

This Copy For _____

NEWS CONFERENCE

#600

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 11:35 A.M. EST

NOVEMBER 17, 1976

WEDNESDAY

Mr. NESSEN: Let me mention a couple of additions on the schedule today.

At 10 o'clock, Senator Javits came in. Senator Javits requested the meeting and I do not have a subject to give you.

Also, at noon the staff of Vice President Rockefeller will meet with the President for the purpose of having a photo taken. Over the past several months the staffs of each of the White House offices has been in to have its picture taken with the President.

The budget meeting this afternoon which shows on the schedule will deal with decisions, tentative decisions at least, in the area of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and several other small agencies that deal in science projects.

Just to go back a moment to yesterday, the meeting or the reception, really, late yesterday afternoon, or early evening -- I will fill in some of the details we did not have yesterday.

Yesterday's reception in the State Dining Room was sort of the conclusion of a day-long session for the so-called Eagles Club of the Republican Party. These are people who have donated fairly large amounts of money to the party. They had a day-long session, which had been sponsored by the Republican National Finance Committee, and about 150 people came.

The session had been, I understand, planned about two months ago. It included briefings by Secretary Kissinger, Secretary Simon and Congressman Vander Jagt and Senator-elect Schmitt, and a speech by Vice President Rockefeller. This was a day-long session held at the Shoreham Hotel.

Then at 5:00 o'clock the group came to the reception at the White House. Then there was the award to Governor Connally. This is an award by the Finance Committee. It is intended to be an annual award. Yesterday was the first of the awards. It was to honor those people who have done the most in the past year to aid the Republican National Finance Committee. Governor Connally was deemed to have done so and was presented with the award, which consisted of a painting of the American Bald Eagle.

MORE

#600

Q Is he going to do it himself?

MR. NESSEN: I did talk to some people on the Finance Committee, and so forth, about some confusion over the announcement and some confusion over press arrangements. I was told that the announcement was made fairly late in the day by the RNC or the Finance Committee and that it was to be a closed reception.

Q Excuse me. Before you go on, why was that closed?

MR. NESSEN: It is just traditional for their meetings, including the reception, to be closed.

Q Ron, I requested an official White House photo of that yesterday. I haven't heard whether or not that is going to be granted.

MR. NESSEN: I hadn't heard about the request. I will check.

Q I would like to have the picture.

Q Did not the RNC put out a press release on that at 11 o'clock yesterday morning?

MR. NESSEN: I am told they did not put it out until really about an hour before the presentation. I can check for you.

The other thing we talked about yesterday was the President's trip as the guest of Vice President Rockefeller this coming weekend to the estate at Tarrytown.

Based on what I guess was not the most clear description given to me of the ceremony that is to take place there, or the events relating to the Park Service and so forth, John Mulliken of the Vice President's staff has come over today to try to clarify exactly what the event will be at Tarrytown this week.

John?

MORE

#600

MR. MULLIKEN: Thank you, Ron.

Good morning. Best to start chronologically, I guess. On May 11, Secretary Kleppe designated Pocantico or the Vice President's residence in Pocantico, or the family's residence in Pocantico a historic landmark.

What is going to happen on the 21st is that the President is a visitor to the Vice President's home for the weekend and there will be an informal, private dedication ceremony given by the President and the Vice President will be there.

The actual historic event took place on May 11th. The plaque has been there since May 11th. The question, of course, is what is a landmark? This is merely a designation. There is no transfer of land, no transfer of house, no transfer of any form of property from the Rockefeller family to the United States Government. It is just as though somebody came over and tapped your house and said that it is a historically significant house, it deserves a plaque, it gets a plaque and from now on if you keep the house up, you remain historically significant.

Q Does it mean the Federal Government will pay for any upkeep?

MR. MULLIKEN: There is no Federal Government money involved in this.

Q Are there any tax benefits for the owner of the property?

MR. MULLIKEN: None.

Q How does one go about getting this designation? Can I apply for it?

MR. MULLIKEN: If the Secretary of the Interior feels that you --

Q I am serious. If I have a place that I think really fits into that category, how do I go about doing it? I don't call them, they call me? How is it?

