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

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH BILL GREENER

AT 11:32 A.M. EST

DECEMBER 16, 1975

TUESDAY

MR. GREENER: The President today is releasing the report of the Panel on Federal Compensation. As you may recall, the President established the panel on June 12, 1975, to review Federal compensation and make policy recommendations. The Vice President chaired the panel. The report itself and a fact sheet outlining the major recommendations will be here for distribution at the conclusion of the briefing.

Any questions that you have on it, John Carlson could probably answer most of them, and also Bob Fredlund, who is the Executive Director of the panel, is available and his phone number is 254-3316.

Q What happens to this report? Is it going to be acted on or is it just a recommendation?

MR. GREENER: At this point the President will --

MR. CARLSON: It will be reviewed by the President and his advisers and there will be some legislative recommendations going up early some time next year.

MR. GREENER: I assume that most of you are ready to ask me questions about the story of someone climbing the fence on Thanksgiving evening and on December 6.

In answer to a few of your questions, just to anticipate them, I did discuss it with the President this morning. He was aware of the one on Thanksgiving evening. Secondly, Dick Cheney has called for an immediate report.

Q By whom?

MR. GREENER: By the Secret Service.

Q You mean that they had not had a report before now?

MR. GREENER: None except through Secret Service channels, Tom.

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Q Well, who does he want the report from if not from the Secret Service?

MR. GREENER: I mean none had come from Dick and he asked for an immediate report on it.

Q Do some reports come from the EPS? Do they have control over this or is it Secret Service? Who has the overall responsibility for fence scalers?

MR. GREENER: It is all under the Secret Service.

Q Bill, can you confirm the details of the report that the guy spent two hours on the grounds and hid in the shrubbery and was searched for by three police and that kind of thing?

MR. GREENER: I can just go along with the information that the Secret Service put out last night and that was that he was on the grounds for approximately an hour and a half before being taken into custody.

Q Which date was that?

MR. GREENER: November 26.

Q Bill, when did they put that out last night because they would not confirm that last night at all, in fact they were very uncooperative?

MR. GREENER: Well, I am stating it if they have not.

Q Bill, I don't understand an original point when you said the President called for a report from the Secret Service and the question was has there not yet been a report by the Secret Service. I don't think you answered.

MR. GREENER: Not to anyone at the White House, no.

Q Did he call for a report, Bill, only after it became public knowledge?

MR. GREENER: He called for a report as soon as it became knowledgeable to him, which was last night.

Q You said the President was aware of it. Wasn't the President aware of it until last night?

MR. GREENER: No, the President was aware of it on Thanksgiving evening.

Q But Cheney was not?

MR. GREENER: That's correct.

Q The President found out through Susan?

MR. GREENER: Yes, he did.

Q I am sorry I didn't hear. Who did he find out through?

MR. GREENER: Susan when she came upstairs.

Q Let's keep these two people straight. The President found out from Susan but Cheney found out how?

MR. GREENER: Last night from me when it became public knowledge.

Q How did it become public knowledge?

MR. GREENER: I have no way of knowing that, Sarah, it just appeared on the wires and I read it.

Q Bill, tell us what you know about the chronology of events including Susan.

MR. GREENER: I have nothing beyond what I have given you, Dick. That is why I volunteered it, so we would not just be dragging it all out.

Q What about the second incident involving the same man?

MR. GREENER: What about it?

Q Do you have anything to say about that?

MR. GREENER: Nothing beyond that, as I said, the White House has called for an immediate report.

Q Was the President aware of the December 6th incident prior to last night?

MR. GREENER: Not to my knowledge, no.

Q The alarm system in the fence is not working? It is not functioning?

MR. GREENER: That is all part of the report and you are jumping to two conclusions, one, that there is an alarm system and, two, that it is not working.

Q Is there an alarm system, and if there is, is it working?

MR. GREENER: The answer to that is I am not going to discuss security matters and the second thing is --

Q You won't discuss security matters that don't work. (Laughter)

Q Bill, that alarm system was made public knowledge when it was first installed after another fence hopper. Can you answer the question of why these incidents are held secret for so long and why there is not some way in which they can be made public when they occur when there is anyone taken into custody or anyone breaches the security of the White House?

