

Is he in fact thinking about asking for that authority in case of emergency, or would he welcome that authority from Congress in the case of emergency?

MR. NESSEN: No, he does not plan to ask for it, and he does not think it is needed because New York City can solve its own financial problems.

Q Ron, I was wondering, does the President agree in substance with Clarence Mitchell of the NAACP, who said that Moynihan's description of Amin as a racist murderer was an occasion for pride and not apology?

MR. NESSEN: I am glad you asked me that, Les.

Q Does he support his Ambassador or not?

MR. NESSEN: First of all, I would like, as I mentioned the other day, to take the opportunity to read Ambassador Moynihan's remarks, which I did, to see if that was an accurate quotation.

The quotation was: "It is no accident, I fear, this racist murderer -- as one of our leading newspapers called him this morning" -- this newspaper being the New York Times.

Q Erroneously? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: The President believes that Ambassador Moynihan and Clarence Mitchell said what needed to be said.

Q And he fully supports that.

There is a report in the Post this morning that State Department officials --

Q Said what needed to be said. That means that he concurs in this description?

MR. NESSEN: What they said needed to be said, according to the President.

Q Needed to be said?

MR. NESSEN: And the President feels that that is about all he can contribute to the conversation. (Laughter)

Q Ron, there is a report here that State Department officials reportedly tried to get the Ambassador to sign two letters of apology and they are investigating that down at the State Department now. Does the President know anything about this?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know anything about it, and I don't think the President does.

Q Thanks very much for a good answer this morning, Ron. I really appreciate it.

Q Do you think these remarks have enhanced our relationship with Africa?

MR. NESSEN: He thinks they needed to be said.

Q Why did it need to be said?

Q Why did it need to be tied to the Organization of African Unity?

Q That is the point.

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that he did tie it to the Organization of African Unity.

Q He said it is ono accident, but --

MR. NESSEN: Well, I think you ought to read Ambassador Moynihan's full remarks, and I think you will see what it is all about.

Q The part that you quoted said "this racist murderer." In other words, Moynihan endorses that description. Does the President follow Moynihan on that?

MR. NESSEN: What the Ambassador said and what Clarence Mitchell said needed to be said, the President thinks.

Q Ron, yesterday at Knoxville Governor Waller of Mississippi and Governor Holshouser of North Carolina reported that they told the President about their various fiscal woes, they and the other Governors. What I didn't get was what the President told them about when they cited all their fiscal woes.

MR. NESSEN: I thought the pool might have been in there. There was not all that much citing of fiscal woes, as I recall. The question primarily had to do with the budget for the Appalachian Regional Commission which ran, I believe, \$300 million a year. As you know, the Commission is scheduled to expire and what did the President intend to do about it, and he told them that he felt that the full renewal for four years ought to be voted and that as far as their appropriations went, that as he makes these decisions that he is making now on the specific size of specific programs, he would keep in mind their needs.

Q Well, Governor Carroll, for instance, of Kentucky, brought up the subject of the intermodal rail needing more money for building the railroads to take Kentucky coal into the market States.

MR. NESSEN: My memory of that is that it came up in connection with an ICC ruling that had to do with the composition of trains from the coal areas and the President asked Frank Zarb to look into that ICC ruling but that was not a question of money, it was a question of regulation.

Q Ron, without being frivolous about it, does the President really think the people support money for the Appalachian Commission, and if he does, how does he know?

MR. NESSEN: He does believe it. You mean the \$300 million that has been appropriated so far?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: He does believe that they support it.

Q How does he know about it?

MR. NESSEN: Well, the Governors who are perhaps closer to their constituents than people here in Washington, I think, were reflecting the --

Q Non-Appalachian.

MR. NESSEN: Are also closer to their constituents perhaps than the people here in Washington.

Q I mean the Appalachian thing. Most of the population of this country is not involved in that.

MR. NESSEN: Peter, I would hope that this great issue, as Dick rightly raises it, can be discussed without playing word games.

Q Ron, I haven't been playing word games. You made the case that the President knows what the people want in the way of Federal spending and Federal budget cuts.

