

The original documents are located in Box 17, folder “Nixon, Richard - Trip to China (1)” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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FEBRUARY 25, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY



THE WHITE HOUSE
REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AND
QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION
WITH THE
INLAND DAILY PRESS ASSOCIATION
THE EAST ROOM

QUESTION: Will you or someone from your staff meet with Mr. Nixon when he returns from China?

THE PRESIDENT: As has been indicated, if Mr. Nixon, when he gets back, feels there is something significant that ought to be conveyed to the Administration, we expect that it will be given to the Administration through the Department of State, but we will wait until he gets back and let him indicate whether there is something significant that he would like to convey to us.

Yes, sir.

QUESTION: Is there any kind of public works bill that the Congress might pass that you would feel you would be able to sign?

THE PRESIDENT: The bill I have indicated I would support is one that the Secretary of HUD, Carla Hills, has worked on with Senator Griffin and Congressman Brown. It would provide roughly \$740 million as an add-on to the community development appropriation bill.

The community development program is a program of about \$3 billion 300 million that goes to municipalities and other units of Government to cover what used to be urban development, model cities and five other programs.

We think this is a better answer than some typical public works program because the cities and other local units of Government are ready right now. It is a going program, and if the Congress would go along with that, I think that is the best way to answer the employment problem as quickly as possible.

We are working to see if the Congress won't accept that proposal, and although I hesitate to add to the budget, I think in the spirit of compromise we would go along with that approach of adding about \$740 million because it is the quickest and the best way to get jobs at the local level.

Yes, sir.

QUESTION: Mr. President, today you announced the leadership to the United Nations. Does that signify or signal any rough change in our policy there?

THE PRESIDENT: Not at all. Bill Scranton will carry out my policies, my policies where those that Pat Moynihan carried out, so the switch from Moynihan to Scranton will not in any way whatsoever change our policies.



This Copy For _____

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

#461

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 12:32 P.M. EST

MARCH 18, 1976

THURSDAY

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that but Larry Speakes talked to me just before I came out here and he is still awaiting phone calls back and forth on the matter. He is working on the matter and if you will see him this afternoon he will give you what he has.

Q May we have that in public when it comes out?

MR. NESSEN: Certainly.

Q Has the State Department or the White House received a formal report from former President Nixon yet?

MR. NESSEN: To my knowledge, it has not come.

Q Which, neither the State Department nor the White House?

MR. NESSEN: I can't speak authoritatively for the State Department but it has certainly not come to the White House. I have not heard that it came to the State Department, but you need to check with Bob Funseth to make sure.

Q There has been a report from the Navy that announced some base reductions because they have been inactivated. What is the President's role in all of that?

MR. NESSEN: The President, as I understand it, in terms of selecting specific bases and that kind of thing, does not have a role in it.

Q Does he at any point determine that certain bases will not be closed?

MR. NESSEN: My indication is he does not play any role in the process whatsoever.

Q He said in New Hampshire the base would be kept open.

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Is he going to keep open the ROTC at Bradley?

MR. NESSEN: The ROTC at Bradley--as you probably know the Pentagon has a rule requiring a minimum number of people to sign up. I think the number is 15, and 8 people signed up for ROTC at Bradley so it fell below the minimum required for an ROTC chapter.

Q Does the President withdraw all the terrible things he said about the Air Force?

Q Has the President talked to former Governor Connally along this line, too?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I know of.

Q Are any plans under consideration to extend that Wisconsin-California trip next week for a day or so?

MR. NESSEN: No, that is pretty well set, I think.

Q Friday and Saturday?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Ron, speaking of contacts, it used to be, over the years, the White House Press Secretary was the top press secretary of the Government and was pretty much in touch with what went on in the other departments. Lately, it seems you are not in close touch or not willing to give us what is happening in the State Department. Has something gone awry there?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Are you still in charge of things?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that the White House Press Secretary has ever been in charge of things, Howard. He certainly isn't today. (Laughter)

Q The White House Press Secretary in the past was always considered the top man among the press secretaries and in contact with the others.

MR. NESSEN: I am in contact with the others, there is no question about that, fairly regular contact. But on the other hand, just as the President has tried to get some of the decision-making process that was pulled into the White House over the past couple of Administrations back out to the departments and agencies, we have tried to get some of the press matters that were pulled into the White House over the past couple of Administrations back out and let people speak for themselves.

Q I am referring particularly to the State Department, questions about it, things that have happened in the State Department, or has the State Department received a letter from Nixon, you don't know? Wouldn't they report that to you immediately if they received a letter from Nixon?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know whether they would or not.

Q That is my question. Haven't you asked them to report immediately?

MR. NESSEN: As I say, that is a matter that is of much greater interest out there than it is back here, and it is not something we call up first thing every morning to ask about.

Q You just said when Governor Reagan decides to give up his campaign, his campaign workers and staff and so forth would be welcome. Are you telling us the view of the White House is his giving up the campaign is inevitable? You didn't say if he gives it up, you said when he gives it up. Are you telling us that is an inevitability or foregone conclusion?

MR. NESSEN: That is up to him, Tom, when and if to give up his candidacy.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 1:05 P.M. EST)





WAVA NEWS AND GLOBE NEWSPAPERS

780 A.M. - 105 FM

NORTHERN VIRGINIA RELIGION NEWS

PRESENT: KINSOLVING'S CAPITAL COMMENTARY

7:45 A.M. 1:15 P.M. 5:15 P.M. MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

Rev. Lester Kinsolving is White House correspondent for WAVA News and for UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE which distributes his weekly religion and political columns throughout the U.S. Twice nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, Kinsolving, an Episcopal worker priest, began his morning commentary for WAVA in 1974, in the prime time 7:45 a.m. slot once occupied by Chet Huntley. He is also editor of the four page tabloid POLITICS & RELIGION, a supplement of Northern Virginia's eight Globe Newspapers.

This weekly re-print of Kinsolving's Commentary and editorials is mailed to The White House, all members of Congress, the Cabinet, the Supreme Court, all embassies and selected wire services, networks, stations and periodicals.

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1976

THE QUIET - BUT CONTINUING - PANAMA GIVEAWAY

Boca Raton, Florida, is part of President Ford's Primary campaign itinerary. It is the place where Governor Reagan met recently with President Arnulfo Arias of Panama.

President Arias was the victim of a 1968 coup, in which he was driven out by Brigadier General Omar Torrijos — who also closed down the nation's legislature and shackled its press.

This dictatorship recently deported 13 of the nation's attorneys, business executives and community leaders to Ecuador. When the Association of Panama-

nian Business Executives protested, their headquarters was occupied by Gen. Torrijos' troops. A near general strike resulted over what Carlos Gonzalez de la Lastra, president of the association, told UPI was "arbitrary and illegal" action by a "dictatorship... a small group of people who own the country."

But ladies and gentlemen, this is precisely the same gang of far-left, militaristic brigands to whom Dr. Kissinger and his deputy Ellsworth

Bunker are currently trying to give away the Panama Canal.

The negotiations continue despite the firm intention of at least one third of the Senate to block this giveaway of territory for which we paid more in the beginning than we did for Alaska.

They continue despite the expressed objection of an overwhelming majority of the House of Representatives to this alienation of United States property — and despite the pleas of 34

maritime nations that the U.S. continue administering the Canal.

On Jan. 23, this Panamanian dictatorship's Ambassador to the Organization of American States, one Nader Pitty, charged the U.S. with "strangulation, paternalism, colonialism, oppression, arrogance and blackmail. When asked about this insulting harangue, White House news secretary termed Pitty's words "unsuitable."

Still, Dr. Kissinger continues negotiations to give

away the Panama Canal to this dictatorship of loud mouthed bandits.

Ronald Reagan has commented quite accurately that this is "giving up the defense of the hemisphere on the installment plan."

TIME magazine contends that the Ford administration is making "efforts to keep negotiations low-key until after the November elections. Nessen says he isn't aware of this.

Candidate Ford should not be allowed to go on avoiding this issue.

The Post On Rhodesia: Pinnacle of Misinformation

The Washington Post's editorial policy on Rhodesia has reached a new pinnacle of misinformation in a Feb. 27 editorial entitled "Rhodesia's Moment of Truth."

First, the title of this editorial which is as somberly impressive as the announcement that Rhodesia's government will fall in a matter of weeks; made by Britain's Prime Minister Harold Wilson — ten years ago.

Then, this Post editorial writer contends that Rhodesia's "tiny white minority" has avoided "coming to political terms with black Rhodesians."

Perhaps this editorialist

is unaware of the fact that one fourth of Rhodesia's lower house, one half of its Senate and nearly two thirds of its armed forces are black.

"Coming to political terms" in this editorialist's apparent view means capitulation to a black nationalism which has left the black ruled nations of Africa almost entirely devoid of any governments with either a two-party system, or a free press.

Moreover, among this welter of dictatorships, the rights of non-blacks — minority groups such as whites or Indians — have all but disappeared.

With a free press, a thriving

economy, an agriculture which along with South Africa's is helping feed a number of Southern Africa's black nations, Rhodesians — both black and white — are prepared to fight any invader, rather than be plowed under.

The Post proposes that Rhodesia acknowledge the authority of London — an interesting advocacy of neo-colonialism, almost as blatant as that of Imperial Russia in Angola.

The Post asks "Would an agreement which (Rhodesia) might make with Joshua Nkomo (African Nationalist) be respected by the Muzorewa and Sithole fac-

tions, which have Mozambique-based guerillas — and perhaps later Cuban mercenaries — at their call?"

Surely this must be a rhetorical question. For Bishop Abel Muzorewa (Methodist) and the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole (United Church of Christ) have already said they disdain any such agreement with their long-time rival Nkomo. Sithole has instead promised that the rivers of Zimbabwe (his name for Rhodesia) will run red with the blood of whites.

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has stated what White House News Secretary Ron Nessen con-

firmed is President Ford's policy: to "do what is necessary to prevent the success of another similar effort" by the Cubans.

To begin with, the Ford administration should make available the same degree of sophisticated weaponry to Rhodesia as the Soviets have to the Cuban Expeditionary Force. Should Rhodesia's racially integrated armed forces be deprived of the means they need to defend their country because their lower House is not proportionately representative? The U.S. Senate is not proportionately representative. The Soviet Party Congress is not at all representative — but we sell them grain.

The Return of Dick Dracula

In between the pathetic repetitions of "The former President is traveling to China as a private citizen," White House News Secretary Ron Nessen has stressed that the Ford Administration in no way encouraged this trip.

In answer to a question from WAVA Nessen even admitted that the White House was so abruptly informed of this trip — as a fait accompli — that it had no time to discourage it.

The President should have immediately (1) requested that Mr. Nixon stay home, or (2) Asked the Congress to consider emergency legislation to revoke the diplomatic

passport with which Private Citizen Nixon is making his thoroughly disgusting return to public life.

