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N E W S C O N F E R E N C E

#370

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 12:05 P.M. EST

NOVEMBER 12, 1975

WEDNESDAY

MR. NESSEN: In addition to the items on the President's public schedule, and some that were added at 10 o'clock, the President will be meeting at 4:30 this afternoon for an hour with Bill Seidman, Bill Simon, Alan Greenspan, Brent Scowcroft, Frederick Dent, Arthur Burns and Dr. Kissinger, if he is back from a trip he is making today to Pittsburgh, to continue his planning and preparation for this week's weekend meeting in Paris with the other heads of Government and heads of State.

There are a number of agenda items which the President will discuss and continue his preparation for that meeting.

Immediately after that, which would be 5:30, we will have one or more of the participants here to talk to you and answer your questions and give you some thoughts about the President's participation in that meeting.

I think you know that the President is going to the Library of Congress to witness the swearing-in of Daniel Boorstin as the 12th Librarian. We will have a travel pool going with the President. He will make brief remarks but not available in advance.

Tomorrow, the President is going to send the Congress his proposal to reform the regulations concerning motor carriers. As you know, he has previously sent up proposals for reforming the regulations that cover the airlines industry and the railroad industry.

The President will be meeting Secretary Coleman tomorrow morning at 9:30 for a final look at these, and immediately following that we will have a fact sheet and a copy of the legislation and a briefing by Secretary Coleman.

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Some of you saw on the schedule for this morning a meeting on this subject here at the White House. That meeting was cancelled because the President will be meeting with the Secretary tomorrow and also because the President has already made his decisions and will be transmitting those tomorrow. I would say the briefing would be at 10:00.

Some of you have requested a chance to take some pictures of Dick Cheney working with the President. So, at 6 o'clock tonight, when Dick has his afternoon meeting with the President, those of you who would like to take pictures or film can do so.

Back on the subject of the Paris trip. We will have the briefing this afternoon. This is Wednesday. I wanted to call to your attention Dr. Kissinger's speech of yesterday in Pittsburgh, which is a very good explanation and background on the trip to Paris. I have called over and gotten I don't know how many copies from the State Department of these, and would be happy to distribute them to those of you who are going to Paris and who would like a little more background on the trip.

Q Is there anything about the bond market in there?

MR. NESSEN: No, but I have some things on the bond market.

Q Is the President reassessing his view on New York?

MR. NESSEN: The President's position on New York City, as previously stated, is unchanged. He is encouraged by the work the City officials and the State officials are doing to solve their own problem, which he has said over and over again before that they could do. His position as stated, I guess most recently on Meet the Press --

MR. HUSHEN: And when he met with the Democratic Senators.

MR. NESSEN: The most recent statement of the President's position was with the Democratic Senators and it remains unchanged.

Q Did the President have any comments about Vice-President Rockefeller's press conference yesterday?

MR. NESSEN: His comment was his position remained unchanged.

Q He didn't say anything about the Vice President's statement?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q What about Mr. Rosen's statement yesterday?

MR. NESSEN: His reaction to all those statements yesterday was that his position remains unchanged and he is encouraged that the city and State officials are working.

Q Did he talk at all with Arthur Burns about why Burns says that his concern is deepening now?

MR. NESSEN: No, he has not talked to Dr. Burns since then.

Q Is it going to remain unchanged, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: Jim, his position is unchanged. We have been down this path before, and it is always unchanged despite what other people say around the fringes.

Q Is there a possibility he might reappraise his position without saying whether he had changed it or not?

MR. NESSEN: I have no indication of anything.

Q Yesterday, Mr. Seidman said, after seeing this latest New York proposal, that the White House was studying it. Is the President in fact studying this latest proposal?

MR. NESSEN: I think studying is not quite the correct word. As you know, the President has assigned a number of people in various areas to monitor the situation in New York City continuously. It is being monitored, and this current work that the city and State officials are doing is being followed. So I don't know if that adds up to being studied, but it is being followed, watched.

Q Might this come up this afternoon at the meeting on Paris with all the advisers?

MR. NESSEN: No, it won't.

Q Ron, is the President unhappy in any way with either the comments of Vice President Rockefeller or Congressman Rhodes?

MR. NESSEN: I am afraid if I say no that there will be a lot of stories saying Ford finds no fault with that. His position is unchanged, period.

Q Can't you figure out a way to answer my question without anticipating a headline? I am just trying to find out whether he was unhappy.

MR. NESSEN: His position is unchanged.

