

November 22, 1976

P O O L R E P O R T

## ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER

3:55 P.M. EST

WALT RODGERS (AP RADIO): The two men were sitting in the traditional Oval Office photo position in the orange brocade, high wing-back chairs, sitting somewhat across from each other. The President was wearing a blue pin-stripe suit and Mr. Carter was wearing a blue suit.

When we were ushered in with the photographers they were already engaged in a conversation. It was difficult to hear Mr. Carter because he was speaking with his back to us and Mr. Carter speaks in low tones. The President was talking in our direction, so his quotes are somewhat more complete.

The first thing we heard the President say was, "We are within reachable agreement, but we still have some agency differences here to some extent." That is the end of the quote. We think that they were talking about the budget.

Then Mr. Carter asked the President a question about Congress, and we could not hear anything that we can give you a substantive quote on in that area, but Carter did ask the President a question about the Congress.

Q Why do you think they were talking about the budget?

WALT RODGERS: Because that is what the President has been working on all week. Again, this is what we felt. We have some substantive stuff we can give you. We are just giving the surmise on the quote.

The first substantive quote is Carter asking the President, "How would you feel about another economic meeting like the one you had in Puerto Rico?" We heard the President say, "It might be desirable. . ." Carter then said, "It would give me a chance to meet some foreign leaders."

As you may or may not know, there is an economic summit conference tentatively on track for February or March in Tokyo, or at least this is the general understanding. This would be Rombouillet III, following Puerto Rico II, and so on.

Then the discussion. Again, there were a lot of camera shutters clicking, and there was a discussion of the President's meeting in NATO and there was a discussion of the meeting of the NATO Ministers in Brussels.

ANNE COMPTON (ABC): After this, President Ford said, "It will give you a chance to meet some foreign leaders."

WALT RODGERS: A photographer asked them to turn and look at them for a minute, so he paused. Then he started again, "It might be better for you to have" -- I think this is an exact quote -- "a meeting with Ministers of NATO and perhaps heads of government." Then he called that very, very beneficial.

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Q He, Ford?

WALT RODGERS: He, Ford; very, very beneficial.

Then the President said something again to the effect there are continuing negotiations. Carter then asked the President about the worth of an economic summit conference, like Puerto Rico, and the President said, "It was extremely beneficial. I found the meeting extremely beneficial." The President then mentioned that he brought Kissinger and Simon and other top advisors, and that the heads of government also brought their foreign ministers and finance ministers.

Carter then asked an interesting question, that is to say, one would have thought he would have been aware of this, but perhaps it was a rhetorical question or small talk. He asked the President, "Did you go to the one in France?" meaning Rombouillet I, and the President, of course, said yes. That is what we got when we were ushered out.

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Walt Rodgers (AP Radio)  
Tom DeFrank (Newsweek)  
Anne Compton (ABC)  
Bob Jamieson (NBC)

DEPARTURE FROM BLAIR HOUSE

DON IRWIN (L.A. TIMES). They set out in a 9-car motorcade, if you count the police cars in the front and in the rear. You saw their arrival here.

Before that, after most of you had left, Secretary Simon came out. These are pretty fragmentary notes because there were so many cameras in front of me I could only hear part of this.

Simon said it was a very good, fruitful meeting. "I had a very good fruitful meeting with Governor Carter to brief him on all of the issues pertaining to the Treasury Department." He listed a number of the issues. I only got some of them. He said he delivered to Governor Carter some briefing books on these various questions.

A question was asked, "Does Governor Carter see any need for action on New York City now?"

And the answer I have is, "Yes, I do." Then he said that is why Bob Girard is in New York City now.

He was asked if there should be action before the takeover. He gave a long and complicated answer, the burden of which was that he couldn't say now but he would not hesitate to act if it became necessary. He was asked how the question came up about New York City and he said that Governor Carter asked questions about it. Speaking of New York, he said they are on target. They have done all of what their plan called for and he believes they will remain on target.

There was a question about the IMF loan to the United Kingdom. Simon said he had given the Governor a complete update on it.

Another question: Will he support the loan?

Answer: A decision on that will undoubtedly come before January 20th.

He said that Carter appeared to be satisfied with the way negotiations between the IMF and the United Kingdom were being conducted.

He was asked about the problem of the sterling balance and he said he had discussed it with the Governor without going into detail.

He was asked if there was any discussion of a modification of the US position on the loan terms. Simon said he was not aware that the United States had a position and that we are not a party directly to the IMF negotiations, but that he will participate as a Board member.

He was asked whether they had discussed a tax cut and he said they had discussed tax policy and simplification and that he is submitting a report of his views on this question to Governor Carter which he said the Governor was looking forward to.

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He said he had discussed his own efforts to slow spending. In replying to a question he said that he was always for a permanent cut rather than a one shot.

He said that they did not discuss a stimulative cut; they discussed a permanent cut or he was discussing a permanent cut. Incidentally, Simon had under his arm a note, a pad which was covered with longhand notes, it looked like several pages of it.

Question: Did he ask you to take any steps in relation to New York City?

Answer: He did not.

Question: Were you in agreement on New York City?

He said the Governor did not express an opinion on that subject. He said they are working out details on New York and in the interim they will continue to advance the loan funds. He said President-elect Carter did not express an opinion on that subject. He said they are working out details on New York and in the interim they will continue to advance the loan funds, the ones that they are presently extending periodically and then he jumped into his car.

Q John, you said Simon said he wouldn't hesitate to do something on New York City. By takeover, you mean of the Carter takeover?

DON IRWIN. No, that if action is required, the Ford Administration would not hesitate to act. He did not specify what action or what the emergency would be.

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