MR. GREENER: I cannot, but I will check on it.

Q Can you say -- will this report deal with many incidents? Have there been many incidents? We understand from the WMAL report and so on that there have been other intrusions.

MR. GREENER: Well, Dick did ask for a full report.

Q Meaning?

MR. GREENER: That is all I can say.

Q Meaning all such incidents?

MR. GREENER: He asked specifically of those two.

Q Did he ask for all of them if there are any others?

MR. GREENER: Yes.

Q Can you tell us whether the alarm system is working or not?

MR. GREENER: No.

Q You know but you cannot say?

MR. GREENER: I am not going to discuss whether it is working or not.

Q Are we talking about the Triple A alarm or some other alarm? (Laughter)

MR. GREENER: Yes, Sarah.

Q What did Susan tell her father about her experience?

MR. GREENER: I don't know the exact conversation, Sarah. She just simply commented on the fact that the man had been arrested downstairs.

Q Was that the time when he got close to her?

MR. GREENER: That is correct, November 26.

Q Did she say anything about how she knew about it? Did she see them arrest him or what happened?

MR. GREENER: I don't know. She just commented on it to him.

Q You say the first one was November 26?

MR. GREENER: That's correct.

Q How long was he in the grounds that time?

MR. GREENER: I have been told approximately one and a half hours.

Q I thought you said it was one and a half hours on December 6. What is the time on December 6?

MR. GREENER: I don't have that.

Q Bill, would it be possible to ask the Secret Service how many times this kind of incident has occurred and also to ask them why it is that they are so uncooperative on incidents like this. They absolutely refused to do anything but confirm what was on the police blotter last night. It is obvious to me it was because they were embarrassed about it but it seems to me when it is on the police blotter the public has a right to know and the Secret Service is only going to be responsive to the White House in matters like this. I would like to know how many of these incidents have happened and more details than they are willing to give out.

MR. GREENER: The answer to your question is yes.

Q You will take it up, then.

Q Bill, where did he get over?

MR. GREENER: I don't have the details on it.

Q Was Susan frightened by this?

MR. GREENER: Not to my knowledge.

Q Bill, what I am trying to trace here is the Secret Service were not talking last night to reporters, and didn't the Secret Service have to talk to some reporters or it would not have gotten out?

MR. GREENER: Sarah, I have no way of knowing and I doubt if the reporter would give me his source so I don't know the source of the story.

Q How does the President feel about his security now? Does he feel there is adequate protection?

MR. GREENER: Yes, he does but the President did ask for a report.

Q Does he feel his protection is adequate?

MR. GREENER: I answered yes.

Q The answer to that question is yes?

MR. GREENER: I said yes.

Q You said he did ask for a report?

MR. GREENER: I said that Cheney had asked for a report, with the President's knowledge.

Q What did the President do that night after his daughter said that this guy is roaming around the grounds? Did he say, well, gee, that is too bad, or what?

Q Is he a Republican? (Laughter)

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Q I am serious. Did he do nothing? Didn't he tell Cheney? Didn't he say then, "I want a report on it?"

MR. GREENER: He simply, as I said, was told about the arrest and that the Secret Service was handling it.

Q Bill, a man scales the fence on November 26, he is apprehended, released, he comes back and scales the fence on December 6 -- the same man -- and the President still thinks that his protection is adequate. What will it take to convince him that there is a problem?

MR. GREENER: I have no way of knowing that, Ted. He feels that his protection is adequate.

Q Has this guy ever explained what he is after?

MR. GREENER: Just from newspaper reports, and I would rather not comment on it.

Q Bill, is it the President's intention to act on the tax bill this week?

MR. GREENER: Yes, it is his intention.

Q He will veto or sign the bill this week before leaving for Vail?

MR. GREENER: To the best of my knowledge, yes.

Q Has he said what he will do on situs picketing?

MR. GREENER: Yes.

Q What will he do?

MR. GREENER: Which will he do? He will veto any tax bill that comes to him without a spending ceiling coupled with it, exactly as he said, and what he has asked for, I repeat again, was a deeper tax cut than that which was voted in -- a \$395 billion ceiling.