Sen. Barry Goldwater is entirely right in blasting Nixon for this trip and suggesting that the Logan Act — regarding private correspondence with foreign governments may have been violated. President Ford ought to lower the boom on this creep or the Soviets might decide to prolong this dirty joke on America by inviting him to make a Nixon Visit Anniversary Visit.

The Chinese have in effect been able to choose our ambassador to them —

having selected the most infamous politician in American history.

It did not take them long to use Nixon to their own advantage. During an entertainment, Chiang Ching the actress wife of Mao Tse Tung, showed Nixon the lyric of a song about the "liberation" of Taiwan. When this song was over, she leapt up, applauding loudly. Nixon rose with her, and then crouched down, applauding weakly.

This craven crouching stood in striking contrast to Nixon's toast, which concluded with an assurance that world peace will not arrive until all nations respect the "security and in-

dependence of every other nation large or small."

Mr. Nixon did not mention that Taiwan is a nation. Nor did he specify who he means by "some," who he said "believe the mere art of signing a statement of principles or a diplomatic Conference will bring instant and lasting peace."

A lot more than "some" have concluded that this is a description of the Ford-Kissinger Helsinki Conference.

But, apparently on cue from Dr. Kissinger the White House announced that it doesn't regard this as a criticism of U.S. Foreign Policy.

Certainly not. Mr. Nixon

was criticizing the naivete of the provincial government Lapland.

By his maintaining the "private citizen" facade as a form of footsies with this Count Dracula of San Clemente, President Ford leaves the impression of massive indecision — if not the suspicion that Nixon has something on him.

Is Jerry Ford so naive as to believe that Nixon will stay out of the public eye? Is Jerry Ford unaware of the near certainty of virtually unanimous applause of the American people if he told Nixon on return either to stay in San Clemente or stay in China, permanently?

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Racial Rhetoric From A Councilman Who Bites

Washington Post reporter Richard Cohen has written a particularly incisive and honest commentary entitled "Racial Rhetoric" which The Post should have put on page one, instead of forty pages back in the C Section.

Cohen notes: "What has become standard operating procedure at the District Building: when under attack yell racism, or at the very least imply it."

Cohen names names, such as Human Resources Director Joseph Yeldell and D. C. Council members Marion Barry and Douglas Moore, who practice the same sort of revolting political art of what Lyndon Johnson used to call "Nigger, Nigger, Nigger."

Decent and thoughtful American families, both black and white, teach their children that the word "nigger" is an obscenity — a hate-filled epithet, far more hurtful than the vernacular for assorted bodily functions.

Yet Councilman Moore feels free to use this term in his contemptible reference to "white run hospitals" and "little old ladies from ward three who don't want to go to nigger hospitals."

Council member Willie Hardy was understandably outraged when two of a crowd of demonstrating police called her a "damned nigger."

There is no excuse for this. But there is also no excuse for Moore using this word or for Marion Barry to describe the Metropolitan Police an "occupation army."

Commentator Cohen notes "the reluctance of both blacks and whites to criticize the city government — blacks lest they be accused of being Uncle Toms, whites lest they be accused of racism."

If either blacks or whites in Washington allow themselves to be cowed by Council members who practice this sleazy reverse racism, they will have surrendered the government of

the nation's capital to a racial Mc Carthyism.

Both the Post and The Star should be featuring the trial of the Rev. Councilman Douglas Moore — with page one coverage.

For how many other cities in the world have ever had as vice chairman of the ruling body a Methodist minister who has been put to trial on charges that he attacked a 19 year old truck driver, after calling him a "white son of a bitch" and subsequently biting him — three times — on the back.

When Lester Maddox chased blacks out of his Georgia restaurant, this outrage made page one all over

the world — rightfully so. But Lester didn't bite anybody.

The Rev. Councilman Moore's attorney, William Borders told the jury that the evidence showed Moore to be a "peace-loving man of good character."

Indeed yes. The evidence included color photographs of bite wounds on the young man's back. The Rev. Councilman Moore should be pressed into service as a demonstrator for the Police K-9 unit — and honored as man of the year by the American Dental Association.

PIMPING VIA THE POSTAL SERVICE

As a syndicated columnist and radio commentator on the two controversial subjects of politics and religion, my mail is frequently vivid.

Something of a new high — or low — recently arrived, post marked "Bulk Rate U.S. Postage Paid, Las Vegas NV., Permit No. 298."

Contained within this envelope was a full color brochure — with center fold of a topless, hypermam-miferous woman lying on a bed — in the background.

In the foreground is a pair of Levis, with a shiny gold (\$19⁹⁵) belt buckle from the Cottontail Ranch. The caption advises me:

"SHOW A LITTLE CLASS AS YOU DROP YOUR PANTS."

The brochure further advises that the Cottontail Ranch is the property of one Beverly Harrell, "Nevada's Fighting Madame."

"That's what the press, radio and TV people call me," writes Fighting Bev, "because I took on the federal government when

they tried to kick my world-famous bordello off some land. I ran for the Nevada State Legislature and was winning . . . then lost in the kind of deal that would make even a heart of gold turn to stone."

For \$7.95 Madam Beverly will send you six of her campaign souvenirs "priceless in their own way."

In West Germany the Kohls Leigenshatten K.G. firm's offer of partnership shares in a string of brothels made page one of the Wall Street Journal.

In California, both the American Legion-sponsored "Girls State," as well as the State Bar Association have voted in favor of legalizing prostitution. So has Conservative Columnist George F. Will, who writes, "It is estimated that only five per cent of the nation's more than a quarter of a million prostitutes have venereal diseases." (Just who estimated this — and which census numbered the

nation's prostitutes — was not explained in Mr. Will's column.)

In San Francisco's notorious Tenderloin District, Methodist clergyman Cecil Williams welcomed a whores' convention to his church. By striking contrast, Father Simon Scanlon who ministered in the Tenderloin for several years, provides a distinctly different picture of prostitution than such fantasies as Irma La Douce or The Happy Hooker:

*"Only an idiot could call it a victimless crime. What about the prostitute? Is there any activity which has such an obvious and pitiful victim?"

*"A host of human parasites live off her: the pimp, the drug pusher, the madam, the hot bed hotel, the muggers, the robbers — all part of a cluster of crime of which prostitution is the heart."

*"If prostitution were legalized, who would operate it? Where would you get sensitive, concern-

ed, gentle people who have a high regard for others to operate a whore house?"

*"I wonder if any of these people who would legalize prostitution have ever seen a girl who has been beaten with a coat hanger or smashed in the face with a piece of lead pipe for holding out money or for trying to leave her pimp?"

Father Scanlon also notes the widespread policy of getting the prostitute hooked on drugs, so that she must remain in the business in order to support her habit.

Harry Hollis of the Southern Baptist Press reports that recently at a public hearing the only witness against legalizing prostitution was a Southern Baptist clergyman. Other community leaders refused to appear with him.

Hollis considers the argument that prostitution "is the world's oldest profession; it cannot be stopped so it might as well be tax-

ed." He notes that stealing is just as old as prostitution, and asks whether the government should be a partner in any kind of degrading business.

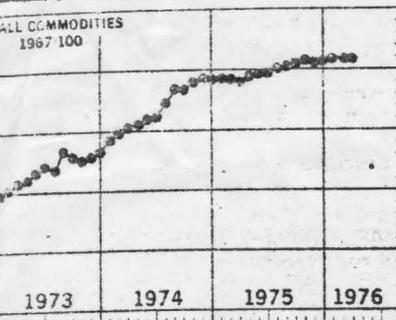
Hollis notes the contention that "the legalization of prostitution will enable the government to stop the spread of VD — by seeing that the prostitutes get regular checkups."

What about the spreading of VD between checkups?

That brothels amount to venereal filling stations would appear to be evident in UPI's report that one of the highest VD rates in the nation is in Nevada.

This incidental is not mentioned in the Madam's mailing piece from Cottontail Ranch. No, in a whole catalogue of mail order gifts from this bawdy house, there is no mention of prophylactics. For just as in the unreality of pornography, Madam Harrell doesn't even want you to think about anything as unpleasant and unerotic as syphilis.

Wholesale Prices



WHOLESALE PRICES in March before seasonal adjustment rose to 179.8% of the average from 179.4% in February, the Commerce Department reports. (See story on page 2.)

Getting Bolivian Beef to Market Can Make You a (Gasp) Wreck

Job Is Done by Macho Pilots Dodging Shrouded Peaks In World War II Planes

By EVERETT G. MARTIN
Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
LA PAZ, Bolivia—"There I was," says Heriberto Almos, "18,000 feet, over the mountains, flying a World War II Lockheed plane with beef when both my engines

With unsettling frequency, that's how Bolivian pilots start out. The pilots invariably go on to proclaim proudly that their country is the most dangerous place in the world to fly.

Global comparisons of flying danger are statistically impossible to come by, and there aren't even any statistics here on how many have been killed in crashes.

But consider this indicator: A La Paz insurance company dolefully reports that in 10 months last year there were 58 accidents. So many, you say? But Bolivia only has about 200 planes, so it means that 29% had the kind of accident. In the U.S. for the whole year only 0.8% of the domestically registered planes cracked up.

The insurance company notes that last year's total was up considerably from 21 accidents four years ago, and it complains that getting harder to find reinsurance comes abroad willing to share the risk on a Bolivian airplane.

Danger Signs
Some other informal indicators of the danger here: The street signs in La Paz are made out of aluminum from wrecked planes. People in rural areas carry pieces of old planes as good-luck charms. A U.S. Air Force colonel, who flew here, took to fortifying his courage with a half-pint of whisky for each takeoff.

A pilot's-eye view of this land-locked country, twice the size of Spain, explains about why so many mishaps occur.

The eastern two-thirds of Bolivia is a tattered, tropical lowland—a favorable flying terrain for flying. But there are the winds and rainstorms to contend with for most of the year.

There's nothing friendly about the terrain in the western third of Bolivia. Here are some of the highest, most rugged peaks of the Andes Mountains, which run the length of South America. In Bolivia, the Andes splits into two jagged, snow-capped peaks reaching up to 21,000 feet. Between them is a bleak plateau called the Altiplano, on which is more than 12,000 feet above sea level.

Leading into the Altiplano is a canyon that reaches into La Paz, the highest major city in the world at 11,800 feet. The Altiplano and surrounding mountains are hardly an ideal place for living, let alone flying, but 75% of Bolivia's 5.5 million people live here anyway. So it's where the pilots must do most of their flying.

Washington Wire

A Special Weekly Report From The Wall Street Journal's Capital Bureau

REAGANITES SEIZE on Carter's rise as a reason for the GOP to dump Ford.

