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NEWS CONFERENCE

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 11:45 A.M. EST

JANUARY 29, 1976

THURSDAY

MR. NESSEN: This morning just before we start I wanted to say that Professor Edgar Shor of Colgate is attending our briefing with a group of political science majors. I don't know if they will be political science majors after they see this, but they are now, anyhow. They are here in Washington on a Washington Study Semester and I hope they enjoy it.

All right. You have the President's schedule for today and I think you know pretty much what he is doing. There will be coverage of his speaking to the mayors who are in Washington for the Mid-Winter Meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. That will be open coverage at 2 o'clock.

I think you have the rest of the day. The reception tonight at the Shoreham Americana given by Prime Minister and Mrs. Rabin, it is a reciprocal reception for the dinner given by the President the other night. I guess a thousand people are expected there.

Obviously there will be a travel pool and so if you have any questions, we can help you with that later on.

The President did meet with Prime Minister Rabin this morning from 9:50 until 10:20. This concluded their discussions, and the subjects they discussed included developments both in the Middle East and outside the Middle East relating to the prospects for maintaining a momentum toward a peace settlement in the area.

The President reaffirmed his determination that there should be no stagnation or stalemate in the peace process.

In addition to that subject, the President and the Prime Minister also discussed various aspects of the American-Israeli bilateral relations which included economic and military assistance programs.

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And the President again expressed his feelings of a special or longstanding friendship with the Prime Minister and Mrs. Rabin and also reiterated the United States support for the security of Israel.

Maybe I can just go a little beyond that into one or two more details you may be interested in. It is really not proper for me to make statements on behalf of another Government, but I think it would be fair to say that we have the impression that Israel remains committed to peace efforts in the Middle East and one of the purposes of these talks was to discuss how practical progress can be made in the best way toward that goal.

As for any specific conclusions that the two leaders may have made, it is not going to be possible for me to discuss the details of the talks. They were part of the explorations we are making with all the parties in the area on how best to proceed with the peace process, and as we have said before, at this stage I think we are just going to have to let quiet diplomacy go forward and not talk too much about the conclusions.

On the aid question, as you know, the budget does show a figure of a billion dollars which we have said before is only part and not the total assistance to Israel for the fiscal year 1977.

The President will submit in the coming month the detailed foreign assistance program for all the countries, and that will include Israel, and then you will see the total breakdown of figures. I think we could say today that the President will request a very substantial foreign assistance program for Israel and this program was decided upon after very careful consideration by the President, first of all, of Israel's security and economic needs, and, secondly, America's own economic situation and America's own interests.

The President thinks that the package he will propose is fully adequate to insure Israel's ability to meet its future security requirements.

Israel has been told of what the total request will be and was told in fact before the meeting with Prime Minister Rabin.

Q He was told at the meeting?

MR. NESSEN: I say before the meeting the Israelis were informed of the total figure that the President had decided upon.

I think, again, the main point is, one, that we believe the aid package will be fully adequate to Israel's needs and it also is based on our own situation and interests.

Q Did the Israelis share that assessment?

MR. NESSEN: I think you will have to ask them, Bob.

Q Has the total changed in any way since Rabin's visit?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I am aware of, but I would like to check it.

Q You said earlier you had the impression that Israel was interested in keeping the peace momentum going. Now do you have the impression that they are satisfied with this request?

MR. NESSEN: I will check that, Phil.

Q Can you tell us --

MR. NESSEN: I'm sorry. I am going to check for Bob to find out whether there were any changes made as a result of the meetings. Israel's impression, I think, should come from Israel.

Q Well, hasn't a half billion dollars been sliced off what they originally thought they were going to get?

MR. NESSEN: I think you need to take this in a little longer span of years, Helen. Before the 1973 war, the annual Israeli aid figure was something like a half billion dollars, I believe. As a result of the six-day war, it was raised quite substantially up to the area of \$2 billion. It was not contemplated that the elevation for that post-war period would be something that would become a permanent level of aid to Israel, so that is why I can't come to grips with the word "cut" since it is --

Q Since you have told the Israelis what they are going to get, why don't you tell the American people what they are going to get?

MR. NESSEN: It will be done when the President sends his whole aid package to the Congress which is just a matter of a couple of weeks away.

Q But we are cutting back on the levels.