Q He has indicated he is flexible on both the size of the tax cut and the size of the ceiling; is that not correct?

MR. GREENER: That is not correct, Walt. What he said was --

Q Excuse me. That is what he told Russell Long that night.

MR. GREENER: What he said in that meeting, since I was in there, was that if you do not vote the \$28 billion tax cut that I have asked for and if you choose to give a smaller amount to the American public, \$17 billion to be exact, then at least be sure that you couple it with some sort of spending ceiling which is equal to it and at least tell the American public that there is no free lunch.

Q Which is exactly what he said. He is flexible on the size of the ceiling and the size of the tax cut.

MR. GREENER: He did not indicate what he would do in that instance, Walt, is what I am trying to tell you.

Q He will act this week, you say, if it comes to him?

MR. GREENER: If it gets to him, yes.

Q What about situs picketing?

MR. GREENER: He has made no decision on that yet.

Q Did the meeting with Russell Long come off?

MR. GREENER: It did not.

Q Why did it not?

MR. GREENER: Well, I understand there was a mixup in Senator Long's availability and also in Lynn's availability at the time.

Q Did this mean that the President still does not know what Russell Long meant when he talked about sort of a vague ceiling on spending? Is the President still in the dark? That is the purpose of the meeting, as I understand, for Lynn to talk to Long.

MR. GREENER: That is correct.

Q So the President still does not know what the President is talking about?

MR. GREENER: I am sure that the President at this time does know what he was talking about, John, but it is a moot question inasmuch as it has already passed the Senate.

Q Have those negotiations collapsed finally now?

MR. GREENER: Well, the bill did pass the Senate last night.

Q On another legislative matter, the third of the big three legislative matters, the House Democrats are saying they have received indications from the White House that the President will sign the energy bill -- that is to say, that he will follow Mr. Zarb's recommendations -- is that correct?

MR. GREENER: When I discussed that with the President this morning he indicated he still had not decided, Jim.

Q Bill, does either the House version or the Senate version of the tax bill meet the President's requirement regarding attaching a spending ceiling?

MR. GREENER: I know of no provision in either one of the bills or in any concurrent resolution that has passed at this time that indicates any ceiling.

Q Therefore, if it follows either of those versions in that essential aspect, he will veto?

MR. GREENER: The President's position is firm on that, that he will veto.

Q Will he accept a concurrent resolution? We asked you that yesterday but I would like to ask it again today.

MR. GREENER: He indicated that that would be a method. He indicated to Senator Long when he was here that that is a method within the budget process that could be obtained.

Q So he would accept a concurrent resolution if there was to be one?

MR. GREENER: Yes, depending on what the concurrent resolution said.

Q What is the outlook for a special session?

Q This is what I was asking about. Have negotiations on a concurrent resolution broken down or been abandoned; are they still underway between the White House and the Hill?

MR. GREENER: I know of no discussions that are going on at this time, Bob.

Q Has hope for them been abandoned?

MR. GREENER: The President is always hopeful that they will take up exactly what he asked and that is a spending ceiling.

Q Bill, Senator Hatfield introduced legislation yesterday prohibiting the CIA from soliciting or paying for the services of missionaries but Mr. Buchen -- and I have a copy of his letter -- says, "The President does not feel it would be wise at present to prohibit the CIA from having any connection with the clergy because clergy throughout the world are often valuable sources of information." End of quote.

I have a two-part question: First, what action is the President considering on behalf of the Nazarene missionaries who are still in prison in Mozambique, having been jailed in September on charges that they are CIA agents which they deny?

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

Q All right.

The second part is, since Mr. Colby has ordered no operational CIA contacts with the Peace Corps volunteers or Fulbright scholars, why does the President allow the CIA to prey on the clergy?

Q That is what the clergy is there for -- to pray. (Laughter)

Q Somebody take that man out of the pew.

What about this, Bill? He has written the President and he has written Colby and they are still going to try to solicit clergy but not Fulbright scholars. Now, why is this?

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

Q Will we have an answer tomorrow?

MR. GREENER: I don't know. I will get it as soon as possible.

Q That is wonderful. Thank you.

