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NEWS CONFERENCE

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 5:20 P.M. EDT

SEPTEMBER 30, 1976

THURSDAY

MR. NESSEN: Let me mention a couple of things to you.

First of all, we have in the typewriter now -- and it should be available for you in about five or ten minutes -- a statement by the President on the passage by the Senate and House of the general revenue sharing program extension, and we will have that shortly.

Now, after that bill was passed by the two Houses, the President notified Speaker Albert and the Senate also--and I am not sure who got the phone call in the Senate--that he intends to sign the public works appropriation bill, H. R. 15194, and the CETA extension bill, H. R. 12987.

Q Is this the antitrust bill?

MR. NESSEN: No, this is the jobs -- the Community Training Act.

Q Will there be a statement accompanying those?

MR. NESSEN: Well, we are not going to sign them tonight. It is only an announcement that he intends to sign them.

Q That is so they can go out, isn't it?

MR. NESSEN: He promised them that he would give his intention one way or the other on those two bills before they left town, if they passed general revenue sharing, and they did.

I let slip by without prior announcement, more or less by accident, a meeting the President is holding now with a group of political leaders. The meeting was organized by, among others, Governor Milliken of Michigan, Secretary Richardson and Congressman Anderson. In fact, they are the three gentlemen who signed the telegram of invitation to the meeting. And they are all here.

Q Governor Anderson?

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MR. NESSEN: Congressman John Anderson, Republican from Illinois.

The others who are at this meeting, they are all here, are the State Republican Chairman of Michigan, William M. McLaughlin -- let me run through these names quickly and then I will go back and put out a list: Senator Percy; Congressman Conable of New York; State Chairman Dick Rosenbaum of New York; Congressman William A. Steiger of Wisconsin; Senator Bob Packwood of Oregon; Ohio GOP State Chairman Kent McGough; Bill Coleman, the Secretary of Transportation; Pennsylvania National Committee Woman, Elsie Hillman; Housing Secretary Carla Hills; the Connecticut State Republican Chairman Fred Biebel; the Indiana State Chairman Thomas Milligan; and former Pennsylvania Governor Ray Shafer.

The purpose of the meeting, which as I say is going on now -- it did come at the instigation of Milliken, Richardson and Anderson, among others, and they wanted to come in and they wanted to discuss the campaign with the President, their ideas for the campaign. They wanted to demonstrate their support for the President and discuss ways that they could help the President in the campaign.

Now if there is interest, I have checked and Bill Milliken has been designated as more or less the speaker for the group. If there is a request, we could ask him to come down here after the meeting, which I anticipate will be another half hour.

Q We would like to have someone come down.

MR. NESSEN: Well, we will do that then.

That is all I really have at the moment.

Q Would you check and see if any of the other gentlemen might want to come in?

MR. NESSEN: Okay -- or lady.

Q What about the outlook on antitrust?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have an outlook on antitrust actually. Obviously, he has to make a decision by midnight. It could be if he makes it late in the evening that I would just hold it and announce it in the morning.

Q What about a lid? Does it look like a long time before we get a lid?

MR. NESSEN: I think so.

Q In the overriding of the veto today, the Senate apparently joined the House --

MR. NESSEN: Did both override it?

Q You think it will be quite a while before we get a lid?

MR. NESSEN: That is my guess, when you have a couple of bills hanging fire and Bill Milliken coming in a half hour, and a statement on revenue sharing.

You know, I did not know the Senate had overridden on the other.

Q The question is, on the antitrust thing, at what point would you be inclined to cut that off?

MR. NESSEN: Let's wait and get everything else cleaned up and if we still don't have that we will make a judgment, okay?

Q The tax bill, will he sign the tax bill?

MR. NESSEN: There has been no decision on that, Naomi.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END (AT 5:25 P.M. EDT)