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NEWS CONFERENCE

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH JERRY TER HORST

AT 11:44 A.M. EDT

AUGUST 13, 1974

TUESDAY

MR. TER HORST: We have posted most of the President's schedule for today.

This morning, the President has been working in the Oval Office since 8 o'clock. He has met with General Haig, Ambassador Rumsfeld, who is the coordinator of the transition team; Secretary Kissinger, General Scowcroft, myself, and he is now meeting with Attorney General Saxbe.

I don't really expect to have a report on that meeting, but they are supposed to be discussing the privacy study that was undertaken by the Justice Department when President Ford was Vice President. Attorney General Saxbe also wanted to review the crime rate situation for the country.

Q Jerry, will they discuss the situation with regard to possible indictment of the former President?

MR. TER HORST: I would not expect that to come up.

Q How about the tapes? Would they discuss that? The disposition of the tapes. You said yesterday the Justice Department was cranked in on this.

MR. TER HORST: As I mentioned yesterday, only cranked in from the standpoint that the Justice Department is the ongoing legal arm of the Government. I didn't mean to imply any special Justice Department role in that.

Let me finish the announcements, and then I will take your questions. This is an addition to the schedule.

At 12 noon, the President will meet with George Meany, the President of the AFL-CIO, in the Oval Office for a general discussion, which I think will include a review of the economic situation, labor management matters, and we will have a photo session at the beginning of that meeting. That is supposed to begin at 12, and you photographers know what to do, and one of the fellows here will take care of that for you.

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Afterward, if it is possible, if President Meany wishes to come out and talk to you, we will see if we can arrange that. If not, I hope to be able to give you a small fill on what transpired from the President, afterward.

At 2 o'clock this afternoon, the President is meeting with sponsors of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act. That involves Secretary Brennan and some local and State government officials whose duty it is to implement these local programs under this particular Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

President Ford has followed this act through its legislative history and through its performance for about three or four years now and has also been very supportive of this particular program. It actually amounts to about 10,000 contracts with local organizations who then conduct manpower training in local areas. The act was passed on December 28, 1973.

As you may recall, this act incorporates the principles of revenue sharing and the funds are allocated to local and State government for use for manpower training purposes at their direction under the Revenue Sharing Act.

He is really calling them in to congratulate them on the fine job he thinks they are doing and to ask them to continue and obviously to see if they have any suggestions for improving that particular piece of legislation.

He also wants to express at that meeting to the local officials his support and appreciation for the role of the Labor Department and Secretary Brennan in implementing this act. That is at 2 o'clock.

At 3 o'clock this afternoon, the President will meet with the Joint Chiefs of Staff. This, of course, is his first meeting with them, and Secretary Schlesinger, Deputy Secretary William Clements, will also attend that meeting, as will Secretary Kissinger in his role as Assistant to the President.

We will provide a picture session of that at 3 o'clock. That is at the beginning of the meeting, and I doubt very much if I will be able to give you any kind of a briefing on what happened, but it is essentially an opportunity for the JCS to get acquainted with the Commander-in-Chief, meet with him personally for the first time and have some dialogue and conversation on their mutual responsibilities.

At 4:15 this afternoon, the President will address a group of Presidential appointees in the East Room. These are Presidential appointees below the level of Cabinet rank involving the departments and the agencies of Government and, of course, the Executive Office of the President, as well as those in the White House.

Q Will that be open?

MR. TER HORST: That will not be open, no. The President wishes to talk to them in the same manner that he has talked to members of the Cabinet and senior White House staff, but I will be at the meeting, and for those who are interested, at the conclusion of that meeting I will be here to give a briefing on what transpired.

Q About what time will that be?

MR. TER HORST: The meeting is set for 4:15. I would imagine it would probably last close to 5 o'clock, so I wouldn't look for anything by way of fill until after 5, just for your guidance. It might be earlier, but I frankly would doubt it.

During the next two days, the President will be meeting with groups of mayors and Governors and county officials.

