

This Copy For _____

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

#473

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 12:40 P.M. EST

APRIL 6, 1976

TUESDAY

MR. NESSEN: I have a lot of little announcements, so let's push right on.

You saw the Lyndon B. Johnson Grove ceremony.

You know that on the schedule there is a meeting with Secretary Usery. This is not to do with the Teamsters situation, but rather it is another in a series of meetings the President has been having with each new Cabinet member. Shortly after that Cabinet member is appointed, the President spends time with that Cabinet member. This is the eighth such meeting. It is a chance for the President to talk with the Cabinet member about his department and what the President expects of the department and what approach the Cabinet member intends to take and so forth, so that is that meeting.

At 5 o'clock, there will be a brief talk by the President to the National Alliance of Businessmen. This is a group of businessmen -- I think some of you know the program -- in which they have banded together to help provide jobs and training to disadvantaged persons, Vietnam veterans and ex-offenders. It is a program that is seven or eight years old now. The President will speak very briefly to this group in the East Room, very briefly, like a moment or two, and then invite them to the State Dining Room for a reception. If you care to, there is coverage of that, but it is going to not be substantive.

Q How do you know?

MR. NESSEN: That is the plan.

On the Wisconsin primary, as I understand it, some polls close at 8:30 and some polls close at 9 o'clock Washington time. I think they have machines for all the localities over 5,000 now, so a result could be in relatively early.

The President's plan is to spend the evening with Mrs. Ford in the Residence, and I think our plan here will be the same as it has on other primary nights.

MORE

#473

The President is confident that he will win but doesn't predict any particular margin, although he thinks it will be quite close, given the fact that Governor Reagan has run a far more extensive campaign than the President was able to. Governor Reagan, of course, has tried to fool the reporters into believing that he didn't campaign there when, in fact, as you know, he campaigned in the State six days whereas the President campaigned two and a half days.

Reagan has run these advertisements that many of you saw when we were out there, advertising that his half-hour TV commercial would be on, I think, 11 stations in three days, that kind of concentrated campaigning.

In addition, he has run a radio commercial, I believe, six times a day on 45 stations in Wisconsin. In addition to that, he has had a heavy telephone campaigning organization and, in addition to that, a number of people and organizations have run a very heavy campaign on his behalf, such as the Conservative Union and, I think they call it, the Independent Party out there. In any case, he has run, as I say, a far heavier campaign than the President has but the President still believes he will win.

Q Can I ask a question on that point?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q You have said here often that you reflect the views of the President. Do you reflect the views of the President when you saw Governor Reagan is trying to fool the reporters?

MR. NESSEN: That was my own opinion.

Q Just so we won't be fooled twice, suppose you ran down for us some of the equivalent categories for the Ford campaign, the number of radio spots, how many radio stations and so forth, and so on. You say the only statistic you have given is the fact the President has campaigned there only two and a half days. Then you give a bunch of things done on Reagan's behalf. What about giving us the same score for the Ford campaign?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have the figures here, but the PFC will be able to provide it.

Q There was, of course, some campaign conducted on the President's behalf of an equivalent nature to the kinds of things you outlined by Reagan, right?

MR. NESSEN: I am sure there was, but I don't have the details.

Q How did you happen to have the Reagan details and not the Ford details?

MR. NESSEN: I wanted to give you that as a little bit of background for your viewing as the results come in.

Q You don't think anybody in the White House has ever tried to fool us, do you?

MR. NESSEN: It would be hard to do, Les.

Q Let's have the text again.

MR. NESSEN: I am coming to that, but let me announce one thing for Thursday; that is, the President is announcing that he is taking the next step in his campaign to reform the regulatory agencies and activities of the Government. He has invited the chairmen of each of the 10 independent regulatory agencies and one other commissioner to a meeting in the Cabinet Room at the White House on Thursday at 2:00 p.m. Would you like me to run through the 10 agencies?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: It is the CAB, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the FCC, the Federal Maritime Commission, the FPC, the FTC, the ICC, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the SEC.

Q No NLRB?

MR. NESSEN: That is not an independent regulatory agency, Jim.

Q Who are the other persons to be there?

MR. NESSEN: The chairman and one other member of each commission. It is at 2 o'clock in the Cabinet Room on Thursday. The meeting will continue the review of regulatory policies and practices that, if you recall, began in July at a meeting the President had in the East Room with the commissioners of all the regulatory agencies.