MR. NESSEN: The Governors of the Appalachian States represent the people of the Appalachian States and I think are close to their constituents than some people here in Washington, and they told him the work that had been done and how it had helped the people. That is the representative of the people here. You have read the polls which indicate the view of people in terms of big Government, big Government spending and taxes.

Q Who represents the school lunch kids?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know what you mean by school lunch kids.

Q I mean who represents to the President the view of how people feel about whether there should be more money in that program.

MR. NESSEN: Well, it is on television and in the papers everyday. You know, the debate here is not over feeding hungry kids or not feeding hungry kids, the debate here is over feeding hungry kids and feeding people who can afford \$5,000 a year tuition in a private school. The President said over and over again that this program is designed to spend the money on the people who need the money and not the people who can afford \$5,000 tuition.

Q Does the President feel that he knows better what the people of New York City need than Abraham Beame does?

MR. NESSEN: Well, as I say, this is a great issue and it is believed here to be an issue of major importance representing a proposal to turn the American economy in a whole new direction. People, I guess, have written and broadcast that this President does not have a vision or a plan for the future of America, and this is part of the plan for the future of America. And I think to get into these kinds of niggling little debates demeans that important issue.

MORE

Q Ron, where can we find what the President's view or vision of America is for the urban problems of America? Where do we find that?

MR. NESSEN: Well, I suppose that the \$3.5 billion or 25 percent of the Federal budget that is sent to New York every year represents what the President believes should be done for the people of New York.

Q You mean New York?

MR. NESSEN: The New York City budget is \$12 billion. \$3 1/2 billion of that comes out of the Federal Treasury, which is to say out of the pockets of everybody in the country.

Q Ron, what I mean is the fact that -- all right. The Federal Government revenue sharing pays a quarter of that.

MR. NESSEN: Not just revenue sharing -- welfare, mass transit, Medicare, Medicaid, LEAA.

Q American citizens. Why have you segmented New York? Isn't it going across the country?

MR. NESSEN: I don't want to do a philosophical debate with you here. The President has made a proposal.

Q Ron, that is not my question. My question is this: That everything from crime, busing, narcotics, racial tensions, everything, are all symptomatic of problems of urban America which I don't see anybody arguing with you, but what I would like to know is, "Does the President think that the Federal Government has gone to its limit in meeting or trying to solve or guide the solutions to these problems of urban America? Granted this turn around is a big thing, certainly, but where is the leadership from the President on this urban problem in America?"

MR. NESSEN: Well, if you are talking about specifically New York City or urban centers in general, the President and the Congress agreed some years ago and is about to renew the idea that local communities are all different, all have their own separate problems and have a better idea of where to spend money on their separate problems than some guy sitting down here in Washington. So the Federal Government passes big chunks, billions to cities and States and counties to spend on their problems as they think best and not as some -- shall I use the word, Peter?

Q Go ahead.

MR. NESSEN: -- bureaucrat down here in Washington thinks they should spend.

Q Ron, the record shows that when Mr. Ford was a Congressman he took strong stands in favor of the Byrd amendment and strongly opposed any surrender of any sovereignty of the Canal Zone and strongly favored our Embassies, that our Embassies should be in Jerusalem rather than Tel-Aviv.

Since he has become President and inherited Dr. Kissinger, there has been a radical alteration of all these three rather controversial positions, and, of course, there was the Solzhenitsyn advice from Dr. Kissinger.

I was wondering, to your knowledge has the President ever disagreed with Dr. Kissinger?

MR. NESSEN: I am not in on every meeting, so I really don't have any way of knowing that, Les.

Q I know that, but to your knowledge in the meetings that you have been in or in discussions with the President has he ever disagreed with Dr. Kissinger, particularly on a matter of foreign policy?

MR. NESSEN: One thing I forgot to mention to you is that in Detroit Friday there will be a regional news conference. I think we will probably just use the format that we have used on these out-of-town news conferences before, which is half the questions from the local people and half from the White House.

So, when we post the sign-up sheet for those going on the trip, why don't you put a little mark or a note next to your name if you want to be drawn out of the hat for the news conference questions.

Q What time?

MR. NESSEN: Approximately 4:15 at Cobo Hall.

Q What time zone?

MR. NESSEN: This says Eastern Daylight. That is right. They are on Eastern Daylight.

Q Will CBS and NBC be carrying this?