Wednesday at 3 o'clock, the President will meet with the Executive Committee of the National Governors Conference, and at 4 p.m. Wednesday, he will meet with officials of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities and other mayors selected by those organizations. We will post lists of the Governors and the mayors who are expected to attend these meetings with the President tomorrow.

Then on Thursday at 11:30, the President will meet with a group of officials of the National Association of Counties, and we will provide that list to you when we are able to determine who precisely will be coming. The invitations are out, but we have no final list yet on who will be able to be here, but we will provide that to you as soon as we have it.

Q Jerry, Wednesday at 3 p.m. with the Executive Council of Governors and the U.S. Conference of Mayors at 4 p.m. when?

MR. TER HORST: Wednesday.

Q Then the county?

MR. TER HORST: The counties are Thursday at 11:30.

Q He doesn't meet with any mayors before all of this?

MR. TER HORST: No, this is the schedule for the meetings, Sarah.

Q What is the purpose of this, Jerry?

MR. TER HORST: The purpose is to give the President an opportunity to meet with those local and State officials, county officials, to stress to them how important it is not only to provide continuity and stability at the Federal level, but in the ongoing Federal, State and local relationships with the Presidency and also to give them an opportunity to bring up matters of concern in their constituencies to the President.

I would venture to say if any of those gentlemen or Governors care to suggest names to the President for consideration as Vice President, he would be receptive to that.

Q Is there any date on the Black Caucus meeting?

MR. TER HORST: I believe Congressman Rangel is trying to set one up for next week, but to my knowledge the final date has not been set yet. It will be held next week.

As you may be aware, the President yesterday afternoon personally called Congressman Rangel and invited the Black Caucus to meet with him at the White House at their convenience, and on behalf of the Black Caucus Members of Congress, Congressman Rangel accepted the invitation and the precise date is being worked out that will be convenient to both sides. So, we will announce that when it happens.

Q Sir, I have a personal question. Did your parents or grandparents come from the Netherlands, and from where did they come?

MR. TER HORST: Let's hold that off for a bit, and I will talk to you about that personally.

I have a couple of other announcements I am sure you will be interested in.

The President will nominate Jack B. Kubisch, the Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, to be the United States Ambassador to Greece. He will succeed Henry J. Tasca, who has resigned.

The President will also nominate Richard L. Sneider to be Ambassador to Korea. Mr. Sneider presently is Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and he will succeed Philip Habib, who is now Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

Q In connection with that, Jerry, has the President shown any concern of the fact that the Catholic Bishop in Korea, along with Presbyterians and Methodists, has been sent to prison for 15 years? Is he going to instruct this Ambassador to show any concern for this apparent suppression of freedom in Korea?

MR. TER HORST: You are talking about the --

Q It has been in all the headlines. He has been sent to prison for 15 years for daring to criticize the Pak regime. Is the President concerned about this?

MR. TER HORST: Yes, I would say, as the Secretary of State has testified before Congress recently, the United States has made clear to the Korean Government our concern over these matters of human rights, but as to specific details, I would suggest you check with the State Department and obtain from them the status of our current contacts with the Korean Government on that question.

Late last evening the President returned to Congress, without his signature, H.R. 5094, which would have increased the pay classifications of nonsupervisory Deputy United States Marshals. This is similar to a bill vetoed by President Nixon. We have details of the President's veto message, and we can post details on the bill itself. Perhaps the only newsy part of that, as you are all aware, is this is President Ford's first veto.

Q Jerry, do you know how much that would have cost total?

MR. TER HORST: I think we can post that for you. I am not familiar with it in detail, Jim.

Finally, the President is transmitting to the Congress today the 11th Annual Report on Special International Exhibitions, and you have the letter of transmittal. We have copies of the report available in the Press Office, if you care to see them.

I believe that takes care of the announcements, gentlemen, and I am open for questions.

Q Before you get away from the announcements, am I confused or wasn't Jack Kubisch nominated a week or ten days ago to be Ambassador to Venezuela to succeed Mr. McClintock?

MR. TER HORST: I am not aware of that, Bill. Why don't you check State on that? This is his new assignment.

