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NEWS CONFERENCE

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 10:53 A.M. EDT

OCTOBER 9, 1975

THURSDAY

MR. NESSEN: The President has decided that he would like to have a news conference tonight at 8 o'clock in Room 450 of the EOB. It is available for full coverage, if you care to.

Q Does that affect tomorrow's plans for the one in Detroit, too?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q What made him suddenly decide?

MR. NESSEN: He has been considering this, really, since last week.

Q Is he apt to have it tomorrow?

MR. NESSEN: That is a regional news conference in Detroit.

Q Does he have some special announcement he wants to make?

MR. NESSEN: No, just take your questions.

Q Have you got TV coverage?

MR. NESSEN: Oh, no. We never do that. You know it is up to the networks. If they care to, it is fine.

Q Will he have any statement to open it?

MR. NESSEN: At the moment, no.

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Q Do you have any comment at this point on the House vote approving the technicians to the Sinai?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q What is he doing tonight?

MR. NESSEN: After the news conference? Nothing, as far as I know of. He is going home to see the wife and kids, watch a little TV.

Q When will we get the bible on tomorrow's trip?

MR. NESSEN: I understand very shortly. It is a rather simple bible.

Q Ron, are you saying that this news conference tonight was under consideration before his tax plan spending ceiling?

MR. NESSEN: He has realized that it has been a long time since he has had a news conference, and we have been sort of putting it off day by day. He has almost had one a couple of times.

Q The thing that is puzzling is he had this thing tomorrow scheduled, as well, so he is having two news conferences in two days.

MR. NESSEN: I can show you my own notes on this, Russ. It has been something that we have been putting off from day to day. I mentioned to him this morning that he is having two news conferences in two days, and that the one tomorrow is regional and half local reporters. He pointed out himself that it had been a long time since he had any news conference for White House reporters.

Q Ron, do you have the date of the last one.

MR. NESSEN: Either three weeks or a month ago he had the one in the Oval Office, and the last one over in the EOB was, I think, a couple of months ago. Somebody said July.

Q Why has it been so long?

MR. NESSEN: He has been doing a lot of traveling and has just not had the time.

Q Ron, do you have any comment on the story in the Star this morning that the Russians have agreed to count all their missiles as having MIRV warfare capability.

MR. NESSEN: I have not checked recently on the SALT negotiations.

Q Will you check?

MR. NESSEN: I will check, yes.

Q It would be wrong, then, to say that tonight's news conference is for the purpose of answering directly Al Ullman or other critics of this plan?

MR. NESSEN: It is for the purpose of answering your questions.

Q And it has been on the planning for how long?

MR. NESSEN: The idea of having a news conference in this time period has been kicked around since at least last week.

Q Ron, has there been any word or will the President have it tonight on the Moscow negotiations on grain and oil?

MR. NESSEN: Well, they are going on and making progress and they do not have a signed agreement yet.

Q On grain?

MR. NESSEN: On grain, right.

Q Ron, does the President think that his tax plan was misunderstood? Is that one of the reasons he wants to have a news conference?

MR. NESSEN: Certainly not. I think he thinks it is clearly understood by the people who will get the tax benefits.

Q There will be another one tomorrow?

MR. NESSEN: Another what?

Q Press conference.

MR. NESSEN: In Detroit.

Q Yes, I know.

MR. NESSEN: Regional news conference.

Let me tidy up one loose end from yesterday because I want to be sure that I didn't mislead you in any way. Somebody asked me a question about the story that Bill Colby was going to be replaced and that George Shultz had been offered the job.

Q I said he was being considered.

MR. NESSEN: No, I was not referring to your story, I was referring to my briefing.

I said there were no plans to replace Colby, which is true.

Somebody said, well, has Shultz been approached for any other job in the intelligence set-up? Well, what I want to straighten out is I failed to point out to you that Shultz, for about two years, has been a member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Board, as some of you may know, so I didn't want you to think I was saying that Shultz has no role -- he has a role now in the intelligence set-up which is what I wanted to point out.

Q Is any thought being given to making him the Chairman of the Board?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Ron, do you have a departure time for the Detroit trip?

MR. NESSEN: One o'clock press check-in and 1:30 departure.

Q Are we going to have a briefing tomorrow?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

(AT 11:00 A.M. EDT)

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 3:38 P.M. EDT

OCTOBER 9, 1975

THURSDAY

MR. NESSEN: The President will meet with King Olav of Norway tomorrow morning. The King is in the United States at the invitation of the Norwegian-American Association and other civic groups for celebrations of the 150th Anniversary of organized Norwegian immigration to the United States, and the President wanted to take this occasion to invite the King to the White House to mark this anniversary, and to talk to the King about issues between the two countries.