Q When you said his position is unchanged, regardless of what happens on the fringe of things, are you saying that Rockefeller, Rhodes and Burns --

MR. NESSEN: Are on the fringe of things?

Q Yes. (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: Why do we do this all the time?

Q I am curious. Does he not take their advice?

MR. NESSEN: It was my choice of words. I meant by people who are not directly involved in the decision-making process of the President.

Q Didn't the Vice President say at his press conference that the President's position may be unchanged at the present but is likely to change if and when the New York City situation changed?

MR. NESSEN: The President's position is unchanged.

Q Has it changed on Cairo? Does he really feel Cairo is really deserving of three-quarters of a billion dollars and not New York?

Q Are you saying the President will not change his position; that is to say he will not at any point approve aid to New York City prior to a default?

MR. NESSEN: Look, you know what his position is, Jim. It is the same today, yesterday and on Monday with the Senators and on Sunday on Meet the Press and in the Press Club, and so forth. We have been up this hill so many times before. I think always in the end you see that by saying firmly that the President's position has not changed I have always been right.

Bill Roberts would like to take with him those who want to take a photo of Prime Minister Thorn as he leaves.

Q Ron, you said several times in the past the President would do nothing to avert a default by New York City. Do you stand by that?

MR. NESSEN: I stand by the President's position as stated frequently and strongly by him.

Q Does that include --

MR. NESSEN: Read what he said after the Senators, on Meet the Press and at the Press Club. You have the Press Club statement, don't you?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: Read it.

Q Has he studied or looked at the latest New York proposals that were presented to Mr. Simon and Mr. Seidman yesterday?

MR. NESSEN: Has he personally looked at them?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Can you give us his reaction to them?

MR. NESSEN: His position is unchanged, is his reaction.

Q You are saying he stands by everything he said in his New York City speech to the Press Club?

MR. NESSEN: Right.

Q A question that I don't recall your being asked previously relates to the financial condition of New York State and other Middle Atlantic and East Coast States in the event of a default by New York City. Are the President and his advisers concerned about a possible default by New York State in the event of a New York City default and possibly further down the line defaults or serious consequences to other nearby States? Are they concerned about that? Is this part of the monitoring that is going on? What can you tell us about this aspect?

MR. NESSEN: I have not heard any of his staff dealing in the economic area express any concern about New York State or others having serious problems that would lead to a default.

Q Have they concluded that there would not be serious consequences?

MR. NESSEN: I have not heard them say there would be.

Q Is it part of the monitoring process? In other words, are they receiving information as to the financial condition of those States in the event of a New York City default?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I am aware of.

I do want to say, to somewhat elaborate on Bob's question about is he aware of this latest plan that they are putting together. Yes, and that is why I said before that he is encouraged that the city and State officials are working like this because, after all, that is what he has said all along -- if New York City and New York State will once and for all give up the idea that at the last minute somehow the Federal Government is going to ride to its rescue, they will then settle down and do the hard things and the serious things that have to be done and can be done on their own to avoid default.

Q Ron, a senior White House official said yesterday; "So the Federal Government has not and will not turn its back on the people in New York City." That was you in San Francisco?

MR. NESSEN: I didn't know that.

Q How do you square that with the fact the President's position has not changed -- he will let New York go down the tube -- yet in San Francisco you said the Federal Government will not turn its back on the people in New York City, and this morning you tell us the President has not changed his position and we can infer from that that he is not going to do anything to divert a default? The two statements seem at odds.

MR. NESSEN: Not to me they don't.

Q Ron, when you say the President is encouraged by what the city and State officials are doing, does the President now believe that they will be able, New York City will be able to avert default?

MR. NESSEN: He has always believed that and I have said it every day out here that I have been asked that question.

Q You mentioned monitoring. Is there any specific individual, or group --

MR. NESSEN: Different people monitor different parts of it. Bill Seidman is involved. Also Bill Simon and Alan Greenspan -- each, in his own specialty, monitors that particular part of the situation.

Q Who coordinates that?

MR. NESSEN: Bill Seidman.

Q Ron, you sometimes consult with Rockefeller on statements he has made publicly. Have you checked with him today to see where he got the impression the President might change his position?

MR. NESSEN: I have not talked to him today.

Q Where do you think he might have gotten the idea?

MR. NESSEN: I have no idea.

Q You have said a number of times, including again today, that if New York City has the idea the Federal Government will come to the rescue that they will not really buckle down and solve their own problems.

MR. NESSEN: The President has said that.