Q What is the other agency? What is the 11th agency?

MR. NESSEN: I think I said 10.

Q And one other commission, you said.

MR. NESSEN: I said the chairman and one other commissioner of each agency.

Q Is there any thought being given to having the first part of it open to press coverage?

MR. NESSEN: There will be, obviously, some press coverage of some parts of the meeting, but we haven't worked out the exact press plans yet.

Q At this session, is the President going to tell them what he has now decided they should do?

MR. NESSEN: Let me run through the rest of the announcement.

In announcing this, the President is emphasizing that he has placed the highest priority on seeing that Federal agencies modernize their procedures and insure that the regulations they create do not impose unnecessary burdens on the economy. As you know, the President, also pointing out that the reform of the regulatory agencies in part has to be done by legislation and in part by administrative action, on the legislative front has already proposed reform in the areas of transportation, banking and natural gas.

The other part of it -- administrative changes -- he is urging these particular commissions to reform themselves administratively through a four-point program. This was discussed at the July meeting.

Point number one was to improve the economic analysis of both proposed new regulations and existing regulations.

Number two, he asked them to reduce the delay in reaching decisions on matters that came before them.

The third thing he asked them to do at that meeting in July was to increase the representation of consumer interests in making their decisions.

Number four, he asked them to conduct their activities in a way that would increase competition in the American economy and in the areas which they regulate.

Now, each of these 10 agencies that are coming to the meeting on Thursday have sent to the President a written report on their progress in meeting these four requirements that the President placed on them. This meeting will be to discuss their progress and to review their practices and procedures.

The President will be there, of course, and the organizers of the meeting are the Deputy Counsel to the President, Edward Schmults, and Paul McAvoy, who is a member of the Council of Economic Advisers. These two men are the co-chairmen of the Domestic Council's review group on regulatory reform.

As I said, the meeting will specifically discuss the changes that have been made, the reforms made administratively since the July meeting, and to discuss what further steps can be taken by these agencies.

Q Can we get copies of those reports they have submitted?

MR. NESSEN: I will ask Ed whether that can be done.

Now, for the Texas trip that Bob was asking about, the outline is still pretty slim at the moment, although I will give you a rough idea of how it is going to go. I would look for the President to leave at about 8:00 or 8:30 on Friday morning. The first stop will be San Antonio, and the event there will be a Bicentennial ceremony in front of the Alamo at the Alamo Plaza, it is called.

From San Antonio, the President will go to Dallas. There will be several events in the Dallas area. The details have not been worked out yet.

Q Is the Alamo event a morning event?

MR. NESSEN: I think by the time we get there it will be towards mid-day.

Q Will there be an early afternoon event in Dallas?

MR. NESSEN: That is all being worked out, and I hope to have more for you tomorrow.

Q Is John Connally going to accompany the President on any of the Texas swing?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that.

Q Can you find out?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, I will.

I think the overnight stop will be in Dallas.

On Saturday the President will go to El Paso, where one event will be a speech to the Statewide Convention of the Texas Feed and Grain Association. That will be a speech and a question and answer session.

Q Do you know how many Republicans there are in El Paso? I think there are about four. (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: They will all be there, too, for the speech. (Laughter)

Q Will that be a mid-day event, that speech?

MR. NESSEN: We are just not that far along in the planning, Bob.

Q Is there a press conference Saturday morning in Dallas?

Q What did you say it would be?

MR. NESSEN: On Saturday is the speech and question and answer session before the Texas Feed and Grain Association.

Q Where?

MR. NESSEN: El Paso.

Q Whereabouts in El Paso?

MR. NESSEN: We haven't worked out all those details yet. The people are still down there. The outlook for the news conference in Dallas, I think, is up in the air at the moment. There has been no news conference laid out at the moment.

Also, in El Paso the President will participate in a Bicentennial ceremony commemorating the Gold Star Mothers, mothers who have lost their sons in war. This will be at a downtown plaza in El Paso.

On Saturday afternoon, the President will travel to Amarillo and the details of the events in that city have not been worked out yet. I expect that by tomorrow some of this will be firmed up more than it is now.

Q Amarillo is the last stop?