Q Is he going to talk to him about getting some of that oil?

Q What time is that?

MR. NESSEN: 11:30 will be the meeting between the King and the President.

Q When is that -- tomorrow?

MR. NESSEN: Tomorrow.

Q Have arrival ceremonies --

MR. NESSEN: It is not a State Visit.

Q Ron, what are the issues between the U.S. and Norway?

MR. NESSEN: Just a moment and I will check.

In answer to Trudy's question, this is not a State Visit, it is a private visit and the President invited him to stop for that reason.

Q Will they have lunch?

MR. NESSEN: No, just a meeting.

Let me get some things about the issues that they are likely to discuss. You know, of course, that he is a Constitutional Monarch and does not have a responsibility for governing Norway -- that is, with the elected officials of Norway.

There were some questions about the story in the Star about the SALT talks and I just, frankly, don't have anything to report other than that the discussions are continuing. Basically the same thing is true of the grain negotiations, that negotiations are continuing and progress is being made.

Q Do you think either of those would be fruitful subjects to ask the President about tonight?

MR. NESSEN: Well, I didn't offer that for that reason, Walt.

Q Is there any word on when Robinson is coming back?

MR. NESSEN: No, I don't have any word on when Robinson is coming back.

Q Is Mr. Bell going to report to the President today?

MR. NESSEN: Some of the technical people have come back from the talks but Robinson remains there as well as other members of the delegation.

Q Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Bell has flown back.

MR. NESSEN: Yes, I know. I don't know of any plan for him to see the President.

Now, you know about Sadat's visit which we announced this morning.

The deadline for putting a little mark next to your name on the sign-up sheet to ask a question at tomorrow's news conference, the one in Detroit, is 5 o'clock and we will follow the procedure of drawing the names out of the hat.

Q A typed list has been put up.

MR. NESSEN: Then later today we will have the bible for the trip to Detroit. It may be that we will put out excerpts of the speech that he will deliver tomorrow night to the fund raising dinner, and if we do put them out, they will be for release on delivery which is about 9 o'clock Eastern Time tomorrow night.

Q What time is the news conference going to be?

MR. NESSEN: 4:00 or 4:15, I forget which.

Q Is that Central?

MR. NESSEN: No, they are all on the same time.

Q Reporters are being charged to attend that?

MR. NESSEN: I heard that same thing, Frank, and I checked and the story is that any accredited reporter gets in -- you know, it is a news conference.

Now, the Detroit Press Club is kind of combining this with a reception and some of their members who are not reporters and want to bring guests or whatever, not accredited reporters, I understand, are paying the Club \$5.00 to attend the reception, but I am going to announce actually at the beginning of the news conference that the White House had nothing to do with that arrangement and we certainly don't charge to get into Presidential news conferences, although it might be a way to hold down the budget. (Laughter)

Also, one other thing was that when I was looking over the transcript of yesterday's briefing, it struck me that maybe I had been not exactly precise in what I said about Ambassador Moynihan's remarks about President Amin. As you know, or maybe you don't know, the President feels that President Amin's attack on the United States, his harsh words about the United States and his remarks about Israel, were out of place and uncalled for and that is why I said that the President felt that what Ambassador Moynihan said and what Clarence Mitchell said needed to be said.

I think, perhaps, what I might have left unclear, at least when I read the transcript it seemed like I might have left unclear because there were some questions about it which I didn't answer, I don't think, very fully, was that the United States does believe that all of President Amin's remarks do not reflect the views of the Organization of African Unity. I don't want to have left any misimpression about the American attitude toward the Organization of African Unity which the United States has high regard for.

In fact, Ambassador Moynihan himself, I think, was careful not to leave that misconception because he said that he hoped the OAU would disavow what Amin had said about Israel and the United States and he also praised the OAU for, as he expressed it, breaking the back of the gathering movement for suspension of Israel from the United Nations.

The United States does consider the OAU to be a very important regional organization and one with which the United States will continue to develop and strengthen good relations. So I wanted to ~~make~~ make sure that what I had said about the President's view toward Moynihan's and Mitchell's remarks on Amin were not misinterpreted to think there was any sort of condemnation of the OAU.

Q What is the explanation for Ambassador Moynihan's saying it is not accidental that Amin is the head of the OAU?

MR. NESSEN: Well, I think you have to read the full text, Dick, and, as I said, he specifically said that he hoped the OAU would disavow those attacks by Amin and he praised the OAU for really playing a very key role in halting the drive to suspend Israel from the UN.