Q Is Ron coming back next week?

MR. GREENER: I think he will be coming back, yes.

Q When will he be back?

MR. GREENER: I don't know.

Q When will the President sign the New York City aid bill?

MR. GREENER: Practically when it gets here.

Q Well, it has been passed. Do you have any plans?

MR. GREENER: We do not have the bill as yet, but as soon as we get it.

Q Did you say, Bill, that you thought Ron would be coming back or you thought he would be coming back next week?

MR. GREENER: I said I thought he would be coming back.

Q When?

Q Can you tell us the results of your conversation with Ron yesterday? You said you were going to be talking to him in the afternoon.

MR. GREENER: The result of the conversation was that we discussed my replacement.

Q Do you have anything to announce?

MR. GREENER: No, I do not.

Q Bill, apparently there have been some meetings since the publication of the Gallup Poll last week. Are there any changes contemplated at the Election Committee?

MR. GREENER: Not that I am aware of.

Q Are there any changes in the President's time that he might be spending on the campaign in New Hampshire and Florida as a result of these meetings?

MR. GREENER: Those decisions have not been made yet, John, so there could not be any changes.

Q Does the President agree with Ambassador Porter's remarks to reporters in Ottawa about the Canadian-U.S. relations?

MR. GREENER: Well, the President and Prime Minister Trudeau have a longstanding personal relationship and there has been a --

Q What is the nature of that?

MR. GREENER: Close and friendly personal relationship.

Q They love one another as brothers in the Lord.

MR. GREENER: And our countries have a long-standing close and friendly relationship, and in any relationship with the two countries so closely associated in every respect there are bound to be differences that arise in certain areas. However, the President feels that there are no problems between the two countries that are not soluble.

Q Will you repeat that again?

MR. GREENER: Sure.

Q Soluble means they can be dissolved in water.

MR. GREENER: Solvable. Did I say "soluble?"
Excuse me.

Q There are bound to be differences that arise?

MR. GREENER: In any relationship with two countries so closely associated in every respect there are bound to be differences that arise in certain areas. However, the President feels that there are no problems between the two countries that are not solvable.

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Q So, Bill, the question is what is he going to do about it? This is valid factual material that that man had to put out, Mr. Porter, and there needs to be something -- for some time there has been a cry for the President to put more people to work on this matter or to go and talk himself. Is he going to do more about it than just put out a statement?

MR. GREENER: Well, the President has people working on the problems.

Q He does? Who?

MR. GREENER: Particularly at State I am sure you are aware that they have close relationships.

Q No, I mean I was not aware at all. I don't think the people are aware that we have anyone at State working on these problems that have arisen in the last few months.

MR. GREENER: Well, in particular which one are you referring to, Sarah?

Q Well, there were a whole slew of them mentioned in the paper today -- I am sure you read them.

MR. GREENER: Well, I would have to take them one by one and get the names of the people and I will be glad to do that.

Q You would save us a lot of trouble just by telling us who these people are at State that the President has working especially on problems with Canada.

MR. GREENER: Well, I say I will have to get it one by one the names for you and I will. I am not trying to dodge it, I just don't have the names here.

Q This will be news when we get it because this has not been announced before.

MR. GREENER: State discussed this in their briefing yesterday, if I can find some of it.

They did not give the names, however, and I will have to get that for you.

Q Well, what did they say?

MR. GREENER: Sarah, I have the full transcript of the State briefing and you are welcome to look at it afterwards.

Q Bill, Mr. Trudeau, I think, said in the House of Commons yesterday that Mr. Porter had gone beyond the bounds of propriety in making the statements at the dinner with ten newsmen. Does the President think that Mr. Porter was out of order in making his remarks under those circumstances?

MR. GREENER: The President made no comment on Ambassador Porter's actions, just simply authorized me to make the statement that I made.

Q While we are on this subject, what about Mexico? Have you got any answer since I asked the question here some time ago about whether -- I have asked it several times -- the President and Echeverria were going to have another meeting or talks to implement their past meeting and if you are going to do anything about the heroin on the Mexican border? Since I have asked that question several times we have had two meetings of our State Department people in Mexico City with the Mexicans down there. Have you got anything to report yet?

