

December 2, 1975

PRESS POOL #8 - Travel Pool Guest House #18-Great Hall- and return.

The President was a few moments late arriving at the Great Hall but Nessen said he was ready to go on time and that the delay was caused by the Chinese holding up on the signal for his motorcade to leave Guest House #18. Inside the gate of the compound where the guest house is located, was a Chinese sign of three characters which translates to mean "A Place to Fish." Before the talks began Nessen said, "I'm not sure there is an agreed upon agenda." Asked if they would discuss detente, Nessen said, "Yes." "They're just going to start in and discuss the world." Nessen was asked how the President would begin after the Vice Premier's toast of the night before and said, "I think he'll explain the American position forcefully and fully and frankly." Nessen said he believed that Vice Premier Teng's toast, "Was milder than the toast they gave to Henry when he was here." Nessen was asked if any domestic, political, or presidential primaries information was being piped over here and he said, "No." Asked what exercise the President had been doing since he arrived here, Nessen said, "He does push-ups, sit-ups, and running in place."

Nessen's list of participants on the Chinese side, in addition to the five listed on the schedule, included Tang Wen Shang, Deputy Director, Department of Foreign Ministry; Chien Ta Jung, Counsellor, Liaison Office; Ting Yuan Hung, Division Chief; Chuaw Chi Hua, Deputy Chief of Division (List was handwritten and spellings may be suspect.)

Vice Premier Teng escorted the President as far as the lobby. The President and Kissinger, along with Cheney and Scowcroft were not smiling as they boarded their cars. Some of your poolers thought the group appeared "pre-occupied, perhaps even grim."

The meetings ran about 10 minutes past the time indicated on the schedule. Motorcade back to the compound uneventful.

Nyhan - Boston Globe  
Osborne - The New Republic  
Schieffer - CBS