Q Do you think people in high office, holding out the hope or expectation that the President will change his mind and the Federal Government will come to their aid is a counter-incentive, a disincentive to New York?

MR. NESSEN: It must have been about two weeks ago that we said something like that -- that it holds out false expectations and so forth, Ted.

Q Does that apply to the Vice President's statement?

MR. NESSEN: We don't need to determine how many angels can dance on the head of a pin. The President's position has not changed and all the --

Q Are you saying the Vice President is the head of a pin? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: Am I making myself perfectly clear? (Laughter)

Q Several weeks ago you said the President was irritated when he read a story in the New York Times quoting some high Administration officials as saying he would change his position. Now Rockefeller is saying the same thing. Is he irritated at Rockefeller?

MR. NESSEN: I thought that was what was asked before.

By saying that he didn't express irritation, I hope it would be incorrect to write a story saying the President did not mind or didn't object. All I am saying is I did not hear him comment on any of the specific stories.

Q There is a difference between Rockefeller and the others. Rhodes said he would support a guaranteed bill. Rockefeller said the President would change his mind.

Q Ron, don't you think since the President has made up his mind so firmly on New York that it creates a wrong impression to have so many people monitoring the situation?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know exactly what you mean by that, Howard.

Q Monitoring the situation, obviously he is looking for something to happen that might cause him to change his mind.

MR. NESSEN: I think it is a responsible thing to do, to make sure you know all that is happening in New York City -- its financial affairs.

Q Does the President plan to meet with Ambassador Moynihan today?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I know of.

Q I believe Moynihan is coming here tonight for dinner?

MR. NESSEN: You mean the Thorn dinner?

Q Yes. Will there be a meeting?

MR. NESSEN: There is no meeting scheduled with Ambassador Moynihan.

Q Does the President have a view on the Senate resolution of yesterday regarding a reassessment of the U.S. --

MR. NESSEN: I think Bill talked to you about that yesterday. He was asked the same question yesterday, if I am not mistaken.

Q Before this happened.

MR. NESSEN: I thought he was asked about it after that. He doesn't obviously have any objection to it and he believes it is appropriate for Congress to pass such a resolution if it feels that way.

Q And to consider withdrawing from the UN?

MR. NESSEN: I don't believe that was part of the resolution. The resolution talked about a reassessment.

Q Our role in the UN?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Yesterday, Mr. Greener was asked whether the President had discussed this resolution with President Sadat during their four meetings.

MR. NESSEN: The Zionism resolution as passed by the UN?

Q Yes, the Zionism resolution which caused the Senate resolution. Bill indicated the President had not discussed this with President Sadat.

MR. NESSEN: Right.

Q Is the White House going to stand by that?

MR. NESSEN: That is my understanding.

Q You mean it never came up?

MR. NESSEN: That is my understanding.

Q I want to see if we can be completely clear on the President's reaction to the Senate resolution. I am under the impression, although my memory may be faulty, that the President said in some form after his meeting with the Israeli parliamentarians that although he deplored the Zionism resolution in the UN he did not favor any kind of American withdrawal or support for the UN.

Now you are saying the President supports or finds no objection to the Senate resolution which certainly the resolution carries the implication of a withdrawal or cessation of support?

MR. NESSEN: I don't agree with you there. The resolution calls for Congressional assessments or reassessments of the American future role in the United Nations.

Q It is hard to reassess something you support without lessening that support or withdrawing it. What I am trying to get at, in supporting that reassessment --

MR. NESSEN:--finding no objection to the reassessment.

Q Finding no objection. What does the President mean or have in mind when he says he has no objection to a reassessment?

MR. NESSEN: He has no objection to Congress passing the resolution and thinks it is appropriate if that is the way they feel. His own feelings are that he obviously has strongly and repeatedly condemned the resolution as passed by the UN, for two reasons: One, because it is factually not true -- Zionism is not racism.

The second reason he condemns it so strongly is that it endangers the future functions of the United Nations in doing what it is supposed to do, which is to be a forum for the peaceful settlement of disputes, and it has served that purpose over the years.

As the President has said, Ambassador Moynihan, Secretary Kissinger, if we are now beginning an era of where certain blocs of nations use the United Nations to vent their ideological or political pressures, the United Nations is in danger of losing its primary purpose.

The President's view of why he believes the United States should stay in the United Nations, even though it opposes this resolution strongly, is that he believes that in order for the United Nations to continue to function as a forum to peacefully settle disputes, the United States needs to be in there.