MR. MULLIKEN: It is a mutual thing with the Department of Interior. There are three criteria. How it works is between the Department of the Interior and you: I would rather have the Department of Interior answer. It is a mutual thing, they recognize things. If your house meets the criteria, they agree to that, they designate it.

Q I just was wondering, if any reporters want to cover this event, what is the necessity of keeping them out?

MR. MULLIKEN: Let me give you the schedule, then I will tell you the necessity. The President, as I understand it, is arriving at six o'clock. He will be a private guest on the estate of the Vice President and his family.

The next morning, which is Sunday, the 21st, they will go to church, Union Church in Pocantico Hills. This is open. This can be covered. After that the ceremony will take place -- that will be closed -- around 12:30. The Vice President extends to those members of the press who are there, an invitation to come to brunch at the Playhouse of the estate. It is not near where the ceremony will take place. The reason is that he considers this a family and private ceremony. It is not just the Vice President's house. It is his family's house.

It is a private ceremony which he wants to hold for the family with the President and the President has agreed to this private ceremony.

Q John, could I ask, are there now or will there be, are there pending any requests for Federal-State matching funds for the upkeep or maintenance of the estate under this program?

MR. MULLIKEN: No. There are studies, if the house should ever be transferred and become public, which would be in a long, long time -- the other brothers have to be considered, presumably it would be after -- this is not definite, I am speculating -- after they died, after many years. There might be a transfer if it is all considered and worked out and confirmed.

Q But as I understand it under the designation program, if the State or the Federal Government unilaterally wanted to provide funds for the upkeep, they could under a Federal-State matching program? Is there anything on paper now regarding that?

MR. MULLIKEN: No.

Q John, what are the three criteria?

MR. MULLIKEN: I will read them if you don't mind, having not made them up.

Q You can boil them down?

MR. MULLIKEN: They are pretty boiled down. When I get to them I will boil them down a little further.

The three criterion are: significance in a given field, one; association with individuals and events, two; and integrity, the latter meaning that the original and tangible elements which contribute to significance must remain intact.

It is a point here, if you have a house and it is designated and you don't paint it, you let it run down, it becomes a shambles and embarrassment to the United States and to history, your plaque can be removed.

MR. NESSEN: Just lost my plaque. (Laughter.)

MR. MULLIKEN: That is the question of integrity.

Q Can you tell us a little about this house? Is it architecturally significant, is it being selected because it is the Rockefeller house? Tell us the basis for the decision on this particular mansion.

MR. MULLIKEN: Yes. I can tell you why it is being selected which is the reason that the Secretary of the Interior has given to this. It relates back to John D., Senior, who began all of this. We are going to have a history of this, short history put out today.

Q Just a couple of lines now, please.

MR. MULLIKEN: I will read you this. John D. Rockefeller -- talking about this -- here is the epitome of both success and philanthropy, the contribution to the greatness of America are enormous. He created a modern corporation, established efficient management processes which have been emulated around the world. Having amassed enormous wealth in 40 years of hard work, he devoted 40 years to investing a major portion of that wealth in philanthropic programs and his philosophy was creative as his business enterprises have been, and believed in helping people to help themselves, a most magnificent form of charity.

MORE

Q Why has it been designated?

Q Which one of those three is that?

MR. MULLIKEN: That is general; all three together.

Q That doesn't have anything to do with the house?

MR. MULLIKEN: It is the whole thing. The house is part of the whole area.

Q It was John D. Rockefeller that makes this actually -- that is the actual criterion?

MR. MULLIKEN: That is where it began.

Q The house itself --

MR. MULLIKEN: No. Mount Vernon --

Q Any one of these three criteria?

MR. MULLIKEN: You mean is it architecturally significant? No.

Q I was under the impression it had to meet all three of these. Apparently it only has to meet one?

MR. MULLIKEN: No. It has to meet all three.

Q I don't mean to belabor this. What does the estate have to do -- what is the estate's significance in a given field, for example?

MR. MULLIKEN: The association, the historical association? Yes.

Q Yes what?

MR. MULLIKEN: I answered his question. It is like Mt. Vernon, Monticello, all of these houses. They are landmarks, they are being associated with the people who lived in them. It is the whole package, really.

Q What was the last designation before this?

MR. MULLIKEN: The last designated historical landmark? I don't know.

Q Can you tell us, I was under the impression, and apparently incorrectly, that Pocantico Hills was the name of the estate.

