

DECEMBER 27, 1974

POOL REPORT

The President's domestic advisers arrived at the winter White House at approximately 9:50 a.m. They came in station wagons and were greeted by Major Bob Barrett. Most were dressed casually. Secretary Morton was wearing a fur cap and they exchanged greetings with reporters as they went in.

The group included Russell Train, Rogers Morton, Frank Zarb, Alan Greenspan, James Lynn and two aides of Zarb.

Simon arrived several minutes later and reporters asked him what they were going to talk about. He replied "we have a lot of things we want to talk about. . ." Do you have anything specific you want to discuss? Answer: "I don't want to preempt anything." Will you bring up the matter of the increased gas tax? Answer: "You never can tell." At that point they took five minutes to get settled after which the pool was allowed into the den.

The group was sitting in a large semi-circle around the fireplace. President Ford was wearing a natty ski racer's shirt with red and yellow racing stripes extending up either arm and across the shoulders and plaid slacks. Seated to the President's left was Rogers Morton and to his right Secretary Simon and Greenspan. Simon and Greenspan looked rather stiff and formal in dark business suits and ties. Rumsfeld, Nessen, Seidman (who apparently had arrived earlier), Speechwriter Milton Friedman, Ash, Roger Porter (White House fellow attached to Seidman) were also there.

While posing for photographers, the President chatted with Simon, Greenspan and Morton telling them about his skiing. He said the first day's conditions were not too good it was windy and there was a lot of blowing snow. Then he discussed his new quarters here in Vail and said to the same men, we are lucky we made this trade with Dick Bass, our place only had three bedrooms. At this point he began discussing someone from Grand Rapids, whose name we do not have, with Rogers Morton. The President said I saw him on the slopes, he is a very good skier. He owns the American Seating Company of Grand Rapids. I checked their stock a year ago and it was at 17, its down to 5 now. They employ about 4,000 people from Grand Rapids. At this point we were ushered out.

Farney
Rodgers

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