Q Does the President regard Amin as a "racist murderer?"

MR. NESSEN: As I said, the President feels that his remarks were uncalled for and out of place and he agrees with what Pat Moynihan and Clarence Mitchell said about Amin.

Q Ron, if you count that thing in Knoxville, the President will have held three news conferences this week. That is a little unprecedented. Is there any particular reason for three news conferences?

MR. NESSEN: No, I would not count them all as news conferences. The interview in Knoxville was in response to an invitation and it is fairly common for him to do at least one local interview in a place.

Q What about two news conferences two days in a row?

MR. NESSEN: As I said this morning, the one tomorrow is another sort of regional or local -- really in response to a letter from the Detroit Press Club which originally wanted to have him come and speak and answer questions at lunch and that could not be fit in and we said how about a news conference in the late afternoon and they said okay.

The one tonight is something that has been considered at least for a week or so and the day has never been quite fixed, although we had it kind of tentatively scheduled a couple of times. It is really more or less in reply to quite a few questions I have gotten out here about when is he going to have another news conference for the White House Press. There is no special significance to having it tonight.

Q Are you disappointed that ABC is not carrying it?

MR. NESSEN: No, I don't think so.

Q Why aren't you disappointed? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: I mean, you don't really lose that many viewers. (Laughter)

Q That is a terrible thing to say.

MR. NESSEN: That is a joke.

Q Are you disappointed that NBC is? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: No, because actually, you see, by doing it this way I can still get home in time to see Pat Garrity in the movie.

Q Ron, can you say anything about travel immediately after Louisville?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Does that weekend look like he might not be going out of town?

MR. NESSEN: I just don't have anything on that weekend.

Q Is the President really unhappy with the cuts that have been made in the Defense budget so far? Does he think any particular program has been cut, crippled or anything that he is particularly concerned about--new weapon systems?

MR. NESSEN: Actually, the Defense budget is only -- let's see now. The full House has approved the Defense budget with \$9 billion lower than what the President requested. Now you have to subtract from the \$9 billion a certain amount, I forget what the dollar figure is, that was put in there before the end of the Vietnam and Cambodian wars, so that part you obviously are going to subtract. All the rest of the cuts he does not agree with, he thought the budget was at the bare bones level when it went up there. I mean, as he said today, what he has proposed and will propose on January 2 is a minimum Defense budget without fat.

Q Ron, is this President Sadat's first visit to the United States?

MR. NESSEN: That is a good question. I don't recall a trip by Sadat.

Q It is.

MR. NESSEN: Dick says it is and I have no reason to doubt it.

Q I think it is as President. I think he has been here before but not as President.

Q A formal invitation or --

MR. NESSEN: We are checking.

He visited the country in 1966 before he was President. This is not only his first visit but the first visit by any Egyptian President while in office.

Q What was he doing here in 1966?

MR. NESSEN: I have to find out what his position was at that time.

Do you know what Sadat was in 1966? Did he have a position in Government at that time?

We will check.

Q You remember the speech the President gave to the American Legion in Minneapolis and he talked about raising the budget if SALT II does not come through.

MR. NESSEN: Right.

Q There was some confusion whether he was talking about \$3 billion for each of three years. How was that ever resolved?

MR. NESSEN: It was resolved that he was talking about \$2 to \$3 billion over two fiscal years and then additional requirements in the future but with the dollar amount not yet determined.

Q Ron, is the White House desirous of having Sadat address Congress?

MR. NESSEN: I have not seen the full schedule for his visit yet, Frank.

Q Are you pushing for that?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think -- let me check and see what it is on his itinerary.

Q How many days will he be in Washington?

MR. NESSEN: We don't have the full itinerary yet. There is an advance party coming here tomorrow, as a matter of fact, to make the arrangements.

Q Will he be visiting some other city besides Washington?

MR. NESSEN: He will be getting out of Washington, yes.

Q More than one day in Washington?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Will he be staying at Blair House?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have that yet, Trudy.

Q Ron, talking specifically about the Star story, you say that negotiations are continuing. Can you report any progress just in general terms?

MR. NESSEN: Has there been progress? There has been progress.

I don't think it is probably wise to track that closely on the negotiations with the SALT Agreement. There has been progress and it is down to just a few issues.

Q You are still not going to have a briefing today?

MR. NESSEN: Not another one today.

Okay, see you tonight.

Q Still no opening statement?

MR. NESSEN: No, there will be no opening statement.

At the time that President Sadat was here in 1966, he was the President of the National Assembly. The Egyptian Parliament has only one Chamber and he was the President of that National Assembly.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

(AT 3:52 P.M. EDT)