Q Will there be any public place for him to have a meal there or anything in Amarillo? (Laughter) I mean, sort of a barbeque?

MR. NESSEN: Tell me what you are aiming at so I will know what to say.

Q I wondered if he is going to a ranch or something like that?

MR. NESSEN: We are not that far along in the planning of this trip yet.

Q Is Amarillo the last stop?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Is he going to Abilene?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think Abilene was ever on this trip.

Q Do you have any estimated time of return?

MR. NESSEN: I wouldn't make any plans for Saturday night. (Laughter)

Q You said yesterday you would ask the President if he felt that it was right for Senator Tower and Governor Reagan to debate the issues face-to-face?

MR. NESSEN: He doesn't have any opinion at all.

Q No opinion at all?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Where are we staying in Dallas?

MR. NESSEN: It looks like it could be the Fairmont, Aldo.

Q There will be an event probably in Dallas that night?

MR. NESSEN: I would certainly think so.

Q Where is the Statewide Convention of the Feed and Grain people meeting in El Paso?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have the location yet.

Q The Gold Star meeting -- is that national, statewide or citywide?

MR. NESSEN: Let me check on this, Frank.

Q There are no plans while he is in El Paso for him to take a look at the border situation, or anything like that?

MR. NESSEN: This is a very, very sketchy outline, Sarah. The trip really has not been nailed down beyond this outline.

Q What else is the President doing in the political sense today? Is he making any checks?

MR. NESSEN: Today? He is being President today.

Q Is he making any phone calls? Where is Rogers Morton today?

MR. NESSEN: Rogers Morton is --

Q That suggests there are days when he isn't.

MR. NESSEN: Like every day.

Rogers Morton is out West somewhere -- Denver, I think.

Q He won't be here to keep him posted on what is happening?

MR. NESSEN: I don't believe he will be back in time for the election results.

Q Will any of the Texas Democrats -- for instance, Governor Briscoe -- be at that Alamo deal?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have that much detail yet, Dick. It will come together toward the end of the week.

Q Do you have any response on the Soviet Union -- I don't know if it is a letter, memorandum or note -- in connection with the campaigning on the part of the Presidential candidates in the Post today?

MR. NESSEN: I am not sure what that one is.

Q The speech given in the UN.

MR. NESSEN: Let me check that. I have heard about it but I didn't think to get any reaction on it.

Q There is a source for this story out of the Pentagon saying the Soviet Union now has advisors training Rhodesian black terrorists in Mozambique.

Q Can we hear back here?

MR. NESSEN: I am listening to the question and will repeat it.

Q There is a source for this story out of the Pentagon saying there are now 18 Soviet advisors in Mozambique training Rhodesian terrorists for guerilla warfare in Rhodesia. Do you want to warn the Soviet Union against adventurism in Africa?

MR. NESSEN: I have never even heard of the allegation before you just mentioned it, Walt.

Q It is a story out of the Pentagon this morning.

MR. NESSEN: I have not heard of it. Why don't you address the question over there.

Q They don't usually warn against adventurers, and Secretary Kissinger has always warned of serious consequences should either the Soviet Union or Cuba indulge in further activity of this sort. I wondered if perhaps you wanted to say something on this?

MR. NESSEN: I have never heard of the charge before. I just can't help you with it.

Q Will you check it?

MR. NESSEN: I will check it, yes.

Q Have you heard of the Cubans being in Mozambique or anything like that?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have any confirmation here that they are, no.

Q It is a newspaper you read.

MR. NESSEN: It may well be but I have no confirmation on it.

Q Does the President agree with Rogers Morton's statement that Henry Kissinger is now a political asset in view of the two sworn statements that Dr. Kissinger enforced the Office of Education to hire his brother-in-law?

MR. NESSEN: Let me do that in two parts, Les. One, see what the President said about Dr. Kissinger in Green Bay.

MORE

Q I know.

MR. NESSEN: Secondly, (Laughter) call up the U.S. Civil Service Commission and ask for Mr. Robert E. Hampton and get him to read you the letter he wrote to the Washington Post today.

Q Hampton is it?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, Mr. Hampton, and I think that will take care of your question.

Q Can't you summarize?

MR. NESSEN: No, I will not release Civil Service Commission letters from here.

Q Wasn't it sent to the Post?