They insist their man would run stronger against Carter, since Reagan, too, is an "anti-Washington" candidate. The Reagan side argues that Ford's campaign has wrongly assumed nomination of a liberal Democrat. Reagan men contend that Carter would sweep the South against Ford, that only Reagan could give the Georgian a fight in Dixie.

Ford strategists shrug off Reagan's attacks. They claim Reagan's polls showing lack of economic confidence are outdated. Ford men concede criticism of Kissinger appeals to some Republicans, but say their polls show no great damage. They insist the President pushed hard to strengthen national defense; U.S. power roughly matches Russia's now, they say.

Ford and Kissinger, with the important Texas primary in mind, take pains to court still-influential John Connally.

WATERGATE REMINDERS worry Ford's political strategists.

The movie "All the President's Men," plus the new Woodward-Bernstein book, revives memories of Nixon-Ford ties: the film shows Ford introducing Nixon at the 1972 Republican convention. One White House aide fears support for "the view that we need a fresh crew." He also sees Kissinger's reputation hurt by the appearance of tasteless violations of confidences. The non-Washington candidates, Reagan and Carter, may benefit. Carter already plays cleverly on the Watergate theme, vowing "never" to use it as an issue—while saying voters can decide for themselves if Nixon and Ford made a "secret deal" on the pardon. Republicans hope the Watergate revival will fade before the fall elections. Says one: "Thank God it's coming now."

Benefit showings of the movie spread, with apparent success. A group of public-interest organizations sponsors showings in 15 cities on April 8. Tickets, at \$15 each, sell briskly.

NIXON'S SECRET REPORT on China was mostly about Nixon.

The 60-page document sent to Ford by the ex-President quoted in repetitious detail what Nixon told Chinese leaders in late February. It also dwelt on Nixon's analysis of world affairs. To Kissinger's frustration, the report said little about what Mao and acting premier Hua told Nixon. The White House tried to extract more information, but Nixon said there was nothing to add—describing his handiwork as subtle, significant, complete.

A few items of political importance did emerge in the report. Nixon apparently found Hua on a short leash; he said the acting premier read stock replies to many questions, quoted Mao extensively on others. There were hints that China may get tougher on the Taiwan issue, but not till after the U.S. election. The late Chou En-lai was never mentioned.

Kissinger found most of the report an egocentric account of how Nixon lectured the Chinese—as if intended for use in his memoirs.

RICHARDSON FAILS to make a splash as Commerce Secretary. His first press conference was a dud, with answers evasive and jargonish. His political speeches on behalf of Ford lack sparkle, but he refuses to change. "Let's face it: he's a dull speaker, but he wants it that way," says one official. Richardson may draw more attention, though, with his investigation of foreign pay-offs by U.S. firms.

CONGRESS RUSHES toward approval of Ford's flu vaccine request. The big reason: Legislators don't want to risk blame for any big outbreak next winter. Doctors tell Congress, too, that this would be a great chance to bring kids up to date on all shots. But any widespread worry about heavy puncturing

Testing the Metal

Foreign-Supply Fears Spur Search in Industry For Alternate Materials

Aluminum Research Pushed As Bauxite Levies Jump; Economic, Political Risks

Plastic Outshines Chromium

By GAY SANIS MILLER

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

BOULDER CITY, Nev.—Alton McLaughlin is a sprightly, 61-year-old metallurgist for Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corp., who is also something of a modern alchemist. With a bubbling cauldron of pungent hydrochloric acid, he is seeking answers to the problems of turning clays from the earth of Georgia and Alabama into that symbol of the affluent consumer: aluminum.

But unlike the alchemists of old, who knew the value of turning lead into gold, Mr. McLaughlin is seeking to discover if it is economical to turn clay into aluminum. "The question we must keep asking is, what are the economics?" he says in a laboratory at a U.S. Bureau of Mines research center here.

The question has been weighing heavily on the minds of executives in the American aluminum industry since 1974 when the nations that provide 90% of U.S. bauxite (the major source of aluminum) sharply increased their taxes on the ore. The quest for an economical substitute for bauxite has created something of a boom in research at centers such as the small Nevada laboratory, where company metallurgists like Mr. McLaughlin help and advise government engineers. The aluminum industry and the federal government together are supporting the research at the rate of about \$1.2 million a year.

The Threat of Cartelism

But the significance of turning domestic clays into aluminum stretches far beyond the glass tubing and bubbling liquids in laboratories. It illustrates the stepped-up efforts and expenditures by government and industry to develop new sources for important metals whose foreign supply could one day be economically or politically threatened.

At the root of U.S. companies' fears is the maneuvering and price increases by some foreign raw materials producers over the past few years that have smacked of cartelism. Partly as a result there is now "a much higher degree of focus on materials substitution," notes Julius Harwood, the president of the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers.

In fact, given sufficient economic and political incentives, there are few materials for which alternatives can't be found, industry researchers believe. Newly developed alloys, for example, have sharply reduced the use of expensive palladium and silver in electrical switches. Or take chromium, vital to the making of stainless steel; all of it has to be imported by the U.S., mainly from the Soviet Union, Rhodesia and South Africa. There is a flurry of research into alternatives to stainless steel for many products.

Manufacturers who traditionally have used chrome for decoration, now are using plastic with coatings that resemble chrome. And Bethlehem Steel recently began marketing an exhaust pipe material made not of stainless steel but of carbon steel with just a thin coating of chromium alloy.

The Risks of Substitutes

Copper is another metal whose price escalation in recent years has brought intensive research for substitutes. For example, Carrier Corp., the air-conditioner maker is now using aluminum instead of copper in evaporative coils. And the use of plastic piping as a replacement for copper (as well as cast iron and steel) grew to 1.8 billion pounds in 1974 from only 60 million pounds

This Copy For _____

NEWS CONFERENCE

#450

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 11:30 A.M. EST

MARCH 2, 1976

TUESDAY

MR. NESSEN: Some of you saw the President at his meeting with the Senators who are involved in the defense budget process.

This afternoon, at 2:00, the President will be having a similar meeting with the House Members who are involved in the defense budget process.

Q On that, is he going to speak again to the pool at 2:00, do you know?

MR. NESSEN: I wouldn't think you would need to do it again at 2:00. He has the same message for both groups.

The purpose of both of these meetings today is to talk to these Members who are involved in the defense budget process prior to March 15 because under the Congressional budget process now in place, various Congressional committees must submit their estimates and recommendations for 1977 fiscal year budget ceilings to the Congressional Budget Committees by March 15, which is about 13 days away.

Then, the Budget Committees, as you know, will report their first concurrent resolutions, setting budget ceilings on April 15.

So, the purpose of the two meetings today is to talk to these Members involved with the defense budget and give them the benefit of the President's views and Secretary Rumsfeld's views as they approach this March 15 date, when they must send their recommendations to the budget committees.

Q Is he spelling out areas or programs or anything he considers sacrosanct that he puts at top priority?

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MR. NESSEN: I believe, Rudy, he has said this budget has been cut to the bone, and there is no fat in it and that he wants it approved as is.

Q Ron, hasn't the President made his views known to Congress on the budget, and hasn't Mr. Rumsfeld done that in testimony? Why go through this again?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think the President has had the opportunity to sit down face to face with those Members who are most closely involved in preparing the defense budget recommendation and talk to them.

Q So, the timing in March is the factor, March 9?

MR. NESSEN: March 15, yes, that is the factor.

Q Is he really seeking sufficiency and equivalency and not superiority with this new dramatic emphasis?

MR. NESSEN: What do you mean "new dramatic emphasis"?

Q It seems to me there is a heavy emphasis on the defense budget.

MR. NESSEN: Certainly there is. As you heard the President say today for the reasons he stated, the defense budget in real dollars has been declining for a long time.

Q Does he think the Russians are ahead?

MR. NESSEN: No, he does not think the Russians are ahead. You heard his remarks today, that the trends need to turn around.

Q Is there some concern in the White House by the President or his advisers that the Congress may be moving to make significant cuts in this budget?

MR. NESSEN: They have year after year, Dick. Every year they seem to feel you can cut the defense budget without having any effects, and this has gone on for a long time. Last year, as you know, the Congress cut \$7 billion out of the defense budget, over the President's objection.

So, in an effort to head off another cut at a time when the President feels it is important to turn this trend around, he is making this personal appeal.

Q We did get out of a war, which would seem to cut a defense budget.

MR. NESSEN: These are long-term trends that really go back to before the Korean War, really -- the steady decline in defense budgets in real terms and as a percentage of the budget and as a percentage of the Gross National Product. These trends go back 20 years or so.

Q Ron, are you trying to relate his remarks on the defense budget to his remarks of yesterday about detente? Are the two things linked?

MR. NESSEN: I would not say so. His remarks yesterday on detente really had to do with the word detente and not the policy that that word has come to stand for.

Q Then there is no significance in you wearing a pink shirt today? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: No, I wore it because it matches my eyes.

Q There is no change in detente policy with the Soviet Union?

MR. NESSEN: There is no change in the American foreign policy. After all, Helen, the President has been trying to retire that word for quite some time.

Q Do you mean he has said this before?

MR. NESSEN: Oh, sure. Don't you remember the other occasions when he has done this thing?

Q Isn't it a fact that because nobody did pay much attention before, he persisted until someone did pay attention?

MR. NESSEN: No, because I have heard him talk precisely that way in private in terms of how the word has lost its meaning, the meaning is misunderstood, it has become confused and misused, but if you go back, for instance, to the American Legion speech in Minneapolis, which was August 19, 1975, which was more than six months ago, the President said at that time, "In recent weeks there has been a great deal said about the subject of detente. Today," -- meaning last August -- "let me tell you what I personally think about detente.

"First of all, the word itself is confusing. Its meaning is not clear to everybody. French is a beautiful language, the classical language of diplomacy, but I wish there were one simple English word to substitute for detente. Unfortunately, there isn't. Relationships between the world's two strongest nuclear powers cannot be summed up in a catch phrase."

So, in other words, this is something he has believed for quite some time and has said publicly for some time. The policy that the word detente has been used as a kind of shorthand for, the President himself, I think, kind of summed it up yesterday.

It is a policy that is designed to lessen the risk of nuclear war. It is a policy designed to reduce tensions between the superpowers, where possible, and when in the best interests of the United States. It is a policy that depends upon American strength and not upon American weakness.

I would say that is the process, really, or the policy that the United States has followed and will follow. It has, as I said, sort of all come together in a word whose meaning has become fuzzy and confused, so the President now prefers not to use it.

Q Is this a Nixon policy? This is exactly the policy that Nixon enunciated.

MR. NESSEN: Certainly not, Helen.

Q How is it different?

MR. NESSEN: I am not going to get into a long discussion --

Q You have to because detente --

MR. NESSEN: Helen, the foreign policy is carried out day by day in connection with the events of the day. Now, this President has faced and dealt with a number of foreign policy developments that obviously no previous President could deal with because it did not happen.