MR. GREENER: No, I do not.

Q Well, when are you going to have something? Time is awasting here.

MR. GREENER: I answered your question on the letter.

Q You said you sent an interim letter and you would have another answer for me in a few days and that has been about a week ago.

MR. GREENER: No, it has been two days ago, but as soon as I get it I will give it to you.

Q Bill, can we go back to the fence jumping a moment?

MR. GREENER: Yes, certainly.

Q The White House is always very cooperative in releasing pictures taken by Mr. Kennerly of the President patting his dog and smoking his pipe. I wonder if you could be as cooperative in releasing pictures that Mr. Kennerly is said to have made of this man being apprehended at the South Portico?

MR. GREENER: Well, according to Mr. Kennerly, they are not printable.

Q Not printable?

Q Why?

MR. GREENER: He said it was just too dark.

Q Bill, you mean that David Hume Kennerly flubbed up in the dark? (Laughter)

Bill, really now, you mean he didn't use a flash, this professional?

MR. GREENER: I am merely answering the question that was asked me, Les.

Q Bill, as long as we are making a tour of the horizon around the world, let's talk about Angola. We tried last week to get some information about how much American military aid or other kinds of aid is being sent to Angola. It is becoming an increasing political issue. Could you tell us in fact what the United States is doing in Angola?

MR. GREENER: Not beyond the statements already made by the President and Secretary of State.

Q What were those, Bill? I think the last time we asked you what the questions were all they said was that it didn't give anything at all on the extent of aid, so if he has made another statement on --

MR. GREENER: He has made no statement on that subject at all, Sarah.

Q Bill, a senior American official aboard the Kissinger plane is quoted as saying that the consensus in the American Government was that if the United States didn't go to the aid of the friendly forces in Angola that they would have collapsed in two or three weeks. Is that the President's view? Was that a Presidential decision?

MR. GREENER: Well, the President has already indicated his concern about the situation in Angola.

Q Well, was that a Presidential decision to go to the aid of --

MR. GREENER: I have not seen that and I would have to check it for you.

Q You are not saying that Dr. Kissinger acted without the President's go ahead?

MR. GREENER: No, I am not. I said I have not seen the statement, I would have to check it.

Q But the President did order the aid, did he not?

Q There has been concern expressed on the Hill, I think by Senator Church, that there are parallels between Angola and Vietnam, big powers coming into rivalry in an underdeveloped country. Does the President see any parallels between the situation in Angola and Vietnam?

MR. GREENER: No, and Secretary Kissinger did address that at his press conference in Brussels on December 12, Walt.

Q Bill, what about the report the United States has sent at least \$50 million in military aid to Angola?

MR. GREENER: I have seen the report, I have no comment on it.

Q Bill, did the President authorize the declassification of this Angola information that has to go to the Senate in the morning at 9 o'clock?

MR. GREENER: All the information that the Senate has asked for has been provided for them as far as I know.

Q Bill, has the President voiced any concern that the Congress is over-sensitive, over-cautious, over-reacting to Executive action in such foreign affairs fields as Angola?

MR. GREENER: No, the President feels that there is a need for the discussion by the Congress on the geopolitical significance of that part of Africa to the United States and the West.

Q How are we going to discuss it if we don't know the facts? Does the President think the public does not have a right to know what is going on? We are asking for information, Bill.

MR. GREENER: I understand, Bob.

Q Well, can we get any information at all from you or the President on Angola?

MR. GREENER: No more than I have given you, Bob.

Q Which is none at all.

Q Why?

Q Bill, was Ambassador Moynihan speaking for the Administration when he said that the loss of Angola would threaten the line of oil shipments from the Middle East and would imperil Brazil?

MR. GREENER: Yes.

Q On Angola I would like to ask you, did the President know before the decision was made to do whatever we are doing in Angola? Did he know about that, that a decision would be made that we would involve ourselves, however you won't tell us how?

MR. GREENER: The President is aware of any actions we may or may not be taking in Angola.

Q My question is this, Bill. I would like to follow that up. How can we tell the people -- I am pursuing Bob's question which has been asked several times. Can you explain how the White House can say that it does not know or cannot tell us about Angola? Can you explain that for us? How can you not know, and if you do know, how can you not tell us?