Q Do you have a working date for the domestic summit?

MR. TER HORST: No, that is going to take considerable staffing out to meet the definitions and parameters the President expressed in his speech last night. But that work has already begun and is ongoing and precisely the shape and format of it I hope to be able to announce to you relatively soon.

Q The President seemed to be suggesting it might be televised. Did he really mean that when he said it was open to public view?

MR. TER HORST: Well, I can't say for certain that television will be precisely the medium. I am not ruling it out, either. When he says public view, he means there will be coverage of the events. Just the kind of coverage will depend on where the meeting is held and so on.

Q Presumably, the meeting will be after the Labor Day recess of Congress?

MR. TER HORST: I would presume so, yes.

Q Does the President have any plans for overseas travel? He seems to be talking about a good will trip to Western Europe.

MR. TER HORST: The President is very anxious obviously, to personally renew his acquaintanceship with our allies abroad and express to them personally his desires and hopes for continuity and stability in American foreign policy and our continuing bilateral relations with each of the countries, but at this particular juncture, there is nothing I am aware of that is being planned for a Presidential trip at an early date.

Q Has he invited any Western European leaders or anyone else here to the United States?

MR. TER HORST: That is a matter, of course, that Dr. Kissinger at the State Department is best familiar with, and I would suggest that you could take your questions there on that point.

Q In that regard, there was also a report last night there had been some suggestion that Mr. Brezhnev should make his regularly scheduled trip somewhat earlier. Can you say anything about that?

MR. TER HORST: I am not aware of any suggestions along that line from the United States Government.

Q Is there any engagement yet with the Saudi Arabian Prince for next week?

MR. TER HORST: Sarah, I am not aware of that either. I think probably I would try State on that.

Q Jerry, the Labor and Public Welfare Committee yesterday said they were not going to hold hearings on several nominations made by Mr. Nixon in the belief that President Ford was going to review many or all of those nominations to posts. Do you have anything to say on that.

MR. TER HORST: Yes, the President has indicated to General Haig that he would like the traditional opportunity of a new President to review all nominations that are still pending before Congress.

Q Will that be part of the meeting this afternoon?

MR. TER HORST: No, that will not be part of the meeting this afternoon, but he has asked for an opportunity to review this list, and he intends to do so quickly and rapidly so that nothing will be held up very long, but he is still exercising his prerogatives there as a new President.

Q The President last night said that he would like Congress to reactivate the Cost of Living Council. President Nixon said he would like a wage price monitoring task force in the White House. Is President Ford's approach a different one to Mr. Nixon's and will he have specific legislation? He asked for a clean bill. What does he mean by that? Will he provide his own legislation?

MR. TER HORST: In the message last night, as you know, the President used the words, as you said, "clean bill" on machinery to reconstitute the Cost of Living Council so that wages and prices can be monitored. Obviously, you will have to wait and see what Congress gives him in that respect, but the emphasis on a clean bill is essentially that this matter is so critical in the President's eyes that he would rather have that subject handled by Congress in a clean and almost surgical way, if I could use that word, rather than have it be part of a greater, more comprehensive bill that would require considerable debate and back and forth in Congress before it could get to him.

Q Will the Administration have its own bill, though, Jerry?

MR. TER HORST: Yes, and I think if you check on the bill, you will find that process is already started.

Q What sort of authority does he want the Council to have aside from monitoring? Is it somewhere in between the old Council charter and just a monitoring operation?

MR. TER HORST: Nothing has been precisely determined on that. That is still a matter for review by the President's economic advisers, but at minimum, it will be a monitoring operation.

Q Jerry, when the President talked about openness and candor in Government, did he have in mind the freedom of information bill that is in Congress now that Nixon had been advised to veto?

MR. TER HORST: Well, as you know, the freedom of information bill has run into considerable question, both within some of the agencies of Government in the past and also in some quarters of Congress, and at the present time, it is my understanding that that particular bill is under intensive review with the possibility that Congress might like to have some input from the new President on that particular legislation. That is about all I can give to you now.