MR. NESSEN: I suggest you get the letter.

Q Why should we get a letter he sent to the Washington Post?

MR. NESSEN: I thought you were interested in the letter, or Les was interested in the letter.

Q Aren't you interested in Dr. Kissinger forcing his brother-in-law on the Office of Education?

MR. NESSEN: Get the Civil Service letter and then, if you still have the question, come back and ask it.

Q You seem to be implying Mr. Hampton has written to the Washington Post in some sense denying this or saying the facts are wrong, or something. Is Mr. Hampton's letter to the Washington Post to be taken as the White House answer to this charge?

MR. NESSEN: The White House has no answer because if you read the Civil Service Commission letter, there is no question.

Q Ron, is this really fair, for us to have to go chasing after a letter that was written to the Washington Post? None of us except the Washington Post reported this thing. You must know what the thing is. Could you, as Jim said, give us the essence of what he says?

MR. NESSEN: I am neither the Press Secretary for the Civil Service Commission, nor the Washington Post, nor Dr. Kissinger, nor his brother-in-law.

Q But Dr. Kissinger is Secretary of State.

MR. NESSEN: As I say, if you will read the Civil Service Commission letter, there is no question left to answer.

Q Does that mean the White House has no question because there is no answer? (Laughter)

Q You want to bet there won't be questions on that, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: They don't belong here, if there are any questions, Les.

Q Ron, does the White House know anything or have any information about some terrorists from the PLO being trained in Cuba?

MR. NESSEN: I thought somebody just asked that.

Q No, we asked about some other areas. This is Cuba.

MR. NESSEN: Some PLO terrorists being trained in Cuba?

Q That is right.

MR. NESSEN: I have not heard of that, either.

Q Will you see if you can find out whether the White House has a position on that or if they have heard anything about it at all?

MR. NESSEN: I have not heard anything about it, but I will see if anybody else has.

Q Has the White House received a letter from 100 odd Members of Congress?

MR. NESSEN: A letter has been received from Congressman Fraser only, and I believe Congressman Fraser lists the names of a number of somewhere in the 119 or 120 area of members, but he has signed the letter. Yes, it has come and it has come to the Congressional Liaison Office, which is where the letters come, and it will be acknowledged first, as is the procedure, and then will be answered later.

Q Has the President seen it?

MR. NESSEN: What was that question again?

The President has not seen the letter yet. That is why it is acknowledged first and then it goes in to him and he reads it and drafts an answer to it.

Q Might I ask you a question about another letter that goes back several weeks?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q I meant to ask yesterday, but never got a chance.

Some weeks ago there was a question of the United States' reply to, I believe it was, Mr. Miki asking for details, names and so forth, of bribes allegedly paid to Japanese officials and other persons in Japan. At that time you said, if I remember correctly, the matter was being reviewed and involved the question of policy as to whether these names would be released and so forth and so on.

What has been the decision on that, and has the letter ever gone out?

MR. NESSEN: That letter went out a long time ago.

Q Yes, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: Jim was wondering what ever happened to -- if you recall, Prime Minister Miki of Japan requested that the United States provide his Government with the names of any Japanese officials that may turn up in American investigations as having received bribes allegedly for American companies. Jim wondered what ever happened to the long-promised reply.

The President did write back, and I think that was probably three weeks ago, maybe, and the letter was made public by the Japanese, the President's letter was made public by the Japanese, and it outlined a procedure by which the names will be turned over to the Japanese authorities.

Q When do you expect to have something to say tonight?

MR. NESSEN: Whenever the returns are firm or conclusive, and if the polls close at 9:00 our time, and they are mostly machines, it could be relatively early.

Somebody asked earlier about the Russian charge at the U.N. concerning American political candidates and comments during the election year. I am reminded that Ambassador Scranton did reply to that and a copy of his reply, which would be the best answer, is available at the State Department. I don't have one here. I don't have a copy here.

Q Is he speaking for the President?

MR. NESSEN: As always.

Q Ron, you mentioned only the Wisconsin primary tonight. There is another primary in another State.

MR. NESSEN: Right.

Q Does the President consider the uncommitted Rockefeller delegation, which will be elected in large part, if not entirely in New York, to be his delegates?

MR. NESSEN: Jim, I don't know enough about or understand the system they have up there. Obviously, the delegates are going to be -- I just don't know enough about it. The PFC people ought to talk to you about that. I don't understand the New York system very well.