MR. GREENER: Well, I simply am not going beyond the statements that I have made on it, Cliff.

Q I know but can you go further and tell us why the White House and you, speaking for the President, will not go further than saying that you have nothing to say or you are saying that you will not tell us? Evidently, you do know but you are saying that you will not tell us. Now, can you explain that for us?

MR. GREENER: Not beyond what I have said, Cliff.

Q Bill, does the President have a position on the participation of South Africans and white mercenaries in Angola?

MR. GREENER: I have not heard, Phil. The only statement that the President has made is that he is seriously concerned about the situation, especially as it relates to the actions taken by the Soviet Union and Cuba in providing large quantities of military equipment and men to Angola.

Q So the answer to my question is no.

Q When did he make that statement?

MR. GREENER: I just made it.

Q Seriously concerned about this situation.

MR. GREENER: The President indicated his concern about the situation in Angola especially as it relates to the actions taken by the Soviet Union and Cuba in providing large quantities of military equipment and men to Angola.

Q Could you put numbers on those men and equipment?

MR. GREENER: I cannot.

Q When did he issue that, Bill?

MR. GREENER: I talked to him this morning. I am speaking on his behalf.

Q Has he conferred with Brezhnev --

MR. GREENER: Let me just give him the last part of it.

Q Quantities of military equipment --

MR. GREENER: And men to Angola.

Q Now, Bill, just in the interest of accuracy, the first time you read that I thought I heard you use the word "serious." The second time you just said "concerned."

Q He is seriously concerned about the situation, is what you said, Bill.

Q Which is it? "Serious concern" or just "concern"?

MR. GREENER: Serious concern.

Q Is this under discussion with the Soviets at the current time? Is there an exchange of communications about this between the President or between Washington and Moscow?

MR. GREENER: I would have to check on it, Dick.

Q Does the President feel that this is a threat to detente, Bill?

MR. GREENER: Yes, he does, and has stated so previously.

Q Has the President been in touch with Mr. Brezhnev on the hotline over this situation?

MR. GREENER: Not to my knowledge.

Q How about Dobrynin?

MR. GREENER: She is checking on it now, or will be in just a second.

Q Bill, since this question arose in the Senate yesterday and, as you know, they are holding up the defense appropriations bill until the Senators have information as to whether any money in that bill is going to Angola, since that time yesterday, has the President given his approval for declassification of information to go to the Senators when they meet on this tomorrow morning?

MR. GREENER: I don't know if it has been declassified or not, Sarah. I know that the information is being provided to the Senate.

Q It is being provided.

MR. GREENER: Yes.

Q The Angola situation, has that played a part in the slowdown at least of the SALT II talks?

MR. GREENER: Not to my knowledge, no, Dick.

Q Bill, on a subject related to detente, ABC News last night had a report that in an apparently systematic way the Soviets have been using laser beams to blind the satellites that we would use to spot a Soviet missile attack. Do you have any comment on that, and what is the importance of it?

MR. GREENER: First of all, I have seen the reports that you are talking about and what happened was that Mr. James Wade, a DOD specialist on SALT, testified on this, among other issues, yesterday before the House Armed Services Committee. Briefly what he said was, "While the use of such lasers to block U.S. satellites would constitute a SALT violation, the facts simply are not in on this issue as yet."

Q Now to go back to Angola for one minute, if I might, Bill, an organization -- I believe the Congress of Racial Equality -- has announced that it either will or may try to recruit American volunteers for service in Angola. This issue has come up from time to time in the Spanish Civil War and so forth.

Does the Administration, the Justice Department or otherwise, believe that this is permitted under American law; and secondly, does the President look with favor or is he opposed to any such move?

MR. GREENER: I have heard no comment from the President on it and, as I mentioned the other day, Jim, the Justice Department is ready to answer questions on that and what it does to American citizenship.

Q Bill, I learned from the Department of Justice that they have prosecuted 12 different people for support of the Irish Republican Army. Why is it that there has been no such action regarding the support of these terrorist groups in Angola, the three of them that are contending for the land?