Q Will there be one of the early actions on the freedom of information, since he talked about openness and candor?

MR. TER HORST: As you well know, he is very much in favor of openness and candor, and I am sure he would be delighted to handle the freedom of information bill that actually does move that forward.

Q What did the President mean last night when he said he would have at least three more State of the Union messages? Did he mean he would have more than one a year as President Nixon did, or did he mean he is thinking of a second term?

MR. TER HORST: I would suggest that you look at it this way: As you know, even if President Ford were to leave office at the end of the current term, he still has the opportunity, as all Presidents do, to submit another State of the Union message between January 1 and January 20.

Additionally, I am sure you probably noticed his reference to the fact that at one point he had run for President on the Progressive ticket for presidency of his senior high school class, and in my mind, his use of the words "at least three more messages" and his reference to running for President on the Progressive ticket should be taken in the same vein.

Q Meaning that he --

MR. TER HORST: That no decision has been made.
(Laughter)

It took me a long time to get around to that.

Q On the point of nominations, are you implying that Mr. Kubisch's appointment to Greece started after Mr. Ford took office, that nomination?

MR. TER HORST: That nomination is just announced today.

Q Was it in the pipeline before or was this initiated by President Ford?

MR. TER HORST: It was initiated by President Ford because it was just announced today. The decision was just made.

Q How long is this list of nominations? Does it take in Silbert and across the board?

MR. TER HORST: These are Presidential nominations requiring Senate confirmation.

Q Do you know how many there are?

MR. TER HORST: I don't know precisely how many there are pending, but it goes to independent agencies, regulatory bodies and so on.

Q You said in your last answer that "even if he were to leave office at the end of his current term." Do you not expect him to leave office at the end of his term?

MR. TER HORST: I think I will let President Ford address that question himself at the proper time.

Q Has the President decided to retain the nomination of Alan Greenspan or is that one being reconsidered?

MR. TER HORST: No, the President is very happy that the Senate yesterday confirmed Alan Greenspan as Chairman of the Council.

Q If I might point out, Alan Greenspan said on the Hill last week that he didn't like the idea of a Cost of Living Council. What does the President feel about that?

MR. TER HORST: I gather that since Alan Greenspan is coming aboard as Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers that he has reconciled whatever questions he had in his mind.

Q Jerry, has the President received an invitation to go to China?

MR. TER HORST: Fran, I am not aware that he has.

Q Will you check that?

MR. TER HORST: We can try to check that, yes.

Q What was the reaction to the President's speech last night that you can tell us about?

MR. TER HORST: Well, you have all seen the press reaction. The foreign reaction was similar to the domestic reaction. The President was very pleased with the reaction that he has seen and that has come to his attention.

Q I have two questions about differences between the advance text and the speech last night as delivered. One was the text said there would be "no illegal tapings in my Administration," and President Ford said "tappings." What did he originally mean to say, and did he misspeak or make that change intentionally?

MR. TER HORST: The text of the speech is correct. In other words, the word is "tapings."

Q So, he just misspoke when he said "tappings."

MR. TER HORST: Apparently.

Q The other one where it is different is on balancing the budget in the advance text he said he wants a balanced budget by 1976, which leaves open the implication that he may try to get fiscal 1975 balanced, but he said, I believe, that he wants it balanced in 1976.

I guess my question is, does President Ford think it is a realistic goal to get a balanced budget in fiscal 1975, which means getting it below \$300 billion in this fiscal year?

MR. TER HORST: Well, as you know from the President's speech last night, and from the comments and statements he has made while he was Vice President, he is firmly dedicated to achieving, if possible, a balanced Federal budget, and I know that I could speak for him in saying that he hopes to do this as soon as possible.

Q Jerry, does the President plan to continue to share the wealth to the States, because there have been some stories that the money isn't going to the people, it is intended for.

MR. TER HORST: Are you talking about revenue sharing?

Q Yes.

MR. TER HORST: President Ford is very firmly committed to revenue sharing. As a matter of fact, the first year he became House Republican leader that was one of the principal domestic proposals that he advanced to President Johnson at that time, was the domestic sharing program.