As he puts it, it is better to fight for your views from the inside than from the outside. He cites an example of that. The move at one point to expel Israel from membership was put aside partly because, or maybe primarily because, the United States was in the United Nations and could fight against that move from within.

Q I am just trying to find out something. My question really goes to the President's mental attitude at this point. He says we should stay in the U.N., but he finds no fault or objection to a Senate resolution saying we should reassess our role in the U.N.

What form then would he want the reassessment to take?

MR. NESSEN: It is a Senate resolution. I took the resolution to mean that the Congress would reassess its view of the American role in the United Nations, but I think it is also fair to say the President will be reviewing the implications of the vote and considering possible courses of action.

Q What are these possible courses of action?

MR. NESSEN: It hink it really remains for the several reviews, that by Congress and that by the Administration, the White House, to determine what, if any, changes could be made.

Q Has the President ordered or instructed the White House or someone in the Executive Branch to begin a formal review of the American role in the U.N.?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that you would say formal in the sense of a task force or something being set up for this specific purpose. The State Department, obviously, and Ambassador Moynihan, are obviously doing this very thing as part of their duties.

Q Ron, would that include -- the U.N. aside -- considering the American policy towards nations who voted for the resolution?

MR. NESSEN: The relations between the United States and any other country is obviously based on a complex mixture of factors, obviously mutual interest is one of the big factors and the relationship between the United States and any other country -- the relationships with each country are different from that with any other country.

Q My question is, all this is taken for granted. It is not a matter of policy. It is a matter of fact. Please answer the question.

MR. NESSEN: I am just dealing in facts.

Q Is the President considering the issue on the basis of bilateral relations between the United States and countries which voted for the resolution?

MR. NESSEN: As I said in an unsatisfactory answer for you, (Laughter) the relationships with each country are a complex mix.

Now, in the case of some countries, this could be a larger factor than in the case of other countries, but I don't have anything specific to tell you today about any particular effect on any relations with countries --

Q Does the President believe it would be wise for the United States to reduce the amount of foreign aid it may give in one form or another to those countries who voted for the resolution?

MR. NESSEN: In a general way, Tom, I think you know foreign aid is given not as a favor for any other country. It is given when and in the amount we determine to be in our national interest.

Now, if you are asking specifically about Egypt and the other Arab countries, the President does not intend to reduce the aid level to those countries, the reason being -- to go back to Dick's question -- our relationships have a complex mixture of factors.

In this case, we believe that the aid level that the President requested is essential, is one of the essential elements to attaining a final peace in the Middle East.

As the President I think used the words last night, "to make a snap judgment to reduce this aid," in fact to reduce this aid at all, would really play into the hands of countries that want to promote American action against Egypt and the Middle East countries.

After all, it is Egypt and several of the other Arab countries which have provided a moderating leadership, and their continuing confidence in the United States is an important element in moving toward peace in the Middle East and away from war, which would certainly be more costly than any foreign aid package.

Q Is this the reason Cyprus and certain Latin American countries voted against it? Mexico, Cyprus, the Latin American countries?

MR. NESSEN: As far as I can go today, Dick, is to say we are reviewing the implications of the vote and possible courses of action.

Q Ron, back to an earlier question. Can you tell us what some of those possible courses of action being considered are --

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q -- or what the President would like to see included in the so-called reassessment, either the Congressional reassessment or the White House reassessment?

MR. NESSEN: I can't really do it, Jim.

Q Since the President opposes withdrawal from the U.N. and you say he has no objection to this resolution, is it fair to say he doesn't expect this reassessment by Congress will lead to a demand for withdrawal?

MR. NESSEN: I haven't really talked to him about that specific issue.

Q Since the President is trying to find ways to cut the budget, I wonder if the U.N. contribution might not be a new --

MR. NESSEN: Howard, you know that is a simplistic question that says the United States could do one thing or the other but not both or several. The United States is a world power and a world leader with responsibilities overseas and at home, and it can do many things in many places, as it should as a Nation which is a leader in the world.

Bob?

Q This is a simplistic question. Was it discussed with Thorn?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I know of.

Q Also, do you have anything on the China trip?

MR. NESSEN: I do not.

Q What countries are you listing in those that we do not intend to reduce aid to?

MR. NESSEN: Certainly Egypt, and I will check on what other Arab countries the President feels are included in his intention to not reduce his requested level of aid.

Maybe Margy can get that while we are standing here.

Q To go to Bob's second question on the China trip, there seem to be rumors this trip will be announced later today or tomorrow. Can you speak to that?