Q That does not make the policy, does it?

MR. NESSEN: This is the Ford foreign policy.

Q Are you saying the President has no sweeping conception of what American foreign policy should be and is developing it day by day?

MR. NESSEN: No, I am not, Mort.

Q Then what is the position that he has about foreign policy, and how is it different from the Nixon position?

MR. NESSEN: The President has answered that question himself publicly. It is the Ford foreign policy designed to meet today's needs and future needs.

Q How is it different from the Nixon policy? Now it is not a question of the word detente. It is a question of policy. How is it different?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think the White House Press Secretary is the proper one to deal with sweeping questions like that. The question has been asked of the President before, and he has given you his answer.

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Q Ron, what evidence do you have that this word is confusing the American public?

MR. NESSEN: The President feels from what he has read and what he has heard that it has. I know there was a poll recently in which the people were asked whether they supported -- and then the process that I have just mentioned was described. The question was, "Do you favor the Government's efforts to find areas of agreement with Russia and China and ways to cooperate with them," and the poll indicated -- this was a Harris poll -- indicated 62 percent of the people favored the concept that I just described and other polls, I am told, when the word detente is used there is a certain amount of confusion and the support for it drops.

Q Ron, is it fair to say the White House has the perception that the public concept of the word detente is something akin to a give-away or appeasement?

MR. NESSEN: No. As the President said as long ago as last August in public, the policy dealing with other super powers is much too complex to sum up with one French word.

Q Ron, are there other words that the President has retired; Nixon, for example?

MR. NESSEN: Let me move on. I never did get through my announcements.

Q Ron, does this in any way indicate or signify or in any way lessen the President's support, endorsement, encouragement and confidence in Secretary Kissinger?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Does it in any way have anything to do with primary politics?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Ron, did detente become a dirty French word? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: I knew we were going to leap ahead to that but I did not finish my announcements.

You know about the two budget meetings today. Now tomorrow at 2 o'clock or shortly after 2 o'clock the President is going to go over to the new Washington headquarters of the Disabled American Veterans. I am told it is on Maine Avenue in Southwest, across from Hogates.

They are having the dedication ceremonies over there tomorrow. There will be open press coverage, of course. The President will speak and his remarks will be piped back here to the White House if you prefer to stay here. There will be a travel pool to go with the President.

For those of you who are going ahead to set up your cameras or tape equipment, you should have it set up at 1:15.

Q What is the speech about?

Q Defense?

MR. NESSEN: Probably.

And the President is expected to leave the White House, as I said, shortly after 2:00 and be back at the White House about 2:45.

Q What time is he speaking?

MR. NESSEN: I guess about 2:15. Something in that area.

The Illinois trip -- I can give you a couple more things about the Illinois trip. It looks like a mid-morning departure on Friday and the first stop would be Springfield and the first event is about noon in Springfield. It involves unveiling the cornerstone for the Visitor Center at the Lincoln Home in Springfield. As I say, that is about noon or at noon.

Q Is that a new home for Lincoln? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: I think the Visitor Center is new. The home is probably pretty old.

At 6 o'clock the President will go to Peoria where he will participate in the Everett McKinley Dirksen Forum at Bradley University Field House.

Q What university is that?

MR. NESSEN: Bradley University in Peoria at the Field House. Everett McKinley Dirksen Forum. The format there will be that the President will have a brief opening statement and then will take questions and answers.

Q Who is invited to this?

MR. NESSEN: Both of those events, both the cornerstone at the Lincoln Home Visitors Center and the Field House at Bradley University are open to the public so anybody can come who feels like coming.

Then both the President and press will stay overnight in Peoria at the Peoria Hilton.

Q Can we ask questions at that question and answer thing?

MR. NESSEN: I think it is a public thing for students and members of the public.

Q We are members of the public, are we not? Can't we stand up and ask a question?

MR. NESSEN: Probably.

Q Are these the only two events?

MR. NESSEN: The only two I have so far the first day. Then on Saturday, again the schedule for the day is not complete, but you can expect stops in Champaign - Urbana, and in Marion, Illinois.

Q Will he go on the campus there?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have any other details at this point of those two stops or any other stops on Saturday.

The President is expected to get back to the White House around 8 o'clock on Saturday evening so that is not such a long day.

Q Does he expect to win in Illinois?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Why?

MR. NESSEN: Because he will get more votes than the next guy. (Laughter)

Q Ron, can you give us a description of his participation in the dedication ceremony?

MR. NESSEN: It all has not been filled in yet.

Q Can you give us a general description?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know, frankly, what they are going to come up with as an event.

Q Do you have a time for the beginning of that session at Bradley?

MR. NESSEN: 6 o'clock.

Q Ron, is he going to stop in at Pekin to pay his respects to Mrs. Dirksen?

MR. NESSEN: I don't even know if she is in Pekin. She was in Florida when he was down there. She lives near Orlando. He called Mrs. Dirksen from Orlando when he was down there the other time and talked to her. I don't know if she is home.

One other announcement for royalty fans. The King and Queen of Spain have accepted an invitation from the President to visit the United States on June 2 and 3. The King looks forward to meeting with the President and various U.S. officials during the visit. This underscores the importance that the United States attaches to its close and harmonious relations with Spain. It also highlights during the Bicentennial celebration the contributions that Americans of Spanish descent made to the founding of America and to the building of America.

Q Will that be an official visit or State visit or what?

MR. NESSEN: It is a State visit.

Q Is this the first time that a reigning Spanish monarch has visited the United States, Ron, do you know?

MR. NESSEN: Juan Carlos was here before he was the King, when he was the Prince. In 1971 the Prince and Princess were here. Let me find out if any reigning Spanish King has ever been here.

Q How did you describe our relations -- close and what?

MR. NESSEN: Harmonious.

Q What is the Queen's name?

MR. NESSEN: The Queen's name is Sophia.

Q Ron, are the basic figures in this morning's Times story, the defense budget for next year, accurate?

MR. NESSEN: You mean the foreign aid budget?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: 7.8. I don't know why that story got so much attention because I think that figure was published at the time of the budget. What has happened is this week the details of the foreign aid budget have gone to Congress, and they are either available now or will be either today or within the next few days, the details, breakdown from the State Department.

But, the 7.8 figure I am sure was in the overall budget at the time it was announced. That is a correct figure.

Q Has the President made up his mind whether he is going back to Florida or not?

MR. NESSEN: No, he has not.

Q Ron, when Kissinger was asked for a phrase that he would find acceptable as a substitute for the word detente, he accepted peaceful coexistence. Would the President accept that?

MR. NESSEN: As the President said last August, privately since last August and yesterday, what we are talking about, which is relations between superpowers who are trying to avoid a war -- why do we need a single word or catch phrase to sum it up? I described the process. It takes a while to describe a policy that involves something that important.

Q Ron, the word detente, though, has been a favorite word of the Russians. Are the Russians going to be angry at Ford -- how does he feel about that -- for retiring the word?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know how the linguistic -- the President is saying he does not like the word or won't use the word. The policy remains unchanged.

Q Whatever it is called.

Q Ron, speaking of words, does the President have any reply to yesterday's statement by Prime Minister Kosygin that the current economic difficulties underscore that Capitalism is in crisis?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Ron, there is a report out that the White House, or some people in the White House, are expecting John Connally to make a move for the Republican nomination and, therefore, they have discouraged Republicans from going to the big Connally barbeque, or whatever it is. I guess it is a two-part question.

Number one, has this discouragement gone out from anybody here at the White House? Two, does the President and his political aides, do they expect Connally to get involved in getting the nomination?

MR. NESSEN: I have not heard either of those matters discussed by the President or his political people. I have not heard that.

Q Ron, in the past several days the Senate Finance Committee has made a number of tentative decisions, one of them rejecting the President's proposal on the Social Security taxes. The other rejected his plan for an additional \$10 billion tax cut.

Do you have any reaction to those developments.

MR. NESSEN: It is still workings its way through the legislative. The President stands by his proposals because he thinks they are best, and obviously his economic policies of the past are working. But, I don't think I will say anything while they are working on it.

Q Does the President realistically expect in an election year that Social Security taxes will be increased?

MR. NESSEN: Again, Jim, you have come to that kind of short-term, long-term division. The President, despite lots of things that are written saying everything he does is for political purposes--obviously if he were doing things for political purposes, you would not recommend an increase in Social Security taxes in an election year.

But, the long-term necessity of maintaining the Social Security fund intact for future retirement is so important that he felt the long-term need overweighed whatever short-term political liability it may have.

Q Let me rephrase the question this way. Does the President expect, given the fact that this is an election year, that there will be difficulties, that it will be a difficult proposition to persuade Congress to increase Social Security taxes?

MR. NESSEN: Congress can look at numbers just as easily as the President can and see that something needs to be done to overcome the annual shortfall in the Social Security and there are various ways to do it, as you know, and this is the way the President believes is best.

Q Ron, can I return to the detente question for just a minute? I don't think you have really told us, what does the President think most or many Americans think that term means?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that he has spelled out what he thinks most Americans think it means, but as I say, as long ago as last August he felt the word was not a proper way of describing the policy that he has pursued.

Q I am not sure I understand why. You say he does not feel there should be one word to describe relations?

MR. NESSEN: Right.

Q But, that word has a lot of connotation for a lot of people, and I am just wondering, you said this was not related to the domestic political situation.

MR. NESSEN: Right. I mean, obviously it is not because last August -- more than six months ago -- he said virtually the same thing he said yesterday except he did not absolutely rule out the use of the word.

Q He has used it since then.

MR. NESSEN: Yes, but I can't remember that he has used it very often, Helen.

Q Regardless of when the President developed contempt for the word detente -- (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: That is a little strong.

Q -- does Mr. Ford feel the word conjures up the Nixon Administration?

MR. NESSEN: Oh, no, I have not heard him say that.

Q Even though you have not heard him say that?

MR. NESSEN: It is just that foreign policy--and especially between superpowers trying to avoid confrontation or war--is a complex business and one, as the President said, somewhat confusing French word the President believes is not the proper way to describe this whole process.

Q Ron, does the President believe Ronald Reagan wrongly used the word in his speech in New Hampshire, at Andover?

MR. NESSEN: I don't recall how he used the word.

Q The only result of detente has been the right to sell Pepsi Cola in Siberia.

MR. NESSEN: Dick, as I said before, every stump political speech is not going to be answered from here all this campaign year.

Q What did he mean that the criticism of Kissinger was misdirected and unfair? Does he think it ought to be directed to him? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: No, I am not going to elaborate any more on his words.

Q But what did he mean by that?

MR. NESSEN: I did not ask him for further elaboration. He spelled out himself in there what he believes to be the really historic foreign policy accomplishments that Dr. Kissinger has made.

Q But does he think he has become a character in the political campaign?