MR. NESSEN: Again, Bob, I don't know what the word cut represents since the level has been quite elevated in the past couple of years from what it was -- if you are interested in an answer I can give you one. The answer is that if you start at where it was before the war, obviously it is considerably higher than it was before the war and, as I told Helen, it was never contemplated that the aid levels immediately after the war would be maintained over the years.

Q So we can say it was lower than what it was during the war?

MR. NESSEN: And higher than it was before the war.

Q What about the Israeli's request? How does it figure in comparison with that?

MR. NESSEN: I am not familiar with the Israeli aid request figure, but, as I say, this was carefully reached and the President believes it is adequate to Israel's needs and it also fits our own economic situation and interests.

Q Would it be a half billion dollars less than last year?

MR. NESSEN: You will have to wait and see how it comes out when he sends the full package up.

Q You act like there is some new initiative for peace in the Middle East. Has something new been developed as a result of this? And is the President going to Israel?

MR. NESSEN: Well, as I said the other day, the President has indicated his interest in acceptance in principle of the idea of a trip to several of those countries, but there is no timetable or any firm plans for it.

Q Well, has he been invited to all these countries?

MR. NESSEN: You know he has been invited to Egypt, he has been invited to Syria, and he has been invited to Israel. Those are old and pending invitations.

Q Didn't he tell the Prime Minister he would be there this spring?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know how that came out. He did accept an invitation in principle without fixing a date.

Q On the initiative, is there a new initiative that is being pursued now as a result of this meeting?

MR. NESSEN: Well, I don't want to leave the impression there is. One of the main subjects of the discussion is what next step to take to keep the peace momentum going, but as always, it is up to the parties in the area to decide what the best mechanism or the best next step is, and the United States is committed to help, but at this point has not offered a plan of its own.

Q Who has not offered?

MR. NESSEN: The United States.

Q Was this meeting today planned?

MR. NESSEN: If you remember, at yesterday's briefing I left open the possibility that there would be a third meeting, and after yesterday's meeting, in the afternoon, it was decided to have a third and concluding meeting today.

Q It seems like this was the meeting where Rabin was told what the figure was.

MR. NESSEN: No, I say that Israel knew the figure before Rabin arrived in the United States.

Q Did he come to plead otherwise?

MR. NESSEN: The aid figure was discussed.

Q Ron, that is the point. We are asking questions in the dark since we don't know the aid figure the President has decided on, but the fact is that Israeli sources have made it clear beyond question that at all of the meetings that they had, Mr. Rabin was trying to get this aid figure increased and that this indeed was the reason for the third meeting, the additional meeting. He pressed and pressed through all three meetings and in other meetings with Kissinger and so forth for a higher aid total. Now since it is quite clear what Prime Minister Rabin was trying to do, why can't you give us a figure here for the President's decision, number one? Number two, what kind of response did the Prime Minister get from the President?

MR. NESSEN: Well, on question number one, the proper procedure for sending budget requests to Congress in the foreign assistance area is to send them all for all countries at the same time, which will be mid-February, and I cannot give you the figure before the President submits it to Congress.

On the second point, which is similar to Bob's question -- did the meetings affect the President's decision on the aid figure -- I said I would check.

Now, tomorrow we are going to have an event here --

Q Would it be possible to check now because this is a key unresolved question?

MR. NESSEN: All right.

Let me give you the word on an event tomorrow. The President is going to go out to the CIA headquarters in Langley --

Q Plug those ears. (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: -- and participate in the swearing-in of George Bush.

Q Cloak and dagger ceremony.

MR. NESSEN: Yes, that is right. Wear your cloaks and daggers.

Q Is that a covert swearing-in? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: No. It was supposed to be but somebody told the Pike and Church Committees about it and so it is -- (Laughter)

Q What time is it, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: The swearing-in is at 11 o'clock. I don't have the details beyond the time and the fact that there will be a travel pool.

Now, it will be open coverage. Eric is working on the details and we will get back to you later today.

Q Will the President have remarks?

Q Will this be in the auditorium in the CIA building or in an office, or what?

Q Will press and property be allowed?

MR. NESSEN: Do you know whether this is indoors or outdoors, John?

MR. CARLSON: Indoors.

MR. NESSEN: Indoors.

Q In the CIA auditorium?

MR. NESSEN: CIA auditorium. (Laughter)

Q If it rains, it will be outdoors. (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: That is right. (Laughter)

The President will have some brief remarks.