MR. NESSEN: I have said all along the President expects to go to China, which he does. Today, I don't have an announcement to make.

Q When is the advance team leaving?

MR. NESSEN: The advance team I am told is leaving immediately after the return from Paris, which I believe the intention is to go on the 17th.

Q What is the tally to the reaction from firing Schlesinger, letters, telegrams and phone calls?

MR. NESSEN: I haven't gotten that.

Q Will you be getting that?

MR. NESSEN: Probably not.

Bob?

Q In view of the increasing opposition to George Bush heading the CIA because of his leadership of the Republican Party in the past, is the President --

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that it is increasing opposition. I have heard of one Senator, a Democratic Senator, who is a candidate for President --

Q Have you heard of Mansfield and Church?

MR. NESSEN: All right, that is two Democratic Senators who are candidates for President.

Q Mike Mansfield.

MR. NESSEN: I didn't know Mike was opposed to Bush.

Q Is the President considering withdrawing Mr. Bush's name?

MR. NESSEN: Absolutely not. H stands by the nomination for the reasons that he has stated; that is, he is a man of intelligence and integrity. He has a record both as Ambassador to the United Nations and representative in China.

There have been a number of demands lately that the Director of the CIA be someone who is not a career intelligence officer, so that would certainly be in George Bush's favor. He is an outsider.

The President feels that his having gone before the voters and be elected twice to Congress gives him a responsiveness and sensitivity to the wishes of the public in the running of the CIA.

He has a high standard of morals and ethics which should serve him well in a period when the CIA is being reformed and revised. For all those reasons, plus the working relationship and the personal relationship, and the trust and the confidence the President has in him, he is the President's choice for that job.

Q Ron, the requirement is that this be a non-partisan position and he is conveniently ignoring one of his credentials; that is, former head of the Republican Party. Do you see that as a detriment to his nomination?

MR. NESSEN: I don't see that as a detriment to his nomination, and if there was a rule somewhere that a man who at one time or another served as leader of his party -- after all, parties and the two-party system are an important part of our system -- if service as head of your party disqualified you for further public service, I suppose Fred Harris would need to drop out of the Presidential race --

Q Ron, this is a very sensitive question.

MR. NESSEN: -- Henry Jackson would drop out of the Presidential race and presumably retire from the Senate. I don't know where the idea comes from. At one point Cordell Hull presumably would never have been the brilliant State Department official that he was, since he was at one time leader of his party.

There is nothing I know of, and frankly don't understand, except in terms of people seeking the nomination of their party and looking for headlines, that would cause this issue to be raised.

Q Ron, Mansfield believes there should be a stipulation in advance that Mr. Bush will not be the Republican nominee for Vice President for the nomination to proceed through the Senate.

MR. NESSEN: I think we went around this a lot the other day, Tom, and I don't have anything to add to it. The President was asked about it on Meet the Press Sunday.

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Q There have been inquiries into the intelligence operations of some former CIA men who were involved in some political espionage. In light of that, is it not possible that this position is slightly different than a diplomatic post, than any of the posts filled by the people that you named? This is the head of an espionage organization and should it not be isolated from politics?

MR. NESSEN: How is it not isolated from politics?

Q If Mr. Bush is left open to the very real possibility that he might be a candidate for subsequent political office.

MR. NESSEN: The most sensitive job in the Government is President. It involves espionage and so forth.

Q Oh. (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: That is, foreign espionage.

Should a man who had been leader of his party be ruled out as President because it is a sensitive job and might bring politics to it? It is a nonsense question.

Q He is being asked to investigate an agency that has been politicized.

MR. NESSEN: I just simply don't understand the theory that George Bush automatically, unless he can prove himself innocent, is a man who lacks integrity and ethics. There is nothing in his career that would lead you to believe that.

Q There is a related question, Ron, which some of the Senators don't think is nonsense, which is that the CIA is being reorganized now and that somebody ought to at least pledge that they would be in the job for a year, even if they are going to run for subsequent office.

MR. NESSEN: I am sure the Senators will talk to George Bush about this at his confirmation hearing. There are no candidates for Vice President that I know of.

Q Where is your reform proposal on the CIA? I was trying to ask that earlier.

MR. NESSEN: It is not ready to go yet.

Q Do you have a time frame?

MR. NESSEN: I don't.

Q What is the President's reaction to the Blackburn action in the Senate?

MR. NESSEN: He will send up a new nomination.

Q Why?

MR. NESSEN: Because his old nomination has been defeated.