Q Jerry, can you explain to me why the President felt he had to emphasize civilian rule over the military in this country? Did it stem from some of the events of last week or what?

MR. TER HORST: As you know, one of the problems every time an Administration changes hands is the possibility that some potential adversaries abroad might sense or believe they sense an opportunity to exploit or test the incoming President, and I think if you will take that, Helen, as part of the overall impetus he gave on stability and continuity and foreign policy, you will find it dovetails into that format rather than singling it out as having any special meaning of its own.

He obviously was restating a constitutional principle and wanted the world audience to note that.

Q Jerry, I have one question that relates to a picture I saw yesterday in both Berlin and London that the President the first week he is in office went to church. I have a two-part question. From this may we presume that he is going to, during the rest of his Administration, go outside the White House to church, or is he going to reinstitute these White House services? That is the first part of the question, or do you know?

MR. TER HORST: As I have said before, each President has his own style of working as well as practicing his faith. President Ford has been a long-time parishoner of Immanuel-on-the-Hill Episcopalian Church in Alexandria, and I would assume that will be, when he is in Washington, his first preference for religious services.

Q The second part of this is, in the Episcopal Church of which the President has been a vestry, there is a furious controversy going on whether women should be ordained, and the President was photographed in front of a strong advocate of this ordination, the Reverend Patricia Park. Is the President in favor of ordination of women or not?

MR. TER HORST: As the President said in his speech last night, Les, he is in favor of women's liberation and male chauvinists and all of those in between. (Laughter)

Q Is there any schedule for the selection of a Vice President which you can give us?

MR. TER HORST: No, I can't give you an operating schedule in terms of an announcement or when it will happen. The President obviously has that as a matter of high priority, also. With the exception of yesterday, in which there wasn't much opportunity to do this, he is devoting a part of each day to this process. He is still hoping to keep his promise to the leaders of Congress to provide them a name within a week or ten days, and that means, if that schedule is still holding, and I have no reason to think it has slipped very much, that would be sometime toward the end of the week.

Q Are there cards and letters pouring in?

MR. TER HORST: They certainly are.

Q On the Cost of Living Council proposal, when you say at the minimum it will be a monitoring agency, does this indicate the President has not ruled out the possibility of asking for guidelines or mandatory wage price --

MR. TER HORST: On the Cost of Living Council and precisely what it will do, as you know, the President is meeting regularly and has met and is getting suggestions from all of his economic advisers on a daily basis because he has put the necessity of solving the economic problem at the top of his domestic list.

I am sure they are making input on that suggestion, but I am not aware that any final limitation has been settled upon as to exactly what machinery will be suitable to the President to accomplish this.

Q Jerry, on that subject of economics, has the President received or the White House received any answer, any reaction at all, from General Motors and is there going to be a White House follow up on the attempt to get General Motors perhaps to roll back its prices?

MR. TER HORST: Since his statement yesterday on the General Motors price increase, the President's economic advisers, and that includes the office of Kenneth Rush and the Council of Economic Advisers and others, have reinforced the President's warning in their calls and conversations -- not warning, let me strike that word -- the President's suggestion to industry and they have reinforced that in their conversations and talks with leaders of labor and industry, and it would not be correct, Bob, for me to try to guess precisely what the mechanics, if any, would be. I think it is all going to have to be part of the economic plan that the President is still getting input on from his economic people.

Q Are you saying that Counsellor Rush, for example, has phoned other big three auto makers?

MR. TER HORST: No, I am not saying he has deliberately phoned them, but I am saying there obviously is a constant dialogue back and forth. That is the nature of that office as economic coordinator for the Administration, and when queries come in asking if the President was genuinely concerned about the General Motors price increase, they are assuring those people that is indeed the case.

Q Does the President plan to continue this personal jawboning in terms of the economic situation?

MR. TER HORST: Without accepting the idea that this is jawboning --

Q What is it?

MR. TER HORST: -- I think you will find, because of the fact the President feels so keenly about this subject, as I have been saying repeatedly, that any action such as that is going to get his personal attention, if it is required.

