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NEWS CONFERENCE

#527

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 10:30 A.M. EDT

JULY 7, 1976

WEDNESDAY

MR. NESSEN: I have a couple of things to tell you about, so I thought we could gather here.

On Saturday, the President is going to be going to Newport, Rhode Island, as I think you know. On the way to Newport, the President will stop in Plattsburg, New York to participate in a program honoring the members of the American Olympic Team, which at that point will be departing or getting ready to depart for Canada for the Olympic Games.

Then the President will go to Newport where he will attend a dinner on the Queen's yacht, the Britannia. Mrs. Ford will not go to Plattsburg, but will go to Newport for the dinner.

Tentatively, you can look for a schedule of the President leaving the White House more or less at 12:15 or 12:20 on Saturday, and the press would leave Andrews, say, an hour before that -- 11:30 or 11:20, something like that.

The President will go to Plattsburg Air Force Base -- I don't think this is right -- 12:40, it is more than a 20-minute flight. There will be a reception and an informal meeting with the American Olympic Team, beginning at about 3:30 and then the President will leave Plattsburg Air Force Base at 4:30 and go to the Providence, Rhode Island Airport, arriving at Providence at 5:15.

There will be just some personal relaxing time in the late afternoon and the early evening, and the President will go to the yacht at 8:25 for dinner, and then will leave Newport at 11:20 and get back to Washington shortly after midnight.

Q Where will he be in Newport during the relaxing time?

MR. NESSEN: At the home of the Admiral. It is Vice Admiral and Mrs. Julien Le Bourgeois. He is the Commander of the Naval War College at Newport.

Q What will the coverage be on the Britannia?

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MR. NESSEN: I don't know yet. Doug Blaser is working on it and there will be some coverage, but I would not look for very extensive coverage aboard the Britannia.

Q Will all the Plattsburg activities be at the Air Force Base?

MR. NESSEN: No. Plattsburg State College, which is where the President will meet the Olympic team.

Q Where is our press center in Newport?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have that yet, Ralph, but I am told it will be a nice one and there will be dinner and so forth there.

Q The President is convinced the Olympic team will go on to Montreal despite the coup d'etat over Taiwan?

MR. NESSEN: I am told that word has come from the Olympic team, yes.

Q So it is all settled?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know how the International Olympic Committee is going to eventually resolve that, but the President has been told that the American Olympic competitors will go on to Canada.

Q Ron, is Mrs. Ford going by separate plane, then, later on, or what?

MR. NESSEN: Mrs. Ford is going to fly straight on to Providence and Newport separately, correct.

Q The American Olympic Committee told them that?

MR. NESSEN: Yes. They indicated they expect to compete in Montreal.

The only other things that I have are these: I have had some inquiries about a story that ran on ABC television last night concerning Rog Morton. First of all, I just want to say flatly that Rog Morton is not leaving the PFC, period. The story is not true. Rog told the senior staff this morning, "I have no intention of resigning." And the President says that he has no intention of asking Rog to leave. He is very happy with the way Rog is running the campaign.

Q Ron, did the President tell Rog that this morning?

MR. NESSEN: There was no need to tell Rog that.

Q Why not? There was a story he was going to leave.

MR. NESSEN: I don't think the President always comments upon incorrect television stories, Phil.

Q Ron, he is referring now to what time frame? Is he saying he wants him to stay until the Convention is over or until the election is over in the fall, or until the campaign is over, whenever that comes?

MR. NESSEN: Rog is not leaving the PFC, period. As I understand it, the PFC will remain in business until after the President is elected.

Q Ron, are some people being appointed to the PFC who are right now not on the PFC?

MR. NESSEN: I would think because the PFC has laid off a number of employees, because the money allocation for primaries, as you know, is pretty well used up, when we get into the swing of the fall campaign there is obviously going to be people added to the PFC staff.

Q What about people like Secretary Clements being added to the staff?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have names to give you today, but I would anticipate additional people joining the staff because of the fall campaign.

Q Will there be a separate committee?

MR. NESSEN: You mean organization for the fall campaign?

Q Along with the Republican National Committee?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know exactly how that is going to work in operation in the fall.

Q Will anybody be added before the Convention?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know what the timetable is for beefing-up the PFC for the fall campaign.

Q So, it is possible some people could be added before the Convention?

MR. NESSEN: I just don't know one way or the other, Dick.

Q Ron, does the President or anyone on the White House staff feel this story was another effort to sabotage the President's campaign, to tarnish the image some way, to make it look like it was just confusion and chaos?