MR. MULLIKEN: No. Here we go into history. The name of the house, just the house itself, is Kykuit, which is Dutch for Lookout, because Henry Hudson sailed up the Hudson River there. Pocantico is the name of the area. The house is in the Pocantico Hills. Pocantico is an Indian name which means "A swift dark stream running between two hills."

Q How many acres is involved in the property?

MR. MULLIKEN: In the whole estate?

Q On the estate.

MR. MULLIKEN: All of those acres are not involved.

Q I understand that.

MR. MULLIKEN: About 3500.

Q Is there any responsibility or requirement on the part of the recipient of this designation to not only keep it painted but make it available to the public?

MR. MULLIKEN: None, as long as it is a private house, which it still is.

Q Do you have the latest assessed valuation?

MR. MULLIKEN: No.

Q John, aside from the private ceremony on Sunday, will it ever be possible for the general public to go in and view this plaque and perhaps take photographs of the house?

MR. MULLIKEN: I hope we will have a photograph of the plaque. As of now, there are no plans for the general public to go in.

Q As a historic landmark, the public will not be able to view it?

MR. MULLIKEN: No.

Q Is there any stipulation if this house were ever sold where in the advertisement it couldn't use the fact that it had been designated such, as one of the selling points?

MR. MULLIKEN: I don't see how you could avoid the fact that it was a historic landmark if you were talking about it.

Q It seems very odd to me you are getting all of this attention and yet the thing remains private. It just doesn't all seem very well.

MR. MULLIKEN: An awful lot of landmarks remain private.

Q Name one.

MR. MULLIKEN: There are 1200 of them.

Q Just name me one that is private, no pictures can be taken.

MR. MULLIKEN: I will have to talk to the Department of the Interior. I don't control landmarks.

Q This is one of 1200?

MR. MULLIKEN: Sure.

Q There are 1200 such designations?

MR. MULLIKEN: Over 1200.

Q There has to be more than that in the USA. Is that a yearly total?

Q How many rooms does it have?

Q How old is the house?

MR. MULLIKEN: The first house burned down. The area was purchased in 1893. The first house burned down in 1902. It was rebuilt, another house rebuilt. That is the house there. It goes through many changes. That was completed in 1913.

Q How big is the house?

MR. MULLIKEN: I don't know. He has never put out the number of rooms. There are quite a few.

Q Architecturally, what is its style?

MR. MULLIKEN: Architecturally, the style is Georgian. (Laughter)

I can read to you. Do you want a little more of the style?

Q Sure.

MR. MULLIKEN: No? It is a consensus.

Q Go ahead.

Q If you are going to put out this background --

MR. MULLIKEN: I am going to put it out.

Q John, one question: Did the Department of the Interior announce this designation May 11th?

MR. MULLIKEN: Did they put it out over there? I don't know, John. I will have to find out. But the President didn't know about it at that time and it was strictly Secretary Kleppe.

Q Did the Vice President ask for this designation? Did anybody in his family ask for it or was this initiated at the Interior Department?

MR. MULLIKEN: It has been worked out back and forth. I don't think anybody asked for it. I will have to find out. Obviously he had to go into negotiations. They are still talking about the negotiations.

Q Negotiations on --

MR. MULLIKEN: Not for the landmark, but if it ever becomes public property.

Q I thought I understood you to say there were no plans to open --

MR. MULLIKEN: No. I said there are discussions about that way in the future, not a day-by-day thing. They don't sit down and read it every day and talk about this. But it is under consideration. It is under discussion that it may some day, when the brothers have no longer any use for it, become public property.

Q Are there discussions to have Federal funding or Federal and State matching grants to keep the property up?

MR. MULLIKEN: Not while it is private. If it ever becomes public, of course, that would have to be decided.

Q That is in the discussions or the negotiations?

MR. MULLIKEN: How it would be done, what would be done, which way it would go, there are two or three different ways it could become public, not only the National Park Service. That would all have to be worked out; also how it would be maintained.

Q Is that included in these negotiations for the far future?

MR. MULLIKEN: Yes. But don't have a feeling these are ongoing, day-by-day negotiations. They aren't. They are under consideration.

Q Is designation of a property as a historic landmark required before it could be taken over as a public property?