Q Did the President overrule his Secret Service agents today by riding in the same car with the Vice President?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I am aware of.

Q Isn't that contrary to recommended procedures?

MR. NESSEN: I think it is only the same airplane. I don't think it applies to the same automobiles.

Q Would you check?

MR. NESSEN: I have never heard of it being the same automobile before. We will check.

Q Ron, Senator Buckley now has a leaked copy of the Sonnenfeldt report --

MR. NESSEN: Doesn't everybody?

Q Congressman Derwinski couldn't get one and Sonnenfeldt pulled Executive privilege. This thing is concealed. I just wonder, what is the President's reaction to this? Does he think that the voters appreciate this business? I mean, the thing has been leaked and now the State Department won't show the original and, first of all, Kissinger claims it was two newsmen who distorted it and now we get the explanation it wasn't, it was a junior foreign officer and a clerk.

Who did distort it, and who are these people that did the distorting? Why is all this concealment going on?

MORE

MR. NESSEN: I don't agree it is concealment, Les. I am told the State Department is having a briefing on the Sonnenfeldt matter now.

Q Now?

MR. NESSEN: That Hal is answering questions. I guess he started about 15 or 20 minutes ago, and I think he can probably clear up any remaining questions about his --

Q Was the President surprised to see the publication of a State Department summary of the Sonnenfeldt report?

MR. NESSEN: I can't vouch that what appeared in the Times is in fact the five- or six-page summary we have talked about here.

Q Well, you have seen it, have you not, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: I have seen which?

Q The five- or six-page summary.

MR. NESSEN: I have.

Q Why are you doubting its authenticity?

MR. NESSEN: I am not doubting the authenticity, I just am not prepared myself to say that is the State Department document.

Q Can't you say right now, as you did yesterday, that you read the State Department document --

MR. NESSEN: That is right.

Q -- and you read the New York Times?

MR. NESSEN: Correct. I have not sat down, side by side, Jim, and followed it out line by line to make sure it is the same document.

Q Do they appear to you, upon the basis of your reading, to be the same?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. I just didn't go through the procedure of comparing them.

Q Without holding you to a line-by-line or a word-by-word --

Q I am interested in the President's reaction to the fact that this now was leaked. Does he deplore this leak?

MR. NESSEN: I didn't hear him comment one way or the other on the publication of that.

Q Doesn't he deplore the fact that somebody messed it up, according to Dr. Kissinger, and somebody ought to be straightened out so they don't mess up cables like this, if they did?

MR. NESSEN: What do you mean "mess up"?

Q He said the junior foreign service officer who took the notes was wrong and then the clerk in transmission was wrong to send a thing like this all over the world, and this is what he told Derwinski. Isn't the President alarmed about the State Department's communications if this is the case?

MR. NESSEN: Les, you may have heard Henry saying something that I haven't but, to my knowledge, there has never been any charge that the five- or six-page summary was messed up or whatever the word was you used.

I think at one point Henry told some people that whoever wrote it didn't capture precisely the way the remark about organic was meant to be. But, in any case, I don't recall that the person who prepared the five- or six-page summary has ever been accused of messing anything up.

Q Ron, why is the White House outraged and indignant when classified material is leaked from Congress supposedly, but when classified information is leaked from the State Department there is not a whimper of resentment?

MR. NESSEN: I think there is always displeasure at documents, classified documents, being leaked, Tom. I just don't go through the procedure each time of denouncing the leak. But there is displeasure at the leaking of any classified documents.

Q Has Carl Albert offered assistance to --

MR. NESSEN: The full Capitol Police Force to track this down?

Q Did the White House leak the document?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know who leaked the document.

Q Could you please tell us who is responsible?

Q Isn't the President interested in finding out who leaked it?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know, Tom.

Q Could you please tell us who was responsible for classifying that material?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. Somebody at the State Department.

Q Was it the Secretary of State, himself?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know, Walt.

Q Will you find out?

MR. NESSEN: Why don't you ask over there. They are in the middle of a briefing on the whole subject now.

Q Is that an accurate portrayal of American policy on Eastern Europe?