MR. NESSEN: I am not going to extend his words beyond what he said, Helen.

Q Saying the word is confusing or is inadequate, does he think --

MR. NESSEN: Inadequate is really a very proper description of detente. It is a word he himself said, "I think the word is inadequate."

Q Does he think then it has become politicized, come to have political connotations?

MR. NESSEN: It just is, as he said six months ago before we were in a political context, Rudy, that it was confusing and simplistic and something more was needed to describe this process.

Q Ron, he did not repeat that disclaimer about detente. I know you historically can refer to the American Legion appearance, but if he wanted to get away from the word that best symbolizes American foreign policy, why did he choose the middle of the primary season to do it?

MR. NESSEN: He was asked about it.

Q But he had a lot of other opportunities to describe the inadequacies of the word detente.

MR. NESSEN: I know he talked about it publicly more than six months ago. Privately, he said very much the same things he said yesterday, and yesterday he said it publicly.

Q Has he come to think the word detente was a political liability for him?

MR. NESSEN: The policy, as I say from the Harris poll, is clearly supported by 62 percent of the people. The policy is to avoid a nuclear war among superpowers and reduce tensions where you can when it is in our benefit.

Now, that is the policy, has been the policy, and will be the policy, and the change of the word has nothing to do with the policy, as I told a lot of people yesterday.

Q Ron, does that poll show how many of that 62 percent are Republicans?

MR. NESSEN: I will check.

Q What is the date on that poll?

MR. NESSEN: Late December.

Q Does the President think the word detente also extends to another catch word to characterize the process going on in the relations between the United States and China; namely, normalization?

Q That is not French. (Laughter)

Q What about that question about Republicans?

MR. NESSEN: That does not indicate in the poll. It seems to be a general public poll of 1,394 adult Americans.

Q Is it geographically or any other way?

MR. NESSEN: It is just a national poll. Dr. Kissinger also received a 60 percent vote of confidence, according to this poll.

Q Ron, does the President think it was a mistake to begin using the word in the first place back in the Nixon Administration?

MR. NESSEN: You guys are really making more out of this than is really there.

Q Ron, the Government of Angola says it is going to support a revolution in Namibia, and there are some people who express fears that that may be the next Cuban target. Does the President have anything to say about moves into Namibia?

MR. NESSEN: Sort of similar questions have come up before, and I have always said that I did not want to comment on a hypothetical possibility for invasion. But, I do want to point out to you that the kind of things that are being talked about -- at least, without actually having happened -- they would be the consequences, if they happen, that the President warned about last December when he had his hands tied in Angola by the Congress.

He warned at that time that the cut-off of aid to our friends who were supporting those people in Angola who simply wanted to decide their own form of Government, that the cut-off would certainly encourage those forces in Angola and would discourage our friends in Africa and would be a signal to both sides that the Congress did not have the will and that Congress seemed to be willing to tolerate external intervention of Africa.

Q Ron, in the interview yesterday, the President said -- and I think it is not for the first time -- that the United States will resist aggression, expansion of aggression, and that sort of thing. I don't have the text with me.

MR. NESSEN: Castro expansion in the Western Hemisphere?

Q No, this was on the first page of the interview, and I think it had to do with extension of the Angolan situation. He said if there is any further aggression -- and the context was such that it sounded like he was talking about any more moves in Africa -- that we would resist, that we would do what we tried to do in Angola, is what he said.

Now, you keep talking about hypotheticals all the time. The hypotheticals are getting less and less hypothetical all the time. Why not say what the United States plans to do, what the dangers are, what is happening specifically in places like Namibia and Rhodesia and try to have the American people understand what the problem is instead of declaring it a hypothetical situation all the time?

MR. NESSEN: I think the President in that interview and on other occasions -- and the Secretary of State has also indicated -- I have to get the exact words in terms of what our response would be to further Cuban and Russian intervention in Africa. I don't have the text of the speech with me, but what I have said today should be seen in the context of what the President and the Secretary have said earlier about additional Russian and Cuban intervention in Africa.

Q Do you think there is a risk of pressure from the Popular Movement for intervention in Southwest Africa?

MR. NESSEN: Again, I don't want to speculate on whether they will or they won't, but I mean the President's word and the Secretary's words and some additional things I have said here today are on the record for people to look at, if they contemplate that kind of thing.

Q Ron, are you aware of any plans to debrief the former President now on his trip to China? Has he called?

MR. NESSEN: He has not called the President or any other senior person at the White House or State Department.

Q Has he been called?

MR. NESSEN: I am told that he has indicated that he will send a report in writing to the State Department.

Q How did he convey that?

MR. NESSEN: He conveyed it to the White House.

Q By telephone?

MR. NESSEN: To none of the senior officials at the White House, or the President.

Q Who did he get in touch with, and how?

MR. NESSEN: He just passed the word to the White House that he was going to send a written report to the State Department.

Q You mean Brennan called somebody here?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think I will get into the details of how the message was passed, but the fact is that the former President has indicated to the White House that he will send a written report to the State Department.

Q Ron, you realize fully this has been a question we have had for several days now. Why can't you disclose how this was transmitted? It is not a classified thing.

MR. NESSEN: It is a matter of who on the staff got the word. I said it was not the President. It was not anybody on the senior staff. It is a routine staffing matter. Somebody got notified that he is going to send a written report to the State Department.

Q Ron, who did Jerry Warren see here yesterday?

MR. NESSEN: Jerry Warren was totally unrelated in any way to what you are asking.

Q Will the President read this report?

MR. NESSEN: If the people at the State Department feel there is anything in the report that needs to be called to the President's attention, I am sure they will do it.

Q I still can't understand why you can't tell us and the American people how this was conveyed, to what person. I just can't understand that. Can you explain?

MR. NESSEN: Phil, I don't really think it is all that important a matter.

Q Is there some national security reason for this?

MR. NESSEN: It is a minor staffing detail. The former President indicated to the White House that he was going to send a written report to the State Department.

Q Did he himself talk to somebody here? Did Nixon talk to somebody here or was it an aide of his that talked to somebody?

MR. NESSEN: I don't really know, Fred.

Q Ron, did he tell that to Secretary Kissinger in California?

MR. NESSEN: As far as I know, they have not spoken.

Q Was the President told that Nixon would send a report?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, he was.

X
X
X

Q When is this report expected?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have any idea.

Q I am sure there will be other normal American citizens going to the People's Republic of China. When they return, how do they get whatever information they might have passed along to the Ford Administration? What person do they contact to get that, to send a written report?

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

Q Would you check on that?

MR. NESSEN: The State Department, I think, could help you with that.

Q There seems to be a determination here to show that Nixon will not be in contact with Ford or Kissinger. Is that some set policy?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that there is any effort to show it. It just happens to be the fact. That is all.

Q Does he plan to block any kind of contact?

MR. NESSEN: We have said from the beginning, Helen, there were no plans for a call or visit.

Q The President said he expected he probably would talk to him.

MR. NESSEN: He said that in an offhand way, that at some point "I expect I will be" talking to Nixon.

Q Ron, who are the people at the State Department who are going to make the determination whether or not the report comes to Mr. Ford?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. You have to ask them, Larry.

Q When was the word passed? Yesterday or today?

MR. NESSEN: Either this morning or late yesterday.

Q How do you ask them if you don't know who they are?

MR. NESSEN: Ask Bob Funseth over ther.

Q Ron, you said former President Nixon did not call President Ford or any senior staff people here?

MR. NESSEN: Right.

Q Was he called by anybody at the White House just to tie it up?

MR. NESSEN: No, he was not.

Q When did you say he made this communication?

MR. NESSEN: Either late yesterday or this morning.

Q You call it a minor staffing detail and yet you don't even know whether the former President himself delivered this word?

MR. NESSEN: The important point I thought that we have been dealing with all along is how, and was he going to file some kind of report, and I am saying that he has indicated to the White House that he will file a report in writing with the State Department.

Q And this was on his own initiative?

MR. NESSEN: The indication sent to the White House?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: It was.

Q Do you know when the report might be in?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have the vaguest notion.

Q Ron, why can't you simply tell us how this came about? What is so secret about that?

MR. NESSEN: There is nothing secret about it. I am telling you what it is I have been asked about all along which is he indicated he will file a written report with the State Department. The functionary in the White House who got the message is just --

Q A functionary got it?

Q Was it the switchboard operator?

MR. NESSEN: No, it was not the switchboard operator. (Laughter)

Q You say there is no secret about it and then you keep it a secret. You run an open Administration and you run a closed Administration. It is not a national security matter. It is not terribly important. Why don't you just tell us what happened?

MR. NESSEN: I told you what happened.

Q Who was involved?

Q Will it be a classified document or will it be a visitors document?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know, Helen. You will have to ask the State Department.

Q Can we say a functionary in the White House got the message?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Do you have any idea how long it is going to take, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: I don't, Don. How could I know?

Q Is his report coming to the White House first and then being sent to the State Department?

MR. NESSEN: No, it is being prepared for and sent to the State Department.

Q Can we also say the White House or you specifically did not want to talk about the subject today?

MR. NESSEN: No, I think I have talked about it a good deal today. We talked here about 20 minutes, I think, Phil. We talked 20 minutes or so yesterday. I think we talked probably 20 to 30 minutes every day for the last two or three weeks.



Q Can we say for an unexplained reason you cannot give the name or details?

MR. NESSEN: Why don't you say for a reason unacceptable to you I would not give the name. The reason is that it is a routine staffing matter as to which functionary got this. That is the reason. Now if it is an unacceptable reason, you can say that, but I have given the reason.

Q Do you customarily keep routine staff matters of no great importance secret when asked a specific question?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, I do.

Q You know who the functionary was?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Do you know how the word was received, then, also? Was it a telephone call?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, it was. I said that.

Q But you don't know who it was that called?

MR. NESSEN: You mean from the other end?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: Whether it was the former President or one of his staff people?

Q Correct.

MR. NESSEN: I don't.

Q You leave the final decision on the President getting this material to somebody in the State Department?

MR. NESSEN: That's correct.

Q Isn't the President, though, going to be interested in what Nixon has to say after nine hours of conversation?

MR. NESSEN: I said if the people in the State Department feel there is anything in that report that needs to be brought to the President's attention that we don't already know from our normal day to day diplomatic contacts, they will make sure the President sees it.

Q That is just it, there has been no contact with this man. Won't the President take the initiative to want to see anything that Nixon may write about him?

MR. NESSEN: John, I have told you what the process is going to be.

Q What if there are questions that somebody wants to raise over the report or further details they want to ask.

MR. NESSEN: Why don't you ask the State Department? They are going to get the report and deal with the report.

Q Ron, do people in the State Department who send reports to the President channel those reports through the Secretary's office?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know, Larry. I don't know exactly what you mean.