MR. MULLIKEN: No.

Q For the past 10 years, every clipping that I could find in our library describes the estate as 4180 acres. You said 3500.

MR. MULLIKEN: That is right.

Q Has there been a land sale?

MR. MULLIKEN: No. I have seen about five or six different things. I have seen 4000. The current history I am using says 3500. I have seen 4100, too. I have used 4100.

Q But you don't know of any disposition of property?

MR. MULLIKEN: No.

Q Does this designation increase the value of his property?

MR. MULLIKEN: The value is in the eye of the assessor and the buyer, I guess. The assessor comes around, says this is more valuable, I suppose that is his judgment, or the buyer says, if there were such a thing as a buyer, "I now prefer to live in a historic landmark."

Q The only reason I raise the question is because, as Phil suggested earlier, most of these locations are open to the public. Since this one won't be, it just occurred to me that this could make it worth more money. But you don't know?

MR. MULLIKEN: It is not a hard and fast thing. I suppose if somebody thinks it is worth more money. It is not automatic.

Q Is that transferrable? If it is sold, does it remain?

MR. MULLIKEN: If you sell it, do you keep the landmark? I would think so. I will have to check it. I would think so, unless you lost your plaque. (Laughter)

Q Thank you.

MR. NESSEN: If you have to ask how much the taxes are, you can't afford it. (Laughter)

Q Are you going to put out those press releases here, rather than in the Vice President's office?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, we can.

Where was I? I don't have any other announcements to make.

Q There is an unanswered question on the SALT treaty yesterday. Can you answer it today?

MR. NESSEN: The SALT treaty: The answer is, we continue to work toward the conclusion of a SALT agreement. There has been a continuing exchange of views that, as we say, has not been related in any way to the American political situation, and that exchange of views in the past several months has resulted in progress in several areas. The talks have continued in Geneva.

Our goal has always been the same. It is not changed now. That is, when an agreement can be concluded which is in America's best interest, it will be. I cannot give you a timetable. There is not a timetable. But if an agreement can be concluded in America's interest before the inauguration of President Carter, it will be.

Q The question specifically yesterday was, is there any optimism around here that such an agreement can be concluded before January 20th?

MR. NESSEN: I just don't want to characterize the degree of optimism.

Q Ron, a couple of times lately Carter has been asked about the prospect of an OPEC oil price increase. He said on both occasions that he is really in no position to do anything about it because he won't be President until January 20th. I am wondering, is President Ford doing anything to prevent another OPEC price hike?

MR. NESSEN: I will have to look into that.

Q He hasn't said anything publicly on it.

MR. NESSEN: I think our position remains unchanged. I think I have been asked generally our view, not specifically of what we are doing, but generally the view is a price increase is unjustified because, as you well know, the production is far below capability, therefore indicating that demand is not equal to the potential supply, and under those conditions we do not believe that a price increase is justified.

Q Can I return for just a second to the SALT thing? I don't think -- my impression is you haven't advanced the general state of your comments today with what you said before.

MR. NESSEN: I hope not.

Q But it did strike me you said if an agreement can be concluded in the American national interest before President-elect Carter's Inauguration, it will be. Is that what you said?

MR. NESSEN: That has always been the position, of course.

Q It seemed to me the last time I heard you say anything about this similarly was before the election. In effect, you are saying that if they could achieve the same goals that they were seeking before the election now, they would go ahead with an agreement, even though, or would that be with or without Carter's approval?

MR. NESSEN: Dick, I think you are dealing here with hypothetical cases of what, if, and so forth. I am giving you the American position, which is that if we could conclude an agreement we would do so. But I cannot forecast whether one will be or not. The timing of this has never been dependent on political events.

Q Could we conclude, then, that perhaps the ball is in the Soviet court and if they consider it more to their advantage to do business with the Ford Administration than the Carter Administration that the Soviet Union will probably be the determinant as to whether there is or is not a SALT treaty before the 20th?

MR. NESSEN: I cannot speak for what the Soviet attitude toward the talks has been. There has been progress in some areas over the past few months. But again, I wouldn't make this out to be some startling announcement or revelation on my part.

What I am trying to indicate is that the position that we have taken all along has not changed, that the timing of an agreement is--the factor there is when we can get an agreement in our interest and not whether it can be done before the election or before the inauguration.