MR. NESSEN: I have not heard anybody say anything like that, Phil, except you.

Q As I understand it, a few weeks ago one of the stories -- and I was not here that day -- I believe it was that you suggested there was some people trying to plant bad stories about what was going on in the President's organization?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think I ever suggested that. Anyhow, that is that.

Q Anything else, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: I think if you recall yesterday, when we were talking about the pipeline, I mentioned to you that Secretaries Kleppe and Coleman would send in a preliminary report to the President. That preliminary report will be in writing, and the President will read it. And I expressed to him your interest in seeing it, and he indicated that he would read it and then determine whether to make it available.

Q Kleppe and Coleman are not coming in today?

MR. NESSEN: They are not, no.

Q Has it been received?

MR. NESSEN: If it is not already here, it will be here during the day.

Q This does not alter the group going up with Barnum?

MR. NESSEN: No, it does not. That is a separate group.

Those are really the only things I wanted to pass on to you today.

Q Ron, yesterday Carter said he had met with George Bush and had some CIA briefings. The other day you told us Ford did not intend to have these briefings until after he was nominated. What made him change his mind?

MR. NESSEN: There must have been a misunderstanding about what Carter said because I talked to George Bush before I came out here and George went up to Hershey at the President's direction to meet with Carter to work on arrangements for the briefings, which will start after the nomination of the Democratic candidate, but there have been no briefings so far.

The meeting up in Hershey was for the purpose of making arrangements for the briefings.

Q Does that mean that the CIA will brief Carter instead of the NSC?

MR. NESSEN: There will be a number of people providing briefings, both in writing and in person, but George Bush will be one who will do it.

Q Does that also mean that Carter will have access to the total intelligence picture?

MR. NESSEN: I didn't ask what the precise arrangements were, but as we get closer to the time, I will get you the details.

Q Does this mean the President thinks that Carter is going to get the nomination?

MR. NESSEN: Doesn't everybody? He would make the briefings available to whoever the Democratic candidate is.

Q Does the President have any reaction to Reagan's speech last night?

MR. NESSEN: No, he does not. He did not have a chance to watch it.

Q Do you?

MR. NESSEN: I did not have a chance to watch it, either, actually.

Q Ron, one question about the Olympics. Does the President plan to go to the Olympics at any point during the games?

MR. NESSEN: In Canada?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: No, he does not.

Q Does Mr. Kissinger?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know about Henry's plans. I didn't ask.

Q Ron, the President thinks Mr. Morton has run a good campaign, and he is very pleased with it?

MR. NESSEN: That is correct. That is right.

Q We can quote the President on that?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, or you can say I quoted the President as saying that.

Q Was Ford at the senior staff meeting today when Morton made the statement?

MR. NESSEN: No, I went over and talked to the President last night after the story and again this morning, but the President was not at the senior staff meeting.

Q But Morton was here today, wasn't he?

MR. NESSEN: He is here almost every day.

Q Who did he see?

MR. NESSEN: He saw lots of people.

Q Did he see the President?

MR. NESSEN: As he does every day, almost every day.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 10:40 A.M. EDT)

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

12:35 P.M. EDT

JULY 7, 1976

WEDNESDAY

MR. NESSEN: The reason I wanted to talk to you for a moment before we put the lunch lid on is -- Gail is going to hand out this short notice to the press. The background on this is -- I think the notice is self-explanatory -- the background is that the U.S. Office of Civil Rights, part of the HEW -- a lawyer in that office, or the office itself, I should say, yesterday issued a ruling that father and son events and mother and daughter events that are held in public schools or other public facilities which get Federal funds were illegal under the Title IX anti-sex discrimination law.

When the President read this in the paper this morning, he was really quite irritated, and he asked Jim Lynn and Jim Cannon to look into this, and he phoned Secretary Mathews and got them all working on this and expressed to them his displeasure with this ruling.

Q To whom, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: To Secretary Mathews, to OMB Director Lynn and to Domestic Council Director Cannon.

Q Why does he object to this ruling?

MR. NESSEN: Well, his main objection to this ruling, Fran, is that he does not believe that some lawyer or bureaucrat over at HEW ought to be handing down these kinds of rulings which he feels interfere with kind of family-oriented, traditional American events, like father-son and mother-daughter breakfasts, lunches, and dinners, and so forth, similar events, and he just thinks that this is totally counter to the kind of traditional American values that he believes in, and he does not believe that some agency or office of the Federal Government ought to be throwing its weight and using its regulations to break up and destroy these kinds of family-oriented activities.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.