Q Does the Secretary of State have to see State Department reports that come to the President?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. You will have to ask the State Department what their procedure is.

Q If there was any word from Mao, any message, wouldn't the President be interested in this?

MR. NESSEN: If there is anything in their State Department files that needs to be brought to the President's attention, it will be.

Q Ron, you may have been asked about this yesterday -- I was not here -- and if you were, I will withdraw it immediately. Were you asked yesterday about Rogers Morton's comment or description of the President's reaction --

MR. NESSEN: No, I was not asked about it, but I asked Rog about it. Rog said he feels he was misquoted. He said he was asked and he answered that question in the negative really, just the opposite of what that story said, and he said he called the people who wrote the story. But, in any case, the President, I think, has had a couple of opportunities lately to give you his own reaction and feeling about that.

Q How come he didn't give it in the first place? The timing has always been wrong, hasn't it?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know what you mean.

Q On the Nixon trip.

MR. NESSEN: His timing?

Q The Nixon trip timing was wrong. He finally got around to saying that.

Q What are the plans tonight?

MR. NESSEN: A couple of us are going to stay here at least until the returns have some clear pattern to them. Very few, probably Dick Cheney and myself and maybe one or two other people in my office. The President is going over to the Residence as he did last week. I will be around. I don't expect the President to say anything. It is possible that the Press Office may have something to say when there is some determination.

Q Ron, if the President loses, will it be because Nixon came home?

Q Did Nixon indicate when he passed the word to the White House anything about the content of this report or what he feels will be the most significant item?

MR. NESSEN: No, my understanding was it was purely a phone call to set up the arrangement for whom to send the report to.

Q Did he say when the report will be ready?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know.

Q Was the call to inquire who should receive it in the State Department? Is that what San Clemente was calling about?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know the details of the phone call.

Q Why didn't they call the State Department?

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

Q Did Nixon want to send it to the White House?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know.

Q Ron, what are the President's expectations in Massachusetts?

MR. NESSEN: He thinks he will win but I am told there has been quite a quiet effort waged up there on behalf of former Governor Reagan, without very much publicity but quite intensive and I think the results could be a good deal closer than what some of the expectations are.

Q Has there been any effort on the President's part up there?

MR. NESSEN: No. I think there have been some TV commercials run.

Q They spent almost \$200,000 in the State in the last couple of weeks. That is as much as they spent in New Hampshire.

MR. NESSEN: I think that is mostly on TV commercials and speakers going up there on the President's behalf.

Q You don't call that an effort on the President's behalf?

MR. NESSEN: I thought Helen meant a personal effort by the President.

Q What do you mean on Reagan's part?

MR. NESSEN: He has some organizations which I understand have worked quietly in his behalf.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END

(AT 12:15 P.M. EST)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO:

Jan

FROM: CONNIE GERRARD

*This is the State
Department staff
on Nixon report
on China a trip for
Nixon file.*



Review

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DPC 41

TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWS BRIEFING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1976, 12:40 P.M.

(ON THE RECORD UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

MR. FUNSETH: Available in the office is the text of a statement delivered this morning by Ambassador McCloskey before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He was speaking on the recently signed Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Spain and the United States.

Secondly, John Feeney is the duty officer, beginning today through March 9th. His telephone number is 965-5144.

Q Bob, the accounts from Cairo -- actually from Kuwait -- on what Egyptian President Sadat says was promised Egypt during the disengagement. Do you have anything to tell us about that; and, basically, can you tell us if the accounts are correct -- if Sadat is representing, indeed, what he was told during the negotiations?

A The only thing I can say in response to

that question, Barry, is just to recall that our position on the undertakings and agreements was spelled out --

Q A little slower, Bob.

A -- in great detail last autumn at the time the Interim Agreement on the Sinai was presented to the Congress.

Q Spelled out where?

A To the Congress. As we have said -- and I will reaffirm this morning -- all relevant agreements reached in conjunction with that agreement --

Q All relevant agreements --

A -- reached in conjunction with that agreement have been transmitted to the Committees of the Congress concerned.

Q Well, Bob, you can scarcely have been taken by surprise by these two statements of Sadat, since he's said both of them several times in public for the past six months. Surely you're prepared to deal with both of these claims -- either to say that they are interpretations

of well-known declarations of American policy,
or else that they were actually something that President
Ford or Secretary Kissinger said to Sadat.

A The fact is I am not prepared or able
to go beyond what I have just --

Q Bob --

A -- in response to Barry's question.

On the Sinai agreement, from time to
time there have been questions about various aspects,
and I think we have fairly consistently maintained the
position which I just stated this morning.

Q Bob, can we --

Q Bob: one of the major participants in the
agreement is now ON THE RECORD saying what the agreements
are. Now, why can't you comment on the specifics of it?

A I am only able to respond the way I have.

Q But why? -- where there's no breach of
secrecy involved any more, it seems.

Q He first said this in a speech in Cairo
on the 28th of September. You've had plenty of time to
prepare an answer.

A I think that in the past, when such statements

have been made -- reported -- we have answered questions in this way, and this is the way I have to answer it today.

Q Well, is your statement --

Q Should we attribute any significance to the fact here that yesterday and today you're not specifically denying either of these?

A I am just being very straightforward about what we have said in the past. Everything that is related to the Sinai Agreement has been presented to the Congress.

Q You seem to be suggesting that that there is some language that conforms with what Sadat says has been presented to the Congress.

A I am not trying to imply anything.

Q Bob, the Secretary of State said that all legally binding agreements had been communicated to the Congress. He did not say all the agreements.

A I said all relevant agreements, and I think that is what we have said in the past also.

Q Well, that means not legally binding.

A Excuse me?

Q "Relevant" would mean legally binding.

A I think I will just stick with "all relevant agreements"-- in an all-inclusive sense.

Q Does that "all relevant agreements" then come out, given the problems you face and the way you talk, to a denial?

A It is not one way or the other. It is my response to the question. And when we have been asked in the past about specific questions -- I think we have responded in this way . And that is the way I am responding today.

Q Well, that leaves open the possibility that there is such a secret agreement but the State Department does not consider it as relevant to the Sinai Agreement. Is that the way you intend to leave it open?

A What I am saying is that all relevant agreements have been transmitted to the Committees of the Congress.

Q Well, can I be more specific about that? Would the kinds of agreements President Sadat referred to

in public be regarded as relevant?

A I really am not able to go beyond that.

Q Well, let's be more specific about transmitting it to Congress. How was this done, what Committees -- and was it public or private -- in writing, or with some elder statesmen?

A I believe that they were transmitted in writing to them --

Q Well --

A -- but I will get you the list of the Committees.

Q You see, I mean I will put my question another way. Let's start at the beginning, O.K.?

Were all relevant agreements reached during the Sinai negotiations committed to writing, in the first place, and were they all transmitted to Congress in writing, if you know?

A I cannot answer that, but I will just reaffirm that all relevant agreements were transmitted to the Congress.

Q You would regard such agreements as Sadat described as relevant, I gather.

A I am not going to comment specifically on what President Sadat said or what anyone else has said. What I am saying is this --

Q I'm sorry. Bob --

A Go ahead.

Q Assuming that Ozzie is right, and this has all been on the public record for many months from Egypt, can you as a State Department spokesman tell us why Sadat at this point is making a public declaration about the negotiations?

A I think that is a question that really would have to be addressed to his spokesman.

Q Bob, were there any secret agreements?
(Laughter.)

A No. We have not withheld any secret agreements from the Congress. They have all been communicated.

Q We have not withheld any secret agreements?

A All relevant agreements have been communicated to the Congress.

Q Bob -- let's put it this way, Bob: The initial formulation of this with Sadat back in September was

that he received assurances from President Ford on these two points. He was obviously referring to the meeting during the summer that preceded the Sinai Agreement. Would you be willing to look into the question as to whether there was a set of assurances given to the Egyptians that in any material way changed U. S. Mideast policy in the ways suggested by Sadat in his statements?

A First, I am going to stand on what I said initially. Secondly, I will look into this question further to see if I can say anything more than what I said.

Q Could I ask the question in a different way?

A Sure.

Q Would any alert member of the relevant Congressional Committee have been surprised by what he heard from President Sadat?

A You would have to ask the members of the Committees.

Q I'll put the question this way: Has what Sadat said in public --

A Excuse me? What?

Q Have Sadat's public comments provoked or prompted any member of Congress to come to the State Department and ask questions?

A Not that I have been informed of.

Q Was Senator Mansfield in touch with the State Department before his declaration today that there ought to be an investigation of this whole matter?

A I do not know the answer to that question.

Q Bob, leaving alone -- excuse me -- but leaving apart what was told, whether you can comment on it, let's take these two things as a matter of policy; and perhaps you can respond to it.

Q Is it?

Q Well, O.K.

Is it American policy that it will do what it can to prevent any Israeli attack on Syria?

A Our policy, Barry, is for a peaceful resolution of the problem in the Middle East -- all-inclusive-- involving all parties. Therefore, it follows we would be opposed to any hostilities in the Middle East.

Q And does the United States believe that

the Palestinians should be brought into the peace-making process?

A Our position on the Palestinians is as has been stated many times and has not changed.

Q What is what -- again -- that until they recognize Israel, is that it?

Q That's the PLO, Barry.

Q You know: The Palestinians --

Q No. What is your position on the Palestians as a people, if they are an identified group?

A On the question of the PLO, the position is as stated. I think we have said, and I think it is reflected in several statements, we recognize the question of the Palestinian people. But the question that has really been put before us, Barry, I think, is the participation of the PLO in a Geneva-type conference; and our position on that is we do not have a problem, because until the PLO recognizes the existence of the State of Israel and accepts the relevant UN Resolutions, we are not prepared to consider that.

Q What, again, is the policy on the Palestinian people, Bob?

A In what regard?

Q Well, with regard to the Palestinian people's claim to a homeland.

A These claims, as far as I am aware, have been advanced, primarily in the present context, by the PLO.

Q I'm not asking you about the PLO though. I mean, you're not saying that the PLO is the exclusive representative --

A That is correct.

Q -- of the Palestinian people.

A I did not imply that in any way.

Q Therefore, I'm asking, in the context of the Palestinian people, what is the official U. S. position?

A I think we recognize that there is the problem of the Palestinian people and it is something that is going to have to be dealt with in any overall settlement.

Q Do they still have legitimate rights or interests?

A However they have been described in the past, still exist today.

Q Shouldn't Palestinian people take part in the negotiations, one way or another, irrespective of PLO?

A I think we would have to see how that proposition was put forward.

Q Bob, is this the position, as you quote, the way Sadat put it: "The United States pledges all it can do to insure participation of Palestinians in any settlement"? Is that U. S. position?

A I think the U. S. position is as it has been described in various, innumerable public statements.

Q Is this right -- is this the U. S. position -- that the U. S. pledges to do all it can to insure participation of Palestinians in any settlement?