Q Heavily censored.

MR. NESSEN: All right, now, a couple of other things you might have some interest in.

Q Excuse me. There is a logistical problem because they have guards at the gates out there. Is the White House going to arrange for us to get in?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, and you will be told what gate to come to and what accreditation to use and who your contact is and so forth.

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Q Fingerprinting? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: Actually, if you want to you can check directly with Chancellor or Cronkite. (Laughter)

Q Cheap shot. Cheap shot.

Q You are hot today.

Q Ron, to get to this big issue --

Q Will you brief over there? (Laughter)

Q In the auditorium.

MR. NESSEN: In my cloak and dagger.

I guess we will put it off until we get back and until we know how long the ceremony is going to take and the return time and so forth, but I suppose it could be somewhere like 12:30 or 12 o'clock, something like that. We will get it done.

As you know, Congress has passed a bill -- I think the Senate completed the Congressional action when it passed the bill -- setting a limit of 200 miles on the fishing area around America's coast. Now I think you know that the President for a long time has said that he favors a 200-mile fishing limit. His position has been that he thinks that the 200-mile fishing limit and other issues involving coastal waters should be settled on an international basis, a multi-lateral basis, at the Law of the Sea Conference which is meeting--one session in New York, I believe in March, and possibly another session later in the year, and he would hope the issue could be decided there on an international basis.

However, assuming that all other provisions of the bill being sent here by Congress are satisfactory and since the date of implementation of the Congressional bill is next summer, July 1977, which would still give time for the Law of the Sea Conference to resolve the issue internationally, I would not expect him to veto that 200-mile limit bill.

Q If the House version, which I think has an earlier date, were to pass --

MR. NESSEN: That is right, it is going to be resolved in conference.

Q So may I ask, it seems to me the Senate date is acceptable for the President and the House date, it seems, is much sooner --

MR. NESSEN: Well, six months sooner. It is the end of 1976. It is December 31st.

Q Ron, is either date acceptable to the President?

MR. NESSEN: I would not expect him to veto the bill.

Q Ron, I am curious about the procedure. You have volunteered this information about the President not being likely to veto this bill whereas customarily you withhold information about vetos on most legislation until the bill gets here, at least, and it has been studied.

MR. NESSEN: Well, I have got one more to go.

Q Does your comment have anything to do with the proximity primarily in a State where the 200-mile limit is?

MR. NESSEN: No, because really -- let me say one thing on the record. (Laughter) Let me say one thing on the record which is, no, the President more or less said the same things in the interview that he had about a week or two ago.

Q Ron, within the Administration, isn't Secretary Kissinger adamantly opposed to this?

MR. NESSEN: I have not heard him speak adamantly opposed to it or opposed to it at all.

Q What about informally?

MR. NESSEN: No, I have not heard him speak against it at all, actually.

As you know, the House Rules Committee has passed a rule which prevents the House from voting on the Pike Committee report until the President has had a chance to review it for classified material. The White House supports the Rules Committee action, believes it is a responsible action and it is aimed, in the White House view, at simply the implementation of the agreement which the Pike Committee made with the White House to submit to the President before publication of any material so that it could be reviewed for classified material.

One other legislative matter. The Congress is working on a bill that is called the Public Works Capital Development and Investment Act of 1975. The President wants you to know that he will veto this bill if it comes down here. It is a \$6.3 billion bill. It would increase the budget deficit by \$2-1/2 billion in fiscal 1977, by over \$1 billion in fiscal 1978 and by over \$1 billion in fiscal 1979.

This is an ineffective way to create jobs. Two-thirds of the funds in the bill are for public works projects which past experience shows are very slow starting. It would take nine months to a year to get the projects started. It would take over 18 months to get all the projects started. It would take a year and a half to two years for the main impact of the bill to be felt, which is certainly in the President's view too late to have any effect in any kind of short-term on the job situation, and by the time you get two years down the road from now this could be very inflationary.

Q Could you give us those figures again?

Q Yes, could you go over those more slowly?

Q The deficit figures.

MR. NESSEN: The deficit figures or the start-up time figures, or both?

Q Both.

MR. NESSEN: The bill would add \$2-1/2 billion to the deficit in the 1977 fiscal year, over a billion dollars in fiscal 1978 and about a billion dollars in fiscal 1979.

