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NEWS CONFERENCE

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 11:35 A.M. EST

DECEMBER 16, 1976

THURSDAY

MR. NESSEN: The meeting between the President and the representatives of the scientific and engineering community is not over yet, so what I think I will do is go ahead. I have a fair number of announcements to make about travel and so forth. So I think I will start, and when the science meeting is over, John will bring Guy Stever down to talk to you and we will just sit this briefing aside and go on to that when he arrives.

We are going to post a summary schedule of the Sunday trip to Michigan and then on to Vail. I made some notes all over this, so it will have to be typed over again, or white-out the notes, but I will run through it, just the highlights, for you.

The press check-in at Andrews is at 7:15 Sunday and the press plane takes off at 8:15.

The President and Mrs. Ford leave the South Lawn by helicopter at 8:30, and depart Andrews at 8:50.

The arrival point is the Willow Run Airport in Ypsilanti, Michigan. The press plane arrives at 9:35 and the President and Mrs. Ford arrive at 10:05.

Q Is that Central Time?

MR. NESSEN: They are on the same time.

There will then be a motorcade to Dearborn, Michigan.

I am sorry. Excuse me. Let me back up a minute.

Obviously many of you will have your families with you, so we made arrangements for your families to be taken over to Dearborn, Michigan, for a several-hour tour of the Ford Motor Company Museum.

The motorcade, the press corps and the President, and so forth, will go by motorcade to Ann Arbor to the University of Michigan. There will be press facilities there, of course. The first event is the President and Mrs. Ford attending a lunch. It is a traditional lunch given for the winners of honorary degrees. It is a lunch attended by university officials and platform guests beginning at 11:00 o'clock.

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At the lunch, the President of the University, Robben Flemming, and Mrs. Ford will exchange very brief and very informal remarks.

Then after that, at 12:10, the President and Mrs. Ford will go to Crisler Arena, which is the location of the winter commencement of the university. 3,200 people will be awarded degrees, although they will not all be there to accept their degrees in person.

Then there will be an honorary doctorate of laws degree conferred on Mrs. Ford at approximately 1:15. The President will be on the stage with Mrs. Ford. She is expected to respond very, very briefly to the honorary degree and there will be no advance text for that.

At 1:35 the President and Mrs. Ford will leave by motorcade to go back to Willow Run Airport.

Q Excuse me. No remarks by the President at any point in the Michigan stop?

MR. NESSEN: That is correct.

Air Force One will leave at 2:00 o'clock from Willow Run Airport to go to Grand Junction, Colorado. Obviously, you can take as long to file as you want to. We have tentatively set a 2:20 press plane departure from Willow Run, but that is up to you.

The President and Mrs. Ford will arrive in Grand Junction at 3:15 p.m. That is Mountain Time. It is two hours earlier than Eastern Time. There will be a small press pool from Air Force One which will go on the helicopters to Vail or to Avon, Colorado, actually.

The press plane at this point is scheduled to arrive at 3:35 at Grand Junction. Those of you who have ordered rental cars ahead, they will be there for you. Otherwise, obviously there is a bus that goes to Vail.

The President's helicopter will arrive at Avon, Colorado, at 4:20 Mountain Time. They will then get in the motorcade and drive over to Vail Village, arriving about 4:45.

There is a ceremony in Vail Village. It is in the center of town, around the town Christmas tree, and the President, in fact, will light the town Christmas tree, opening the official Christmas festivities in Vail, and setting off an enormous snow storm. (Laughter)

Q It is not a plastic tree, is it?

MR. NESSEN: No. There will be open coverage of that. Obviously those of you who are coming up by bus or rental car from Grand Junction will not be able to get to Vail in time to cover that ceremony, so those in the press pool on the helicopter will be there to cover for you, but I would think that the networks and wires and so forth will need to double-cover.

The press buses, if we stay on anything like this schedule, will arrive in Vail at 7:00 o'clock. The Press Center this year is going to be at the Mountain Haus. That is the place where we normally had our headquarters in the summer, and this year we will also have it there in the winter. The Message Center phone number there which you can give your offices is Area Code 303, 476-4850. That Message Center will operate from 8:00 in the morning until 10:00 in the evening.

As for getting there, let me mention a couple of things. If some of you have your own skis and you want ski bags to ship them in, you can pick them up from Ray Zook's office, Room 87 of the EOB. The baggage will be accepted all day tomorrow, and on Saturday in the morning up until noon. You can also bring your bags to the airport.

Q What size staff do you anticipate taking?

MR. NESSEN: The President? A total of 13 people.

Q Could you fill us in on who the key people are?