A We have taken into account the question of the Palestinian people and the role that that problem faces in a whole resolution of the Middle East. But I am not going to use other people's words to characterize a problem that has been articulated by the President and by the Secretary of State. It has been articulated at the United Nations, and it remains as it has been stated, as the record shows.

Q You're not answering the question.

You know, you're not answering that question, Bob.

You're giving me an awful lot of words without answering the question. Suppose we remove the quotation marks here.

A You are trying to restate U. S. policy.

Q I am asking you to state it.

A I am saying that our policy is as it has been stated and as it is ON THE RECORD.

Q And that is?

Q Bob, aren't you simply telling us that you don't remember exactly what the words are?

A I do not have the resolutions in front of me, and I am sure all of you people have good libraries and good files. What I am telling you is that there has been no change and it is as stated.

Q Bob, you know, there's an article by Sheehan coming out in a foreign policy magazine this weekend. It's a little early in the week, but a lot of us are planning to write stories about this.

Q Wait a minute --

Q Can't you --

Q Can I embargo my question? Can I ask you a

question embargoed for a.m. release on Sunday?

Q All right.

Q In the story -- at least I'd like to get some State Department comment on one matter -- at least -- and it's relevant to this conversation, discussion. And in it he says that Nixon, Kissinger and Ford all assured Sadat, at one time or another during the negotiations, that Israel would be pushed back to its 1967 borders. Do you have any comment on that?

A This is an embargoed question?

Q Your answer will be embargoed for release with the story.

A Yes. Well, I --

Q Will you try to get us an answer by late Friday?

A I'm aware of the story. I think if we have any comment, we would like to make it more in a broader context than just on a specific, narrow question. I understand the article raised other questions as well, and I will look into it.

Q We'd be happy to have any comments. Thank you.

Q Can you get that for us by the end of the week --

Q It's a weekend story.

Q -- so we can include it?

Q By tomorrow.

A It is a little unusual to give embargoed answers to embargoed articles, but it does not appear until -- when -- Monday, is that right?

Q Sunday.

A We will see.

Q Can we change the subject?

Q Bob, yesterday in the briefing -- I didn't bring the quotes -- but you said, in effect, it is your understanding that there would be no contacts between Secretary Kissinger and former President Nixon during the Secretary's stay in California. We're now given to understand from you that on Monday there was a phone conversation between Kissinger and the former President. Can you reconcile the statements -- and, also, can you discuss what substance was discussed in the conversation?

A It was my understanding, before the Secretary left for his visit, that he was not planning to have any contacts with President Nixon. Subsequently, there was a telephone conversation between the Secretary and

the former President on Monday about arrangements for a general debriefing of the former President on his visit to China. Mr. Nixon indicated to the Secretary that he -- Mr. Nixon -- would prefer to provide a written account of his impressions of the visit.

Q Who initiated the call?

A I do not know.

Q How long was it -- when?

Q Wait a minute.

A It was a very short call.

Q What was the answer to who initiated it?

A I do not know who initiated the call.

Q Bob, yesterday Mr. Nessen said that Nixon called a "functionary." Was this--

A It was not one and the same person. I understand that Mr. Nixon also phoned the White House after their conversation and repeated his preference for a written report.

Q I see.

Q Did the Secretary not inform the White House about his conversation with the former President?

A Let me just say in the first place the conversations between the Secretary and the White House or the President are privileged. But you can assume that the Secretary reports everything of any importance to the President.

Q Well, I can't assume it, because the Presidential spokesman said he had not. I had assumed just the opposite.

A Well,

Q When the Presidential spokesman ON THE RECORD as saying yesterday that Kissinger did not talk to Nixon.

A I am saying FOR THE RECORD today that the Secretary did speak with the former President on Monday.

Q I understand that, but I'm saying: Did he not inform the White House of his conversation? That's the question.

A My answer is that conversations between the Secretary and the President are, in the first instance, privileged; and, secondly, you can assume that he reports everything of importance to the President.

Q Well, what confuses me a little bit, Bob, about

this.

A Just to clarify -- just one other thing -- his call to the former President was made with White House knowledge.

Q Bob --

Q Are you saying he made the call now?

Q You're just saying he made the call?

Q He made the call?

A I do not know for a fact who initiated the call, but the conversation was with White House knowledge.

Q Prior knowledge?

Q Let me --

Q What?

Q Why is that important, Bob? Did the White House know ahead of time that Kissinger was going to call Nixon in California? Did they urge him to do so?

This is all rather relevant to the number of rather now conflicting statements that have been made on this subject.

A It is my understanding that the White House

had knowledge that the Secretary and the former President were going to have a telephone conversation on Monday about arrangements for debriefing the former President on his visit to China.

Q Well, Bob, what I find so confusing is that yesterday you were able to impart to us the information that Mr. Nixon was going to be submitting a written debriefing to the White House.

A Right.

Q Where did you get that information?

A This poses a general problem for me in terms of answering that kind of question, Ted. If someone asked on every guidance that I received from who specifically I received it, I do not think in principle I would be prepared or ought to answer it.

Q Bob --

Q No -- excuse me, Ken -- I don't think in principle, Bob, that we normally question your credibility, but here now we have conflicting statements by the State Department spokesman and the White House spokesman; and what really troubles me is that your own statements are internally inconsistent.

A What is in conflict with what I said yesterday?

Q What is in conflict is that I'm wondering where you got the information. If you did not know yesterday that the Secretary spoke with the former President, then where did you get that information?

A I think if you go back through the record and review the Qs and As, I do not think there is any conflict with what I am saying today with what I said yesterday.

Q I'm not saying there is conflict with what you said. I'm saying there is conflict with the suggestion that yesterday you did not know that the Secretary spoke with Mr. Nixon -- because, otherwise, how -- presumably, there are only two people at one point who would have known that the former President was going to --

A I do not think the question ever came up yesterday whether the Secretary had spoken with President Nixon.

Q Bob, the direct question in the briefing was: Will he talk to him by phone?

And your answer was --

A-21

A Yesterday?

Q Yesterday. And your answer was --

I wish I had brought it with me -- that "it was my understanding that there would be no contact."

A I believe, I was asked that question on Monday.

Q All right, Monday. That makes the difference?

A Yes it does. I was not asked yesterday the question about --

[continued on page B-1.]

Q On the 27th, you were asked if there was going to be any contact between them, and you cited Kissinger's previous statements in past briefings, and saying there would not be any.

A Ted's recollection and mine on what I was asked yesterday are not the same. And I would like to check the record. I think I was asked about the report, and I was not asked about whether the Secretary had telephoned him.

Q I am really asking where that report originated? I mean, it either originated with the White House or with the State Department or Nixon is putting it out himself.

A I anticipate questions, and I seek guidance. And I seek it at the level as authoritative as I think it needs to be. And I was confident in the answer I gave yesterday.

Q Well, you were right in the answer you gave yesterday. I am just wondering why it is that we could not know that Mr. Nixon and Mr. Kissinger spoke on the phone, and why it is that you don't know today who initiated the call, at the same time that you do know that the White House was aware of the fact that such a call would be initiated.

A I am providing you with the information that I have.

Q Bob, what time did that call take place, please?

A In the day?

Q Yes.

A I do not know what time.

Q In the morning before your briefing or afterwards?

A Bernie, I will have to ask.

Q How come you don't know that? Let me just follow this a minute, please. How come that you are briefing us and not giving what you can expect to be the most basic kind of information to questions that would be put to you?

A I did not know on Monday at the time of my briefing.

Q No, no. Now. You are here today.

A Yes, today is Wednesday.

Q How come you did not know about the timing of that call -- you don't know about that?

A For one thing, I do not anticipate all of your questions. Perhaps if I had asked exactly what time was the call made, I would have got the answer. But I did not ask that question, and no one volunteered the information.

Q Do you know the duration of the call?

A It was a short call.

Q Now, in the call, you talk about arrangements for debriefing. Was any substance whatsoever given to the Secretary by Mr. Nixon?

A I think the former President gave the Secretary a very surface impression of his visit but nothing of any great substance. It was a short call.

Q When you talk about arrangements for a general debriefing, are you talking about something in addition to the written report?

A No, but if you will recall, that until the former President indicated to us that he preferred to provide his impressions in the form of a written account, it had not been decided as to how this debriefing would take place.

Q But it is now your understanding that there will be no debriefing other than the written report?

A That is my understanding.

Q Is that correct?

A Yes.

Q It is your understanding right now that there will be no contacts between the former President and any State Department officials with the view to debriefing

the President.

A My understanding is that the former President is providing his impressions on his visit by his own preference in a written account. I am not going to exclude -- I do not know, I have not asked anybody, and no one has given me the answer --- but obviously I am not going to exclude the possibility that when people read this account that if there are some questions -- they might be asked either orally or in writing.

Q Bob, can we go back a little earlier, since this question of sequence has become rather important.

As I understand it, the Secretary saw the former President two or three days before the announcement of his trip to China. Is that correct?

A That is right. And we confirmed that here in the briefing.

Q And that there was no discussion of a specific timeframe for Mr. Nixon's trip. Is that right?

A As I recall at that time, I said that Mr. Nixon had indicated to the Secretary that he had this outstanding visit, and had planned to visit China, but no specific dates were mentioned.

Q Did the Secretary report to the White House in any way his discussion in that regard, without regard

to a specific timeframe, but that Mr. Nixon had been invited and planned to go?

A In the first place I believe the invitation was publicly -- the general invitation, the general proposition of his visit was known before that visit. It was publicly known. But there was no indication of any timing. And, yes, you can assume that whatever they discussed of importance was reported by the Secretary to the White House as he always does.

Q Jack Anderson today said that aides to the Secretary said that he was ~~he was~~ hopping mad.

A That is just not true.

Q Is that not true?

A No. And I might add, in that report on that network this morning -- it was also reported as if something new was being reported on the meeting in early February but it was public knowledge.

Q Do you know whether the Secretary or the White House advised Mr. Nixon one way or the other whether the trip should be carried out or not -- whether the invitation should be accepted?

A No, I do not know that. You would have to ask the White House.

Q Has a timeframe been put on Nixon's report?

A No. I assume that when the former President completes it, he will send it in.

Q Bob, you said it was the former President's preference that the report be in writing. What is the Secretary's preference?

A I think I was asked that yesterday. We have no preference. However he wants to communicate his impressions is all right with us.

Q Do you know, since he was acting for the President, or reporting to the President, does the White House have any preference how the debriefing goes?

A Who is acting for the President?

Q Well, since the Secretary is reporting his conversations back to his superiors at the White House, can you tell us what their preference is?

A I do not think the Administration has any preference.

Q Bob, can I just put a question to you, and perhaps you can ask the Secretary this.