MR. NESSEN: I have not the vaguest idea.

Q Ron, has Secretary Shultz been approached up to now --

Q Do you have any more on the Detroit trip?

MR. NESSEN: Let me get to Don in just a second.

Q Has former Secretary Shultz been approached about an intelligence post?

MR. NESSEN: Let me answer Jim's question.

Q What was Jim's question?

MR. NESSEN: Jim's question is, has anything been added to the schedule in Detroit.

The schedule in Detroit is basically -- the news conference is the first event, isn't it?

Q What time will he be arriving?

MR. NESSEN: He will be taking off sometime early in the afternoon. I have not got the exact times yet.

Next is the fund-raiser, and those are the only two events that I know of.

The report that the job of Director of the Central Intelligence Agency has been offered to somebody else is totally wrong. There are no plans to replace Mr. Colby as head of the CIA, and any reports that say that there are such plans are absolutely incorrect.

Q For the Kissinger question, are you evading that?

Q Has Mr. Shultz been approached about taking some job in the intelligence setup?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q He is not going to reorganize the CIA or anything?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Or service personnel?

MR. NESSEN: I am not sure I understand.

Q By organize, you mean personnel.

MR. NESSEN: I don't know exactly what you are talking about.

Q What was the question?

MR. NESSEN: I am not sure what the question was, but if it involves George Shultz coming --

Q He said, are you going to reorganize the CIA. That was the question.

MR. NESSEN: The President has said many times publicly that he is going to make his administrative and legislative proposals to revise the intelligence community.

Q When is that going to be?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have a date for it.

Q Soon?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know.

Q A matter of weeks?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know.

Q Speaking of legislative proposals, are we going to get this energy thing tomorrow, the energy bill?

MR. NESSEN: What is tomorrow, Thursday? Probably.

Q Ron, in Detroit, do you have any special separate interviews, radio or TV?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Are you saying that these proposals the President intends to make administratively involve no personnel changes in view of the revelations up on the Hill and so forth?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know what revelations you are talking about, but there are no plans to replace Mr. Colby.

Q That wasn't my question. My question was, are there any plans to change topside personnel or to revise the division?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I know of.

Q Are you saying --

MR. NESSEN: Wait a minute. You are meshing a whole bunch of questions together there. There are no plans to replace Mr. Colby, and I don't know of any anticipated personnel changes.

As for what you referred to as overseeing the intelligence community, I think you know what the recommendations of the Rockefeller and Murphy Commissions were, and the President is studying those now and will make his recommendations.

Q Why did your Deputy Press Secretary frown when you said you knew of no other personnel changes in the CIA? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: I don't know.

Q Does the President think that Mr. Colby has done a good job?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q What was the yes in answer to?

MR. NESSEN: Does the President think that Colby has done a good job.

Q Does the President think the CIA has done a good job?

MR. NESSEN: Oh, come on, Sarah.

Q I am just asking the question.

Q Ron, that is a very legitimate question, a very pressing question. Could we get an answer?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think a broad --

Q You don't think what, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think a broad question like that can be answered in one word, Sarah.

Q You said a minute ago that the President plans no change in any intelligence or any revising or any redoing or anything like that.

MR. NESSEN: I don't think I said that.

Q Yes, you did.

MR. NESSEN: I don't think so.

Q Yes, you did.

MR. NESSEN: I don't think so.

Q Ron, that is exactly what you have said.

MR. NESSEN: There are no plans to replace Mr. Colby. I don't know of any other personnel changes that are planned. The President will recommend revisions, both through administrative action and through legislation in the intelligence community, which he has said publicly many times before.

Q Ron, now on that Kissinger question --

MR. NESSEN: I thought I answered it for you, Les.

Q Ron, it means you don't know --

MR. NESSEN: I don't have an answer for you, Les.

Q Does it mean that you don't know of any --

MR. NESSEN: I don't have an answer for you.

Q If you don't know --

MR. NESSEN: I don't have an answer for you.

Q I hesitate on the budget, but just see if I can get this clear.

MR. NESSEN: Why? I love to talk about the budget.

Q Does the President want Congress to adopt the ceiling of \$395 billion before it sees this budget?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END (AT 12:19 P.M. EDT)