Q What is his reaction to the defeat?

MR. NESSEN: He will send up a new nomination.

Q What is his reaction to the defeat of former Congressman Blackburn?

MR. NESSEN: His reaction is to begin to find a new nominee for the job.

Q Is he disappointed, unhappy?

MR. NESSEN: His reaction is to begin to look for a new nominee.

Q He is a pragmatist?

MR. NESSEN: He has always been a pragmatist.

Q Did things come out in the hearings that he had not known before?

MR. NESSEN: Such as?

Q Such as the quote "people who don't" -- paraphrasing --

MR. NESSEN: He didn't know about that quote.

Q Did he know about the use of the House Banking Committee's stationery to raise money?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know whether he did or not or whether that is an allegation on something proven.

Q Was a standard check, FBI and so on, run on Mr. Blackburn?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, it certainly was and it was something that would not, since it was in a private conversation, I understand, that he allegedly said those things --

Q No, it wasn't. It was in a hearing.

MR. NESSEN: In any case, it was something that did not and would not normally turn up in an FBI check.

Q Let's try to pin that down.

MR. NESSEN: To pin it down, I think you are asking Ted's question, which was, was the President aware of it? The answer is no.

Q Therefore, it was not in the FBI report?

MR. NESSEN: That seems obvious.

Q Ron, how can you describe Church as a candidate and deny that Reagan is a candidate? Did you get any authorization from Church? I may have missed this, Ron, or is this just no comment?

Q Back to Howard's question about the United Nations. There is some precedence. Last year, for instance, the appropriations for UNESCO were reduced, I think, about \$19 million. Would the President support a similar move as a result of the Zionism resolution?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. You say would he support a move? The President has asked for the amount of money which he feels is the appropriate amount to ask for as the United States' contribution to the UN.

Q But that was before the resolution.

Q Would he think it would be inappropriate to reduce that in any fashion as a result of the Zionism bill?

MR. NESSEN: I have not asked him that specific question.

Q Mr. Colby has said at times he and Secretary Kissinger had some differences of opinion over information turned over to the Congress on the CIA. Was this part of the tension that the President had in mind when he talked about the changes?

MR. NESSEN: No. As I heard the President's remarks on Meet the Press and as I have talked to him since, what he was saying was that there were tensions brought about by clashes of personality and not of policy. As he said in the news conference, he wanted a team that he was comfortable with.

Q Did he have any problem with the way Colby handled or dealt with committees, handled the investigation?

MR. NESSEN: I have not heard him say that.

Q Back to the sensitivity of a former National Chairman as head of the CIA. It has been traditional that the FBI Director not have a political background. I believe the Congress recently passed a law in effect barring former National Chairmen from serving as Attorney General. Does the President --

MR. NESSEN: I would have to try to remember what that law said.

Q Does the President think --

MR. NESSEN: Ted, look, we have a difference of opinion. Clearly you think George Bush should not have the job and the President does. I don't know that I can resolve that for you.

Q Deakin didn't say that, and you don't know what I think.

MR. NESSEN: Let me hear the question.

Q The question is, does the President feel that it would be all right to name a partisan, former party chairman, as FBI Director, or Attorney General?

MR. NESSEN: The question has never come up as far as I know. He has nominated George Bush because he feels he is the best man for the job, for the reasons that I mentioned a moment ago.

Q Ron, what is the President's reaction to the New York State Republican Committee Chairman saying that they are backing off endorsement of President Ford going to the convention for the delegates?

MR. NESSEN: I will have to read carefully what they did. I am not clear on what they did.

Q Ron, it looks as though Secretary Morton could be cited for contempt of Congress unless he turns over these documents.

MR. NESSEN: Yes?

Q You are familiar with it. Does the President have a reaction to this situation? Will he stand by Secretary Morton?

MR. NESSEN: I think the White House feels that it would be most unfortunate to hold Secretary Morton in contempt because he is simply -- the White House believes -- fulfilling his legal obligation under the statute, which is Section 7 (c) of the Export Administration Act as passed by Congress. So the White House supports the decision of Secretary Morton and there is a legal opinion from the Attorney General which likewise supports it.

Q Ron, what did the President and the Prime Minister of Luxembourg talk about today?

MR. NESSEN: We will have a posted report on the meeting.

Q Did he see him as Prime Minister of Luxembourg, or as President of the United Nations General Assembly?

MR. NESSEN: I am sure the written report will spell out the subjects of their discussion.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END (AT 12:45 P.M. EST)