Q We aren't supposed to have a deficit in 1979, are we, according to this?

MR. NESSEN: This would add a billion.

Q Where is that bill now?

Q You have lead times of a year, year and a half, two years on these projects. Of course, that is the point at which the outlays come. How could this increase the budget deficit by \$2-1/2 billion in fiscal 1977?

MR. NESSEN: Well, because of the various costs involved. Fiscal 1977 now runs until October of 1978, which is about a year and a half.

Q Yes, I know, but the lead times go beyond that and the outlays, of course, for these projects, the entire outlay does not take place at that time, so how can it increase the deficit by that amount?

MR. NESSEN: This is the result of an analysis by the Office of Budget and Management.

Q How long does that run, Ron? October 1977,

MR. NESSEN: October 1977, right. I am sorry, a year and a half from now or a little more than a year and a half from now.

Q If I may, please, in that OMB study or analysis, did they load all the outlays for these programs into 1977?

MR. NESSEN: No, certainly not.

Q What percentage did they load into 1977?

MR. NESSEN: Well, Jim, why don't I put you together with the expert from the OMB? We will put you together with the person from there.

In addition to the so-called public works aspects of it, it is what the President would feel is a Christmas tree bill in the fact that a lot of extraneous things have been tacked on to it that don't really have anything to do with jobs and so, as I said, he would veto it if it got here in that form.

Q Where is it now? In committee or where?

MR. NESSEN: The House votes on it today.

Q What is an example of a Christmas tree addition?

MR. NESSEN: Well, it has got a lot of local pet projects, waste water treatment plants which have an even longer time to start up than the public works parts of it.

Q How come you got such a big budget deficit, then?

MR. NESSEN: Well, the money is being spent.

Q They have a longer lead time.

MR. NESSEN: Jim, this is the OMB analysis. If your analysis shows otherwise I know the OMB would be happy to hear about it. If you want to talk to the OMB about how they reached this conclusion, I know they would be happy to talk to you.

Q What I am asking is if the OMB has made what is sometimes known as the worst case?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think so.

I do now have more details of the CIA swearing-in. The President's motorcade will depart the White House at 10:45 and the travel pool should come here to the Press Room at 10:30 to get into the travel pool. The CIA has regulations which require that U.S. citizens and U.S. media representing U.S. news organizations only can get in.

Q What is going on? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: It is not my regulation.

Q He works for the CIA.

Q Yes, he is the chief of station.

MR. NESSEN: That is right.

They will send the story directly to your office.  
(Laughter)

Q Is that right, only American citizens?

Q Does that apply to the White House reporters?

MR. NESSEN: Let me give you a phone number now where you can track down some other details. (Laughter)

I would like to give you the phone number. It is 351-7676. It is the Office of the Assistant to the Director.

Now everybody other than the travel pool who wants to cover the swearing-in should call that number and give your name and your affiliation.

Q Raincoat number.

MR. NESSEN: You ought to call, Ralph, and straighten that out. They will take down your names and affiliations and take it out to the gate and they will check your name off the list.

Press passes from the White House, the Capitol or the Metropolitan Police Department will get you in if your name is on the list.

The President will arrive there at 11:00 and the swearing-in will start then in the CIA auditorium. We will pipe the ceremony back here to the Press Room so you can hear it here. They don't have any phones out at the CIA.  
(Laughter)

At the conclusion of the ceremony the President will go to the main building of the CIA to greet CIA employees. (Laughter)

Q Who will be masked. (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: That will be closed to direct press coverage although the writers in the travel pool can watch through glass doors. (Laughter)

Q Why is that, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: And no cameras or tape recorders are allowed.

Q That lets Nixon out.

Q It is open to press coverage? Why is that?

MR. NESSEN: These are the arrangements that have been worked out with the CIA and apparently follow CIA regulations.

Now if you want to go ahead and set up ahead of time, you should call that number that I gave you and make arrangements for what time you need to set up lights and sound equipment.

Q Would it make it easier on the CIA if we got a bus, Ron? We could all pay for our share of the bus ride and then they could scratch us all off the list at once.

MR. NESSEN: We will work with Eric to see about that. It does not sound like a bad idea to me.

Q I don't feel like driving out there. I don't know where the place is.

Q Take a taxi.

