

August 25, 1976

BRIEFING BY BILL GREENER

THE MOUNTAIN HAUS

12:53 P.M. MDT

MR. GREENER: This is something that Rog wrote out himself. He said the mission will be threefold: One, to provide for the President an objective overview of the progress of the campaign; two, to serve as a forum for discussion of strategy and ideas; three, to promote party unity.

Q Does it say anything about rearranging the furniture?

MR. GREENER: It is not mentioned in the memo I have here, Aldo.

Q Will he be paid by the PFC -- Morton?

MR. GREENER: Don't know. The question hasn't come up, Fred. I will find out.

Q Will he have any office space at the PFC?

MR. GREENER: I haven't heard the subject even discussed, Jim. I will be glad to check on it.

Q Did not Morton say last week that he would not give up the chairmanship of the PFC?

MR. GREENER: He did not. He did say, however, that he had asked the President to relieve him of the responsibility and accountability of the chairmanship of the PFC, that he was anxious to participate in the campaign across the country as an advocate.

He added, "Under the strict requirements of the new Federal election laws, it is necessary for the campaign chairman to be involved in all planning and actions taken by the committee. The Chairman," he added, "therefore must be at the headquarters nearly all the time."

The only part I haven't read that he wrote out was that after he had spoken to the President, the President --

Q He came in when? Sunday?

MR. GREENER: I had better check on that. As I recall, it was Saturday that he spoke to the President.

MORE

Q That was after he got here?

MR. GREENER: That is correct. It was after he got here but I will have to look. I don't recall whether it was Saturday or Sunday.

Q He normally is at headquarters, then?

MR. GREENER: He wanted to travel across the country campaigning as an advocate.

Q Will he be paid in his new job as Chairman of the Steering Committee; is that a paid position?

MR. GREENER: I do not know the answer to that. Dick asked me and I will get the answers to all of those in a minute.

Q How much is Cheney being paid?

MR. GREENER: I will have to check on all the salaries. I haven't checked on any of them.

Q Did he say anything else in that memo?

MR. GREENER: He said that the President asked him to organize a President's Steering Committee and serve as its chairman.

Q Did it say anything else?

MR. GREENER: It did not. It just adds that the committee will be composed of Republican leaders. That is all I have.

Q What else did he say?

MR. GREENER: I read the whole memo, Helen.

Q Bill, when do you expect the Steering Committee to be set up, next week?

MR. GREENER: I would think within the next week or ten days we ought to be able to announce the full composition.

Q Can you tell us whether Reagan will be asked to serve on this committee?

MR. GREENER: I cannot.

Q On the three points discussed -- election business, interviewing and polling, and all that -- is this something that is not now being done by the PFC?

MR. GREENER: Most of the actions are being done within the PFC except as I pointed out, the number one item is to give an objective analysis of the view of these leaders as to how the campaign is progressing.

Q Objective overview of the progress of the campaign --

MR. GREENER: Overview without the actual day-to-day campaign activities.

Q This is not something that Baker and the team that was announced today could not do within the PFC?

MR. GREENER: We think we can do it, he thinks we can do it, we also think any outside assistance we can get, looking at it in sort of an overall view without being bogged down in the day-to-day activities, will be an assist.

Q Are you saying that the type people you expect to serve on the Steering Committee are people such as Reagan, Howard Baker, Ted Wilson, and people like that?

MR. GREENER: I just said Republican leaders, and all those you named are Republican leaders.

Q Who will make the decision as to what activities the Steering Committee will participate in?

MR. GREENER: The final decision will be made by the President.

Q I guess if they have some suggestions, do they go to Baker or do they go to the President?

MR. GREENER: You are asking me for details that have not been fully worked out, Phil. I will be glad to get them for you as soon as I can.

As I said, I really didn't come over expecting a briefing. I said I was on my way over and somebody said they had some questions about it and I mentioned that I had this paper that was written out by Rog and I would be glad to share it.

Q We can't goof off from work all week. We have to have answers.

MR. GREENER: I will be delighted to come every day, Helen.

Q Bill, do you have any information on a meeting in Washington tomorrow between Ruckelshaus, Burch and the Carter people, where it is going to be, and what?

MR. GREENER: I do not. They are just meeting in Washington.

Q You don't know where?

MR. GREENER: No.

Q Would you find out.

MR. GREENER: All right.

Q Are representatives of President Ford going out now to try to line up these people?

MR. GREENER: I spoke to Rog this morning and asked him if he had made any calls and he said he was planning to make some of them today.

Q Is this meeting in WASHINGTON between Burch and Ruckelshaus or by Burch and Ruckelshaus with the Carter people?

MR. GREENER: Burch and Ruckelshaus will be meeting tonight and tomorrow and they anticipate they will be meeting with whoever the Carter people are, to discuss the debates with presumably Carter representatives.

Q Bill, could you give us a very brief biog -- your birthdate, place, and the positions you have held during the last few years?

MR. GREENER: A biog on me?

Q Yes.

MR. GREENER: Don't they have it upstairs in the Press Office?

Q They exorcised you earlier in the year, so what is your birthdate; when were you born?

MR. GREENER: January 18, 1925; Memphis, Tennessee.

Q Now, backwards from your last three or four jobs.

MR. GREENER: Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs; Deputy Press Secretary to the President; Deputy Chairman of the President Ford Committee for Communications.

Q You were at OMB then?

MR. GREENER: OMB and then before that, Assistant to the Secretary for Public Affairs at HUD.

Q That is a lot of jobs.

MR. GREENER: You are absolutely right. Keep moving and they can't catch you. (Laughter)

Q Will we look to you as spokesman for this series of debates?

MR. GREENER: I will check that with Rog. I woult think probably so. I would think that we will work that out.

You are asking me for more details about the debates than I know.

Q Do you expect any more this afternoon from your end of the camp?

MR. GREENER: I do not.

Q Will you be back with the answers to the questions we have?

MR. GREENER: I will try to get hold of Rog. The main questions that you have are, whether or not he has an office, whether or not he is being paid, and also, what Jim Baker is being paid, that is what I understand are the three outstanding questions, and I will try to get it.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

(AT 1:05 P.M. MDT)