MR. GREENER: You would have to ask the Justice Department.

Let me just answer one question over here that you asked.

Kissinger indicated at his news conference a week ago that we have had some discussions with the Soviets on this subject of Angola.

Q Has there been any subsequent discussion?

MR. GREENER: I have nothing beyond that to mention.

Q There has been no subsequent discussion?

MR. GREENER: I don't have an answer to that, Tom. We will check on it. I just don't know if we have that.

Q Can you tell us at what level?

MR. GREENER: I cannot.

Q That is what I am interested in -- what is current.

MR. GREENER: I understand what you are interested in, Dick. I was just trying to bring you up to date on as much information as we had.

Q You said a little earlier in the briefing that the President might accept a concurrent resolution on a spending ceiling. That is fairly intriguing because I don't think that anybody in the White House has specifically said that up until today, and I was wondering is a concurrent resolution -- correct me if I am wrong -- but would that not just be a morally binding thing rather than legally binding?

MR. GREENER: Yes, that is correct, and it was said the other night by Jim Lynn when he was in here.

Q What? That he would accept it?

MR. GREENER: That he would accept it with a specific ceiling.

Q Well, wasn't that what Congressman Latta had suggested a long time ago when the White House first said that was the way to go about doing it and that whole thing kind of fell through?

MR. GREENER: It sounds familiar but I cannot answer that, John, to tell you that is where it came from.

Q If they pass a concurrent resolution saying we are going to reduce spending by the amount of the tax cut, the President would sign the tax cut?

MR. GREENER: I don't know. He would have to look at that. He wants \$28 billion and a ceiling of \$395 billion.

Q When you talk about he would have to look at it, would he have to have in any concurrent resolution specific figures or the intent of Congress to reduce spending? Would that be satisfactory?

MR. GREENER: We are just playing "if" on it, Tom. I am just saying what he really wants is \$28 billion and a \$395 billion ceiling and, as for any specifics of a concurrent resolution, we would have to see it when it comes down to find out what it says.

Q But you are saying a concurrent resolution, if I am reading you correctly, would be acceptable.

MR. GREENER: That is correct, just as he said the other evening. He said that is a method that could be used.

Q Lynn said it.

MR. GREENER: Lynn said so and so did the President.

Q I understand that but if that method is acceptable to him, he must have some thoughts as well as to the contents of the concurrent resolution.

Are you saying that the concurrent resolution must contain the \$28 billion or \$395 billion ceiling?

MR. GREENER: I am not, no, Tom. I am just saying the straight thing.

Q One question to follow up an earlier comment that you made about Ron's plans. You said that you think that Ron is coming back.

MR. GREENER: That is correct.

Q Now, does that imply some doubt as to whether Ron is returning as Press Secretary?

MR. GREENER: No, no. I meant returning here this week or early next week. None whatever.

Q You mean he will do the Vail trip?

MR. GREENER: Yes, he is planning to go to Vail.

Q You have discussed your replacement. Does that mean that one has been chosen?

MR. GREENER: No, it does not.

Q What does it mean?

MR. GREENER: It simply meant that he asked me for some recommendations and I gave them to him.

Q How many did you give and who were they?

MR. GREENER: I think that is something that I just as soon would not discuss, Helen.

Q Bill, is there anything new on a possible press conference this week?

MR. GREENER: No.

Q Bill, you said earlier that you know of no discussion about a concurrent resolution and I want to broaden that. Do you know of any discussion that the White House is involved in about any move whatsoever to make the tax bill acceptable to the President? Is there anything going on at all that the White House is involved in or that the White House knows about on the Hill to do this?

MR. GREENER: Not to my knowledge, Ted.

Q Bill, you said about a week ago that you were going to check and see how it is that the White House justifies these limousines taking people from work and home, 800 of them, reported by Proxmire, who claims that it is a violation of the U.S. Code and you said you would check into that, and you asked for a copy of Proxmire's release.

What is the answer to that? Why should Ron Nessen be given a limousine and chauffeur when most of the Senators don't, and on what grounds is this law?

MR. GREENER: I have no answer for you, but I will get it today for you.

Q Bless you.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END (AT 12:07 P.M. EST)

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