Q What are the prospects for a SALT agreement before January 20th? Why couldn't you tell us?

MR. NESSEN: You know, you want me to say they are 60-40, 70-30 or 90-10 or 50-50. The President at one time declined to get into that kind of numbers game, and I do, too.

Q I didn't suggest the numbers. That was your suggestion. What I was hoping for was a statement to the effect that prospects are dim for a SALT agreement before a new administration, or as you say, there has been continual progress and there is still a possibility toward it. I am not trying to put words in your mouth. I am saying we don't have to play numbers games. We can play English.

MR. NESSEN: I don't want to play. I don't want to characterize the outlook. I really just don't think it is proper.

Q Mr. Nessen, the State Department has said it would not enter any major foreign policy initiatives before Mr. Carter takes office because it doesn't want to limit his flexibility. Wouldn't the SALT agreement or acceptance of one by this administration hamper the flexibility?

MR. NESSEN: This is, of course, an ongoing negotiation. It has been going on, I guess, for two years, nearly two years. It is not a new initiative being launched. It is ongoing. The talks have been going on in Geneva.

MORE

Q To conclude a treaty now would be you are using your own assessment of what is in America's interest rather than letting Mr. Carter decide what is in America's interest.

MR. NESSEN: I don't think we can go much further with the subject. I have given you the general American position which hasn't changed. I would rather not characterize the outlook and beyond that I don't see what I can say.

Q Ron, has the meeting been set up now, the date for it with Ford and Carter?

MR. NESSEN: I think I will have that for you very shortly.

Q What is very shortly, today?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Four o'clock announcements?

MR. NESSEN: Maybe earlier.

Q Do you have anything more on the Silberman resignation, when he resigned, when it was effective?

MR. NESSEN: Larry Silberman? John, can you check that?

MR. CARLSON: We posted some announcements.

Q Do you have a date on when his letter of resignation was effective?

MR. NESSEN: We will check. We have been having, as you know, a fair number of resignations. We have more or less decided to put them out in list form. If there is any interest in further details of individual resignations we can get those for you.

Q I notice on the appointments today there is one for a seven-year term on the Consumer Product Safety Commission. I am wondering, is the President going to continue to make these long-term appointments in his last weeks in office rather than reserve, giving Mr. Carter the right to fill those vacancies?

MR. NESSEN: The answer is that he is going to continue with his entire range of presidential duties and responsibilities until noon on January 20th. And he feels quite strongly about that, intends to do so in all areas, including that one.

Q If I could just point out, I believe that announcement is in error. You might want to check further. Thym Smith advised me that that was a recess appointment and that those --

MR. NESSEN: Rather than a seven-year term appointment.

MR. CARLSON: That is a term he is filling.

Q Yes, but as I understand it, that nomination was not approved by the Senate and that this is still in the category of recess appointment. You might want to check that.

MR. NESSEN: We will check it out.

Q Do you have any further advisory on when the President will announce publicly his plans, what he is going to do? Will it be after Thanksgiving or the first of the month?

MR. NESSEN: No. But based on his view he is not rushing, he is concentrating primarily on the presidential duties, looking and listening, as I said yesterday, I would think later rather than earlier.

Q How about the Thanksgiving plans? When are we going to get those?

OFF THE RECORD

MR. NESSEN: Larry Silberman submitted his resignation on the 5th of November and the effective date of the resignation is to be determined. It has not been determined yet.

Q Ron, in agreeing to sell arms to Sudan, has the Ford Administration ever investigated to see what Egypt has actually done with the convicted murderers of Ambassador Noel whom the Sudan released to Egypt? The Foreign Service Association was very deeply concerned about the President entertaining --

MR. NESSEN: Les, if you recall, we go through this recitation each time Sudan comes up in the news. I will be happy to run through it for you again.

Q Hopefully, I ask the question because I would presume, I would hope that maybe the United States Government would determine, would initiate something to find out what happened to these murderers? Are they in prison, in a villa or have they been released?

MR. NESSEN: The same answer as the last time the question was raised several months ago, which is that the Sudanese did put the terrorists on trial for murder and after the trial, the terrorists were transferred to Egypt -- I am sorry, they were tried and sentenced in Sudan, they were transferred to Egypt where they are under detention.

