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THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AND
QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION
AT
WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE

12:35 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: How are you all. It is nice to see you.

I have a couple of minutes here if you want to ask a question or two.

QUESTION: Mr. President, we have a great deal of concern about jobs and unemployment. Do you see any possibility of the Government as an employer of last resort, especially in the Northeast, which has been pretty hard hit?

THE PRESIDENT: We have a number of programs, the CETA program for public service employment. We have a number of other training programs and, as the economy moves up -- and it is moving up, it is getting stronger and healthier -- I think we will find a downward trend in unemployment in Rhode Island, in Massachusetts -- in my own State of Michigan, we are making real headway. In the meantime I think we will have the kind of programs that are healthy in many, many instances.

QUESTION: Mr. President, would you see the money running out, though, by June?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no. The appropriation for the CETA program, if the Congress appropriates what I have recommended, will fully fund the program through June 30 of next year.

QUESTION: Mr. President, would you consider a woman for Vice President?

THE PRESIDENT: Of course I would.

MORE

QUESTION: Mr. President, you have given the impression, you know, with the changes in your Cabinet, that Dr. Kissinger is being moved out of the national security area and restricted only to the foreign policy area.

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't hear the last part.

QUESTION: Dr. Kissinger is being moved out of the national security and substantially restricted to the foreign policy area.

THE PRESIDENT: Dr. Kissinger will continue to have great influence in the overall strategy that we have on a worldwide basis. As Secretary of State, as an active member of the National Security Council, he will have tremendous influence but we will also have an input from other sources -- the Secretary of Defense, head of CIA. It is a combination of high ranking people, each with specific responsibilities, and the recommendations will come to me and I will make the final decisions.

QUESTION: Doesn't that represent some diminution of Dr. Kissinger's influence?

THE PRESIDENT: I wouldn't think so. He will have a very great influence, he has and he will. But there is also other voices that have to contribute to the recommendations that come to me and those voices will be heard as well.

QUESTION: Mr. President, who do you see as a possible running mate in '76?

THE PRESIDENT: We have a wide variety of fine potential candidates and I couldn't take all the time to name them, they are all so good and there are so many of them.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

(AT 12:38 P.M. EST)