MR. NESSEN: Is what? The five- or six-page summary?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: I don't know what your interpretation might be. As far as the President is concerned, what he said in Milwaukee on Saturday is an accurate statement of American policy.

Q The question was whether that five- or six-page summary was an accurate portrayal of the policy as understood and described by the State Department?

MR. NESSEN: Well, I think that is a matter that I am sure various people are going to interpret on their own. My job is to state what the President's policy is or to call your attention to his statement of the policy.

Q Does the President feel that the statement he made in Milwaukee had to be made to clarify misimpressions given by the five- or six-page summary?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know if I would say to clarify misimpressions given by the five- or six-page summary as I would say that he spoke in Milwaukee in response to concerns by people who had read other interpretations -- I mean press interpretations -- of the five- or six-page summary.

Q Then, he does not quarrel with the summary itself?

MR. NESSEN: Quarrel with the summary? How do you mean quarrel with the summary? (Laughter)

Q With the accuracy of it?

MR. NESSEN: I think you have to look at what the summary was, Jim. First of all, the discussion that Hal Sonnenfeldt was involved in with the Ambassadors went on for a number of hours and it was in an historic and philosophical context. Now, that very long conversation was boiled down to five or six pages. There were other people who took part in the conversation. The five or six pages doesn't purport to be verbatim, by any means. So, whether the American policy comes through very clearly and without leaving room for various interpretations in that, I don't know. But I do know that the President stated American policy clearly in Milwaukee on Saturday.

Q What prompted the briefing? Was it the leaking of the document?

MR. NESSEN: I think what prompted the briefing was the kind of questions being asked here and at the State Department by reporters.

Q If I could pursue that for a moment --

MR. NESSEN: I sort of expected you would.

Q The summary was nonetheless sent to all embassies as a reflection of the policy as it was understood or described at that meeting in December. Has that summary been clarified, withdrawn, or altered in any way in any subsequent message to the embassies?

MR. NESSEN: If you will recall last week when I was asked that question, I called to your attention the cable that Secretary Kissinger sent out and I did mention and I did read from it -- the date was the 6th of April; that is, today -- it was a cable that went out to all the diplomatic posts and it was really kind of summarizing what he had told the International Relations Committee when they asked about this subject, and I would say that that is -- now, I don't know whether a cable has been sent out to the embassies based on the President's remarks in Milwaukee the other day, but, if not, then this would be the latest clear statement of American policy in Eastern Europe.

Q Can we be certain that this cable did not go to anyone on the Hill, right?

MR. NESSEN: Which one are we talking about now?

Q The cable, the one in the Times this morning. We can be certain this didn't leak from the Capitol, right?

MR. NESSEN: It wasn't directed to anyone at the Capitol. It was directed to diplomatic posts overseas.

Q There is no suspicion here that someone on Capitol Hill --

MR. NESSEN: I see what you are driving at. The answer is no.

Q What is the answer?

MR. NESSEN: I said to my knowledge that was not directed to or received by people on the Hill. I don't think there is any routine procedure for --

Q That is two pretty good leaks that have come from the State Department. It is getting leaky over there.

Q Why did the Secretary wait until April to clarify this very important document that presumably went out in January or early February?

MR. NESSEN: Margie recalls to me that the Kissinger cable last week went out on March 29. That was the day of the testimony at the International --

Q Not until Evans and Novak exposed this thing did the Secretary do anything to clarify it.

MR. NESSEN: I think the sequence of events, as you know, is that Hal talked to the Ambassadors in London in December. About eight weeks later or early in February this five- or six-page summary of his remarks was prepared and sent to diplomatic posts overseas. Evans and Novak got either a partial or total look at the document. As I now find out, a lot of reporters did. They then wrote their column which people in the Administration felt did not give the proper account of what the Administration's Eastern Europe policy was and from there I think we proceeded through the chain of events which I think you know.

Q You read the summary published in the Times, did you not?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Does it, read in its entirety -- to use a well-worn phrase -- accurately reflect the President's policy on Eastern Europe?

MR. NESSEN: As I said, I don't want to go through a paragraph-by-paragraph, sentence-by-sentence analysis, but whatever interpretation you may make, or others may make, of the five- or six-page summary, the President's policy on Eastern Europe was clearly stated in Milwaukee on Friday.

Q Does the summary in its entirety accurately reflect the President's views?