Q The President, Jerry, last night didn't mention the other aspect of the economic troubles, the slow-down. Does that mean that is a secondary concern? Is he attacking that?

MR. TER HORST: You mean in terms of that versus inflation, Bill?

Q Yes.

MR. TER HORST: No, I don't think he intended deliberately to put a priority by number on what comes first. I think he is viewing it as something that has to be approached as an entity.

Q I am not clear why you shrink from the word jawboning.

MR. TER HORST: Only because I haven't heard the President use it, and I didn't want to accept the implications in Helen's question that the President had decided on jawboning.

Q Why also do you shrink from the word "warning" in terms of what the President had to say yesterday about GM?

MR. TER HORST: That is a value judgment that a Press Secretary probably shouldn't make. You know what the President said, and I will let you interpret it.

Q How about gentle persuasion? (Laughter)

Q Back to the original question, is the President through with this matter, with the specific question of GM's price increase or is there going to be any Administration follow up directed specifically at GM?

MR. TER HORST: Well, I think it would be unfair to say that the President is singling out GM among all the companies in the country for personal and daily scrutiny by the President of the United States. But because General Motors is such a giant not only in the automobile field but in industry as a whole, he felt it was important to take Presidential notice of what had occurred.

Q But the question was would there be any followthrough by the Administration, not only, I would like to say, with GM, but with the other auto companies?

MR. TER HORST: I have tried to suggest that the President is still awaiting recommendations from his economic advisers on precisely the kind of thing that the Administration ought to do in this whole field, and I think if you know President Ford, he is not going to move out unilaterally or independently on courses of action that will not be part of a total picture.

Q Not to beat an old horse to death, but wasn't this timing by GM, that was an affront to the President?

MR. TER HORST: Without again accepting your word that this was an affront, it was obviously the first major price action that has occurred since President Ford took office so, therefore, as President, it was his responsibility to pay Presidential attention to it.

For your background, I am sure you are aware that there had been a price increase by Ford Motor Company early in the summer.

Q Would you characterize this as testing on the part of GM, or probing?

MR. TER HORST: I will not so characterize. I will let you do that.

Q Sir, will Dr. McCracken, Paul McCracken, return in an official capacity?

MR. TER HORST: The question was whether Dr. Paul McCracken, the former Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, will return in an official capacity to the Ford Administration, is that your question?

Q Yes.

MR. TER HORST: I am not aware of any particular plans in that respect at this time, but you obviously know that Dr. McCracken is from the University of Michigan and is a long-time friend and adviser to President Ford and he has been helpful in that respect in the recent days.

Q Jerry, the Foreign Minister of Egypt was a guest in the chamber last night. Do you know whether he was invited personally by the President to hear his speech?

MR. TER HORST: Peter, I think you would have to take that up with State. I am not aware of that, but since he was here, he obviously would want to be invited along with his Ambassador.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Mr. Press Secretary.

END (AT 12:21 P.M. EDT)

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH JERRY TER HORST

AT 1:11 P.M. EDT.

AUGUST 13, 1974

TUESDAY

MR. TER HORST: This is a briefing on the President's talk with George Meany, President of the AFL-CIO. They met for 45 minutes in the Oval Office. Mr. Meany gave the President his own personal appraisal of the state of the economy and its problems and submitted his suggestions and recommendations for doing something about these problems on behalf of the AFL-CIO.

The President asked for Mr. Meany's cooperation to the extent that Mr. Meany could provide it and he, at the President's invitation, left with the President several papers with recommendations thereon suggesting, among other things ways in which the Government might be able to help some of the segments of the labor movement that are particularly hurting in Mr. Meany's view. He mentioned two particularly,

One is the construction industry as a whole, and the home building industry within that broader construction industry. And he told the President in terms of the home building industry it was not only a question of jobs and the need for more jobs and the unemployment in that home building industry, but also a matter of homes for workers.