MR. NESSEN: The key people are Cheney, Cavanaugh, Nessen -- I don't know who from the NSC will be there yet, and I will get a full staff list together.

So that is the trip. I would think that starting Monday we would have a posting every day at 10:00 a.m. and at 5:00 p.m., and that we would have a protective pool to escort the President from his house to the ski slopes. We will try to have one day early on in which there will be open coverage of skiing if anybody wants it.

I do not plan to have any briefings there unless something develops that would seem to be best handled with a briefing, but my office is there at Mountain Haus and I plan to be in there working every day and will be happy to answer questions that way and we will have a small press staff. John Carlson will be there, and Jim Shuman.

Q How long is the President staying in Vail?

MR. NESSEN: He will be returning on the 2nd of January.

Q To here?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Not going to the Rose Bowl?

MR. NESSEN: No.

I guess you have the rest of the schedule for today. I can tell you about one other activity of the President after January 20th. It is the President's intention, barring any unforeseen circumstances that would keep him from there, to participate in the Bing Crosby Pro-Am Golf Tournament in January. It is at Pebble Beach, California. The tournament actually begins on the 20th of January, but I do not anticipate the President will be playing on the 20th, but he will be out there for the second and third days.

I do not really have any other details to give you. I do have a name. Let me say this: It is a charity tournament and it is for the benefit of the Bing Crosby Youth Fund.

Q Ron, do you know what his plan is on Inaugural Day as far as after Carter is inaugurated? Does he plan to remain in Washington or does the President plan to leave Washington that day?

MR. NESSEN: I do not have anything to give you now, Tom. I obviously will, as those plans are put together, let you know.

The name of the person at the golf tournament who can tell you more about it is named Bob Campbell, at Area Code 408, 649-8500.

Q You are suggesting that as soon as noon, January 20th, rolls around he is going to split for California, right, with nothing in between?

MR. NESSEN: Pretty soon, yes.

Q Is he going to have to move? Do they have to have their own stuff out of the house?

MR. NESSEN: Some of it, yes.

Q Tables and things? Have they set the date for the movers to come?

MR. NESSEN: Not yet. For the moving van to come?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: It has got to be before noon on the 20th.

Q Have they invited the Carters to the White House?

MR. NESSEN: I do not really have the details of that day. I have had a lot of questions about it. Most of the details are not set yet. I do not have the answers today.

The thing about the visiting professorship at the University of Michigan, I tried to indicate last night to those of you who asked about it that it was a humorous remark, meant as a joke. He has not made any decisions on that. As we said about two weeks ago, I think, Bob Barrett said that he had had a number of invitations from a number of universities, including the University of Michigan, to take part in one way or another in university and college activities. He has not made any decisions. He has not given any answers. That is the case with the University of Michigan. As I say, I tried to indicate that last night, but from the sound of the radio this morning it was taken seriously.

Q By the wires.

MR. NESSEN: By somebody.

Q Dr. Flemming takes it seriously. He is delighted that he has increased his staff out there, and pleasantly

surprised, and he is talking about working out final details on Sunday.

MR. NESSEN: Russ, all I can tell you is that the President has not made any decision on what, if any, university to accept an offer from. He will not have made that decision by Sunday. As I understand the genesis of the phone call to Dr. Flemming, it grew out of the President's joke last night and then Flemming was called and asked, "What do you think about the President coming?" and he said, "I hadn't heard anything about it, but I would be delighted." That is the tape I heard on the radio this morning. But anyhow, I do not expect the President to make those decisions until after January.

Q Does this leave open the possibility that when he does accept a job he will be lecturing on East European politics? (Laughter)

Q Can you tell us whether they have finished the basic outlines of the budget now?

MR. NESSEN: Certainly the basic outlines are finished, but there are still some appeals to go through. In fact, there is a meeting this afternoon.

Q Do the appeals still go on? I thought that was supposed to end by yesterday.

MR. NESSEN: No. There is a meeting this afternoon at which there will be some appeals heard. But by the time the President goes to Vail, I would say 99 percent of the -- I wouldn't rule out the possibility that a couple of things might be decided in Vail, but basically they will all be decided by Saturday because the next step has to be done.

As I told you, there is still room, really, to get a few new numbers into the budget as late as the 24th of December, but by the time he leaves here it will be basically decided.

Q Do you want to tell us what the big budget number is?

MR. NESSEN: No. I would rather not.

Q Did you say this afternoon's meeting is the last of the appeals meetings?

MR. NESSEN: I have to check the schedule. I think there may be one tomorrow. There is a meeting on Saturday.

Q It will be an appeals meeting?

MR. NESSEN: The last of all appeals.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END

(AT 11:50 A.M. EST)