MR. NESSEN: I think that is probably a judgment each person has to make on reading it.

Q You have already said it does. Now that it has appeared in the Times, does it?

MR. NESSEN: In my own view and the view of people here, it does. However, if anyone has any question about that interpretation, they should look at the President's remarks in Milwaukee for an authoritative and unambiguous statement of American foreign policy in Eastern Europe.

Q Can you define organic relationship?

MR. NESSEN: No, I don't even want to try.

Q Are you aware of any unhappiness on the part of the staff over the segment of film in "All the President's Men" which shows the President introducing Nixon at the 1972 convention?

MR. NESSEN: I am not myself aware of any unhappiness.

Q You are unaware that some of the President's advisers think it is unfair?

MR. NESSEN: I haven't heard anybody talk about it here. I don't think that many people have seen the film yet. I guess one or two people went to the premier and I think some of the secretaries went last night.

Q Is the President going to see it?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know, Helen.

Q Ron, if the Green Bay statement is authoritative and as unambiguous as you have just said, where does that leave your opinion of the thing that is in the Times? Is that unauthoritative and ambiguous?

MR. NESSEN: No. I think Ed is quite right to ask the question because I did say very flatly a few weeks ago, or last week, that, read in its entirety, this was an accurate summary of American policy in Eastern Europe, and I will stick to that. However, if there are any questions about that interpretation, then I refer you to the Friday statement which I think is unambiguous.

Q Why do public campaign appearances more clearly and unambiguously explain foreign policy than classified cables?
(Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: That takes the nonsequiter of the day award. Congratulations. (Laughter)

The President, regardless of whether it is a lunch with ethnic leaders in Milwaukee, or whatever the event happens to be, if the President speaks, as he did in a carefully prepared way in Milwaukee and with the specific purpose of outlining American policy in Eastern Europe and for the specific purpose of responding to concerns raised by the whole Sonnenfeldt episode, you can be sure it is a deliberately and carefully prepared unambiguous statement of American policy in Eastern Europe.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 1:20 P.M. EST)

#473

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 10:55 P.M. EST

APRIL 6, 1976

TUESDAY

MR. NESSEN: Just to fill you in on the President's evening, he spent the evening at home. It was just he and Mrs. Ford together. They had dinner and they watched television a little bit and he did a little work up there. He plans to stay up a little later than usual, to watch the 11:30 TV specials on the election.

As for his sort of official reaction, he is very pleased by the results in Wisconsin, especially the outcome in the delegate race. He wants to thank the campaign workers for their efforts in his behalf and the voters in Wisconsin for their support.

The President is looking forward to the next primaries in Pennsylvania on April 27, and in Texas on May 1. He also probably will call Governor Knowles who, as you know, was leading his campaign in Wisconsin. We plan to make a recording of that. It is going to be a while yet. He thinks really that it is a little early yet since less than 50 percent of the votes are in, to be calling out there, but he will sometime, say, in a half hour to 45 minutes be calling. We will make a recording of that and play it right back.

Q Can we get a camera in there?

MR. NESSEN: It is so late, and they are up there in their study.

Q Has he talked to Morton or anyone like that?

MR. NESSEN: He has talked to Dick and myself, and that is about it.

Q Did he have dinner up there? Did he watch TV?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, and did a little work.

MORE

#474

Q What is the current percentage, do you know?

MR. NESSEN: The latest percentage he has, and I think it is fairly current is 55 percent.

Q The ratio?

MR. NESSEN: 55 to 44.

Q Is that about what you expected?

MR. NESSEN: We expected actually a little less than that. I was going to say at my briefing today -- and it would have broken with the tradition of not giving numbers, but I would have said it today, but the political people said don't give numbers -- I would have said anything over 53 would have been good.

Q What is it?

MR. NESSEN: 55 to 44.

Q You said Pennsylvania is April 27?

MR. NESSEN: Correct.

Q Does he have any reaction on New York?

MR. NESSEN: No, there are no names on the ballot, and that is all delegates pledged to Rockefeller and so forth.

Q Is Reagan entered in Pennsylvania?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q So, the really big contest is Texas?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, except you should remember about Pennsylvania, whether Reagan enters or not, those are delegates that go toward winning the election. If Reagan concedes, that is a large batch of delegates to the President if he wins.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 10:58 P.M. EST)