In light of the fact that on two public occasions last week he said he personally would not debrief former

President Nixon. Could you just ask him how it happened that he did, in a sense, get some sort of debriefing from him. Was it initiated by former President Nixon, or was it his own idea, or what? Because on the record everyone is left with this discrepancy.

A I will put your question to him, Bernie. But let's just make clear that the purpose of the conversation was the subject of the debriefing and how to work out those arrangements.

Q But we were left with the distinct impression, I think -- everyone was including yourself -- that he was going out to California just to spend some time with his wife, and would have no contact with Mr. Nixon.

I don't want to haggle over the words. That was the impression everyone had. And there is a discrepancy in this. And people change their minds, there is no --

A I will put the question to him, but let's keep in mind that they had a short phone call about arrangements for a debriefing. They did not really get into the substance, and that it was in that conversation that Mr. Nixon indicated that he preferred to submit a written report. But I will put your question to him.

Ken is next.

Q Bob, keep in mind, too, though, as Bernie pointed out, and we did ask you before, that you left more than an impression with us on the 27th. You said there would be no contacts between the former President and the Secretary. Now, if there is a reason to change that, we would like to know why. I would also like to know when did you find out that there would be -- that there was a conversation between Kissinger and Nixon.

A I knew that yesterday.

Q Did you know it before the briefing yesterday?

A I knew it at the time of the briefing.

Q Why didn't you tell us at the briefing, since you had clearly given us the impression for two days previous that there would be no such contact. This was clearly a change. And I think for you to say because you weren't asked is a quibble.

A Yes, but look back at the transcript. It really did not come up. And other questions came up.

[Several questions being asked at one time, resulting in the court reporter's request that there be one question at a time.]

A This is just what the court reporter is talking about as to what happens in these briefings.

Q Bob, what did not happen ten minutes ago, when I asked essentially that question, you did not give that reply.

A You asked me who gave me my guidance.

Q That's right, who gave you your guidance, and the answer to that would clearly have answered the question that Ozzie just asked.

A I still haven't answered that question.

Q All right, you haven't answered it, but it is a lot clearer than it was five minutes ago.

Q Bob, yesterday you said that Mr. Nixon had informed the White House that this report would be in writing. That is the only answer you gave us on this thing. If you knew at the time that Mr. Nixon had already informed the Secretary, I think you should have told us that.

A Let's look back at the transcript and see how the "Q's" and "A's" went.

Q A further point of clarification. I have here on my notes that you just now, or a while back, said that the White House had knowledge that the Secretary and

former President Nixon were going to have a conversation.

Is that correct?

A Right.

Q So they had that knowledge?

A Yes.

Q When did they know that, Friday?

A I do not know when they had that knowledge.

Q Before the Secretary left for the West Coast?

A I do not know. I assume about the time
of the call.

Q Bob, while we are on the subject of quibbling,
they could hardly know that Mr. Nixon was going to call
Secretary Kissinger, could they?

A It is not impossible, not likely.

Q It is unlikely, isn't it? So, again, the
suggestion is that Secretary Kissinger in all probability
initiated the call to Mr. Nixon.

If I might just extend a question into a comment,
the only reason that I think all these questions are coming
at you right now is that it is so unnecessary for us to
get into quibbling matches with you over things that are
going to come out sooner or later anyway. Why is it not

possible for you to say, "Yes, Secretary Kissinger initiated a call to Mr. Nixon."?

A You know, sometimes in retrospect, things look a little clearer than they do at the time, Ted.

Q I mean, five minutes ago.

A The court stenographer couldn't even keep up with the questions that were going back and forth across the room.

Q That is not relevant, Bob.

A I do not think all these questions are relevant.

Q On the contrary, I think it is quite clear that we were misled yesterday.

A No, I do not think you were misled. Let's replay the transcript from yesterday.

Q On Monday, though, you were asked specifically, "Will they talk by phone?" Now, are we to repeat these questions every day until we have a four and a half hour session repeating yesterday's questions we can make sure that you answer? Wasn't Monday's questions still valid yesterday, particularly when you learned the answer you had given Monday was wrong?

A The subject of the question yesterday was not

about telephone calls. The subject was about the nature of the report.

Q But you could have corrected it. You had an opportunity then to correct the Monday comment about there being no contact. That seems to me, as Ozzie says, would have been something that could have been volunteered.

Q Just to dot the eye, Bob, and to give you one other opportunity now to go back over some information that you gave us before, did Secretary Kissinger initiate the call to Mr. Nixon?

A I was asked that question. I said I would look into it, Ted.

Q You still don't know the answer to that?

A No. I said I did not know. I think I have said it more than once during this briefing.

Q Yes, you have. I just wanted to be sure.

Q You don't know how the call came about?

A I do not know anything more about the conversation than I have reported at the briefing today.

Q Well, Bob, put it another way. If the White House knew in advance that they were going to have this telephone conversation, wouldn't it indicate that

the Secretary did initiate the call?

A I do not know the answer positively to that question. The White House is a building, it is not a person. There are a lot of people over there.

Q I think when you were asked if the President directed the Secretary -- maybe that wasn't the exact question -- but to the question, was the call made at the instigation of the White House? Right? Your answer was the conversation was held with White House knowledge. That is the closest you can come to telling us.

A I do not know --

Q You could be more specific as to whether the call to the former President was with White House knowledge.

Q Yes, but with White House knowledge -- that doesn't say it was a command telephone conversation.

A That is correct. And I do not know that.

Q Can we speak of something else?

A You may.

Q Do you have any comment to make after the statement by the President of Mozambique concerning the state of war with Rhodesia?

A I do not have anything specific about what he said. I am not sure -- did he really say there was a state of war? I know they have closed the borders and put people on alert, but we do not have anything more than that on it, frankly.

Q Bob, one of the local radio stations carried a report about four Americans who are missing and believed killed in the Angolan war. Do you have anything on that?

Q What is the question?

Q A local station carrying a report that four Americans are missing and believed killed in the Angolan war.

A We have had a report to that effect, but no positive confirmation. It is second-hand information, let me check into it, and see if we have anything more.

Q You didn't listen to the same radio report Bernie did.

A No, we had an independent report on that, but no confirmation or no identification. And we do not know, in fact, that there were people --

Q Who are these Americans, according to your report?

A Pardon me?

Q Who are they? Are they military?

A We had no information or any identification.

Q I understand that you have some names of four individuals who may or may not have been in Angola, and I ask the question whether two names mentioned in that television report last night, were they two of the names that you had?

A I will have to check into that, Henry.

Q Where is your report from?

A We got the report from a source in Africa.

Q In Africa?

A Yes.

Q Did it come from your Mission in Zaire, or where?

A I think it came from Zaire, but I want to check into that.

Q I would like to confirm that, because I was given it last night that it was from the Embassy in Kinshasa, and I would like to know if that is correct.

A I will check into it.

Q Bob, one other question. In the Banking

Committee today, there was a suggestion made by at least one Senator that consideration be given to inviting the Secretary to testify in connection with the Lockheed scandal. Has such an invitation been extended? Will the Secretary accept?

A It was my understanding that the Deputy Secretary, Mr. Ingersoll, was going to appear before that Committee.

Q But this was specifically the Secretary being mentioned by name.

A I did not know that.

Q On that question, Bob, Ingersoll, I think, was due to testify today and then asked out. I am told on grounds that Kissinger wanted to delay his testimony until things were squared away some more. Can you confirm that?

A I think the request for the delay was to permit the Department to be better prepared to testify.

Q Do you know when Mr. Ingersoll is leaving the Department?

A No, I do not.

Q Do you know if he will testify while he is

still a government employee?

A I believe his meeting has been rescheduled for Friday.

Q Do you have any comment on this report that a Political Officer of the American Embassy in France visited the leader of the Socialist Party to try to convince him not to form an alliance with the French Communist Party?

A I have seen that report. I think the Embassy has already put something out on it. The fact of the matter is that the Embassy Officer in question, as part of his routine calls on political leaders -- which any political officer does -- had such discussions. There was no interference in domestic affairs, or anything like that. It was a routine call.

Q The report says that the call was requested or was at the instructions of Secretary Kissinger.

A That is not my information.

Q Which would make it slightly different from a routine visit with political leaders. Is that not true?

A I have been informed that that is not why the Political Counsellor was making these calls. He was

making these in performance of his duties to report on political developments in France.

Q How about the substance of the reports? Is the substance accurate?

A The substance -- there are a number of points I think he -- .

Q He urged the Socialists not to make an alliance with the Communists.

A That refers to an old story which I think we have commented on in the past in public, that we have made our views known on participation of European Communists in NATO country governments.

Q This is a new story, where a Political Officer called on a specific person and made a specific urging.

A It was not a call made in the last day or two, Dick. It was a call made some time ago.

Q Wait a minute, you still haven't dealt with the substance, the fact that the view is well know, and the Secretary of State has said that the United States does not urge others to do that. It gives advice only when asked.

A I do not know if this subject even came up in the conversation between Mr. Cohen and

Gaston Defferre , and other leaders. But certainly our view on this question is well known. It has been stated many times.

Q Bob, has that view been stated only when asked, or is that now being volunteered?

A You mean, did Mr. Cohen volunteer U.S. views?

Q Yes.

A I do not know whether he volunteered it or if it was on an "if asked." Normally we have said it has been on an "if asked" basis.

Q Has the French Government been in touch with you about this -- ?

A Not to my knowledge, no.

Q And would you say these routine calls have nothing to do with the fact that elections are taking place within a few weeks?

A Excuse me?

Q Have these routine calls nothing to do with the fact that elections are taking place in a few weeks?

A No. And I was further informed that the Ambassador in Paris is really ill with the flu.

Q And our position is what -- that the Communists -- that other political parties should have nothing to do with the Communists?

I know this is our off-the-record position. What is our on-the-record position?

A I think publicly on the record, both the President and the Secretary have said that -- I don't know that both, but either -- that obviously the participation of the communist party members in NATO cabinets would be incompatible with the nature of the Atlantic Alliance as we have known it.

Q That is our position, and it is our position across the board, right, in Europe, obviously.

A That is our view.

Q And it is still our view, even after what happened at the Communist Party Conference. It is still our view today?

A It is still our view today.

Q Mr. Defferre surely knew about your views, which are well known. So why didn't you remind them to him?

A I don't have a detailed report on the conversation between Mr. Defferre and Mr. Cohen (Political Counselor in Paris).

Q He protested against what he called an interference, and not a routine call.

A I am saying that I have been advised that Mr. Cohen's call on Mr. Defferre was a routine call that he makes on any number of political leaders in France.

Q Bob, if I can return to an open question from yesterday about this employee, former employee, at the Embassy in Moscow who inquired about a possible claim on behalf of his son. You said you would look into that.

A I do not have anything more than what I posted.

Q Thank you, Bob.

[The briefing terminated at 1:18 p.m.]