MR. NESSEN: Just to tie up Jim and Bob's question on aid discussions, I am told that during the three meetings with the Prime Minister the discussions on aid were in more general terms and they were within the context of the ongoing aid relationship between the United States and Israel. I am not going to be able to characterize the talks on aid any further beyond that.

Q Translate that much. What does that mean?

MR. NESSEN: What does what mean, Jim?

Q What you just said, what does that mean?

MR. NESSEN: I said the aid talks were in general terms and the context of a continuing relationship with Israel.

Q Ron, does that mean the figure did not change?

MR. NESSEN: I am not going to be able to go beyond that.

Q You said the President is very satisfied with the figure, but you also have implied, I think, that the Israelis are not. Is that fair?

MR. NESSEN: It is certainly not fair because I have not said anything about the Israeli attitude. You need to ask the Israelis their attitude.

Q Ron, you did volunteer a statement that the Israelis were cooperating.

MR. NESSEN: I said I should not speak for the Israelis, but it is our impression.

Q Well, what is your impression about aid?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think I will give an impression.

Q Ron, I gather there will be no joint communique on this?

MR. NESSEN: That is correct.

Q Can you explain why?

MR. NESSEN: It was just decided not to have one.

Q On other point. For three days now the White House has said the President reaffirmed his determination that there be no stagnation in peace efforts in the Middle East. Is Rabin not getting the message? Why was it necessary to keep repeating this?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that it was necessary -- I don't know that I would use that characterization of it. It was just a factor of that being part of the President's discussion with the Prime Minister.

Q Is the hang-up on territorial concessions by Israel or a greater role for the PLO?

MR. NESSEN: As I said, Russ, this is a period when quiet diplomacy can probably work better than any detailed public discussion.

Let me clear up a couple of other details, too. The President would not veto a 200-mile fishing limit bill that took effect on December 31 or after.

Q How about the rails bill?

MR. NESSEN: The rails bill?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: I think something has been worked out on the rails bill, but I would have to check where it stands.

Q Just to get back to that Israel thing for a second, did you say that as far as you knew, the United States did not put forward any specific new plan for a new initiative during these talks? Is that what you said?

MR. NESSEN: That was my understanding, yes.

Q So if we cannot say anything else about these talks, we could say they came to no conclusions on what the next initiative should be?

MR. NESSEN: That is quite a leap from the fact that I am not aware of any new American plan put forward to the fact that there is no --

Q Is there any new Israeli plan?

MR. NESSEN: I think I have given a considerable amount of information on the meetings and I cannot go beyond what I have said.

Q What about a reconvened Geneva Conference? Was there any agreement on that?

MR. NESSEN: Well, if you read the public record, you see that the Israelis are on record publicly as talking about it and the United States is on record as saying that it would certainly favor a preliminary conference to discuss the agenda, participants, location and so forth.

Q Was that agreed to, then, in this series of meetings?

MR. NESSEN: I am not going to be able to go beyond what I have said.

Q Ron, you are really leaving this up in the air. I think the American people have the right to know how much aid. Obviously the Israelis are going to tell what the figure is.

MR. NESSEN: Helen, the United States is going to tell Congress and the American people what its aid proposal is for all the countries in the world in mid-February, as is normal.

Q Well, the Israelis are going to tell it today to anybody who will listen, probably.

MR. NESSEN: I am not.

Q Ron, you said the other day the figure was not final yet. Is it now final?

MR. NESSEN: Well, it was told to the Israelis before Rabin came. I don't recall that I said it was not final, Jim.

Q Before he came to the United States?

Q You said the legislation was not complete and, therefore, the figure was not final and you said --

MR. NESSEN: I don't recall saying that.

Q I may be mistaken.

Q You said that the billion dollars was not all.

MR. NESSEN: I said that, but there was more to it than a billion dollars.

Q Ron, what I am not clear about is that the budget said \$1 billion for Israel in military credits starting in the new fiscal year October 1. There is a report to the effect that the Israelis are looking for \$800 million in economic supporting assistance. That brings the total to \$1 billion 800 million. Now when you talk about ongoing relations, \$2.2 billion and the rest of it, the question is --

MR. NESSEN: I don't know what the \$2.2 billion refers to, Joe.

Q The \$2.2 billion that is now before the Congress which was recommended by the Administration more or less.

MR. NESSEN: For FY 1976?