Q You are certain of that, because the State Department said they never investigated, they never sent anybody in to see where these murderers were being held. Do you have further information on it, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: I have the fact they are under detention, Les.

Q We have determined that?

MR. NESSEN: The conditions of the cell in which they are being held I cannot spell out in further detail

for you from here.

Q Ron, for the record, can you explain what happened yesterday afternoon as far as access to your office goes and the apparent change of arrangements this morning?

MR. NESSEN: No. Dick, as Bill told you yesterday, and as I told you this morning, there has been no change in access to my office.

Q In other words, are you saying that you did not tell or you issued no instructions to prevent reporters from going up to the office area where you were without prior appointment?

MR. NESSEN: You were up twice this morning.

Q Yesterday.

MR. NESSEN: Walt was up yesterday afternoon, a number of other people were. So obviously not.

Q I had to call and get permission to come up.

MR. NESSEN: I think things have been smoothed out.

Q Can you answer my question?

MR. NESSEN: I did. I said there has been no change.

Q Yesterday --

MR. NESSEN: I don't know.

Q Whatever was in effect yesterday is no longer in effect?

MR. NESSEN: There has been no change, Fran.

Q Ron, just for the record, there was a change yesterday. I tried to get up and was not allowed to go up, showed my pass. EPS guard said no, you had issued an order no reporters could come up.

Q I also found that.

Q That is a fact, Ron.

MR. NESSEN: There is no change.

Q No change from when, Ron? Yesterday afternoon or before then?

MR. NESSEN: I really think probably this is not going to be a very productive area of discussion. We ought to go on to some that are.

Q Did you issue that order, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: As I say, I don't think we are probably going to go very far in an interesting direction this

way. Let's try some area that might be of greater interest.

Q This has a certain amount of interest to me because it caused me some problems yesterday. I was just trying to establish where the source of the --

MR. NESSEN: I don't think this is of great interest to the wider world.

Q Ron, a number of us do. All I would like to know is, do we still have the access? Is that what you are telling us, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: That is what I thought I told you. Yes.

Q The wires did say this morning, it was publicized this morning that you had given the order. Is that true or is that false?

MR. NESSEN: No. As I said, there has been no change from the previous access.

Q Why can't you answer my question?

MR. NESSEN: Dick, you were up twice this morning and others have been up this morning.

Q That isn't the question. The question is --

MR. NESSEN: As I say, this is not going anywhere. Let's go on to something that will.

Q We don't really want to go anywhere with it. It is just a question of truth and we would like to ascertain if that order was given yesterday and was in effect for a brief period, even though it may not be in effect now. Is that correct?

MR. NESSEN: I think as I told Dick, he did come up several times this morning unmolested --

Q Unmolested? (Laughter.)

MR. NESSEN: There has been no change in the access to my office.

Q Yesterday there was a change, Ron. It is not a big thing. Surely the American people are interested in more important things that we should be able to get out of this operation in the next two months. But I don't think we need to stand here now and let you stand up there and say that there is no change. In fact, there was a change yesterday. It is no big thing. But you did order the EPS to keep the press from going into your office.

MR. NESSEN: As I say, there has been no change.

Q Don't lie to us.

MR. NESSEN: I never have, Phil. I won't start.

Q You just have lied to us if the EPS are correct, you have just stood as the presidential spokesman and lied to the Press Corps.

MR. NESSEN: As I say, there is no change in the access to my office, Phil, because a number of people have come up this morning and found that there has been no change.

Q Right. We tried to come up yesterday and couldn't get up. So there was a change. It is now back to what it was before yesterday. That is all.

MR. NESSEN: It is the same as it was before yesterday.

Q Yesterday morning, but not yesterday afternoon. Isn't that true, Ron? Isn't that true? That doesn't take much of a concession.

MR. NESSEN: I think I will have to confess to that, Les. I really have to confess to that.

Q Great. Ron, tell me this --

MR. NESSEN: It feels so good. I feel great. I feel almost born again, actually. (Laughter.)

Q Are they going to dedicate your office as a national historic site?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, but when I stopped painting it I lost on the third criteria.

Q Whatever happened to the dart board?

(Laughter.)

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END

(AT 12:10 P.M. EST)