Q Yes. Now the question is when you talk about in the light of the ongoing aid commitments, are you talking about \$2.2 billion or are you talking about \$1 billion plus economic supporting assistance, and is that what the Israelis were told, \$1 billion plus economic supporting assistance, or whatever that figure is?

MR. NESSEN: I am not going to be able to give you the amount of the total Israeli aid package today, it will be published at the time the package goes to Congress.

Q Ron, may I ask you one more question about that? I came in late and it might have been asked, and I am sorry if it has been. I don't want to hold up the meeting.

There is a report to the effect that we, the United States, want a new negotiating approach in the next six weeks. Now has anything like that been said and can you confirm this or deny it, or what?

MR. NESSEN: All I am going to say is that the United States is determined not to have the peace process fall into stalemate or stagnation because the record in the past has been that this creates growing tensions in the area, but beyond that I cannot give you any details.

Q At the same time you are saying we made no new proposals?

MR. NESSEN: We have always taken the position, Jim, and do today, that this is a matter for the parties in the region to decide; that they should decide the format and the steps and so forth, and that we will help them.

Q Well, when you said that Rabin was told before he came, do you mean before he came to the United States or before the meetings started?

MR. NESSEN: I have to check on the precise date.

Q I don't know what you mean by before. Before what?

MR. NESSEN: Before they met.

Q For the first time?

MR. NESSEN: Before they began this series of three meetings this week.

Q Congressman Pike has charged that the White House and the CIA have engineered the biggest coverup since Watergate in suppressing the report of the House Intelligence Committee. Would you care to comment for the White House on that charge?

MR. NESSEN: I don't understand the charge at all. I think the White House view on the --

Q Did you understand Pike's contention? Did you read the story in the Post this morning?

MR. NESSEN: I don't recall that it was quite that simple but in any case --

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Q If you will wait a second I will read it to you.

"Pike condemned the actions saying" --

MR. NESSEN: As I have always said here, I can read for myself.

Q -- "the White House and the CIA have jointly engineered the biggest coverup since Watergate." End of quote.

MR. NESSEN: That is the whole story?

Q No, but you know the story, Ron. I mean, you know that the Rules Committee has blocked publication of that and that is what Congressman Pike is referring to. I just asked if the White House had any comment.

MR. NESSEN: Well, my comment is what I said on the Rules Committee action which is it is considered a responsible action designed simply and totally to implement the agreement which Chairman Pike and his committee made with the White House.

Q You have no response to the charge of a coverup here?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q It is a third-rate coverup, isn't it?

Q Ron, yesterday somebody asked you regarding the House vote to override the President's veto of that \$45 billion appropriations bill. Somebody asked you about the fact that 49 Republicans had crossed over to vote against the President's veto. Well, yesterday when the Senate voted there was also a fairly sizeable number of Republicans crossing over to override the veto. Is the President disturbed at all by the fact that he does not seem to have the support of his own party, or at least didn't on that particular matter?

MR. NESSEN: The President believes the veto was the right thing to do for fiscal responsibility and that that certainly reflects the mood of the country.

Q Ron, what was the President's reaction to the discussion by Mr. Hartmann and Governor Gregg of the possibility of a Reagan-Ford debate?

MR. NESSEN: I think you ought to go back and read Bob Hartmann's remarks in the interview, Les, and you will see what he said.

Q I know what Hartmann said. I wondered what was the President's reaction to Hartmann's statement and to Governor Gregg's statement in New Hampshire?

MR. NESSEN: I am not familiar with Governor Gregg's statement.

Q He said we would have Reagan any time that Ford is ready to debate. I am paraphrasing. Did the President have any reaction at all?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Ron, is the first special message going up next week? I believe you indicated yesterday that the first of several would go up.

MR. NESSEN: Hopefully it will go up next week but not on Monday.

Q What subject?

MR. NESSEN: I would rather wait until it is all positively scheduled for next week.

Q What is the outlook for a press conference?

MR. NESSEN: Not this week; perhaps next week.

Q Ron, when should we look for Dr. Lukash's full written report on the President's condition?

MR. NESSEN: In the next few days.

Q Is it due this week?

MR. NESSEN: Very possibly.

Q Has the Buchen letter on Rogers Morton gone to the press?

MR. NESSEN: In the next day or so.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 12:23 P.M. EST)