The President characterized the meeting as "very friendly and a very constructive discussion." And the President hoped that the meeting will serve to help the Ford Administration establish good relations with the AFL-CIO, and again I can put this on quote if you would like, "with a great labor leader."

I have one other announcement I forgot to give you at the earlier briefing. On Monday, August 19, at 11:00 in the morning, the President will address the 75th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. This will take place in the International Ballroom of the Conrad Hilton Hotel in Chicago.

Q That will be up and back, Jerry?

MR. TER HORST: Yes. The convention is being held in Chicago from August 18 to 23, and of course the President's participation will be limited to his appearance there Monday morning.

I think you can anticipate that the President would leave from here Monday morning and return directly to Washington that afternoon.

Q Is that at 11:00 A.M. Eastern or Central time?

MR. TER HORST: I presume that is Chicago time.

Q Is he considering an invitation from the American Legion to attend their convention?

MR. TER HORST: This particular invitation was one that he had accepted as Vice President and he felt an obligation to try to keep it, if he can.

Q What happens to all the other invitations he had accepted as Vice President?

MR. TER HORST: Most of those invitations, as you know, are being taken up for him by members of the Cabinet and members of the Republican National Committee and so on. Most of the rest of the schedule has obviously had to slide and be delayed because of the transition from Vice President to President.

Q In the meeting with Meany did they discuss the summit conference?

MR. TER HORST: I am not aware of a specific discussion on that. It may well have come up, but I can't give you any guidance on that.

Q Does Ford hope that Meany would participate in that?

MR. TER HORST: I know the President hopes that he can get cooperation from every segment of the economy, and obviously that would include the AFL-CIO.

Q You don't know if Ford asked him if he would participate?

MR. TER HORST: I don't know.

Q Can you give us any details of the actual recommendations that Mr. Meany left?

MR. TER HORST: I cannot, no, not at this point. They were to the President personally.

Q What kind of cooperation did Mr. Ford ask for? Was this in terms of wage restraint or what?

MR. TER HORST: It was just general cooperation of the AFL-CIO and Mr. Meany personally and particularly in the assistance that the President needs and would like to get from the AFL-CIO on the broad general front of helping him solve the economic problems of the country.

Q Just to follow through for a second, did he not then make an appeal for wage restraint?

MR. TER HORST: I am sure they discussed the whole gamut, because as the President said, he asked and received from Mr. Meany a full discussion of the economy as it appeared to Mr. Meany.

Q Who else was in the meeting?

MR. TER HORST: Just the two of them.

Q Can you tell us when Mr. Meany was last in the White House for a Presidential meeting?

MR. TER HORST: I don't know, but we can get it for you.

Q June 11.

MR. TER HORST: Cliff Evans thinks it was June 11 of last year.

Q That is what the AFL-CIO told me.

Q Did the President take the initiative in summoning Mr. Meany to the White House?

MR. TER HORST: Yes, he came at the President's invitation.

Q When was the invitation made?

MR. TER HORST: I don't have the precise time, Fred, but it was within the last couple of days.

Q You said the President asked for Mr. Meany's cooperation in a broad area. Did Mr. Meany make any pledges?

MR. TER HORST: I think the President would probably prefer for Mr. Meany to make his own judgment or evaluation on the meeting, but the President was very pleased with the meeting, and as I said, characterized it as a very friendly and very constructive discussion.

Q Mr. Meany apparently focused on an area where he said labor was hurting and that is construction and particularly home building. A lot of other people feel they are hurting on that. To what extent does the President share that concern and is it so urgent that he is going to move, take some action about it, particularly in regard to interest rates?

MR. TER HORST: Ted, we will all just have to wait and see what the package of economic recommendations looks like when it is given to the President by his economic advisers.

As I mentioned this morning, I know the President wants to move in a total fashion rather than in a piecemeal approach.

Q Jerry, what is the target for the receipt of this package, and who is working on it, and do you know when it is supposed to be delivered to him?

MR. TER HORST: I don't have precise dates, no. I couldn't give you a precise date as to when it will be ready, but the President has been seeing and getting reports from his economic people on this whole thing almost daily and there will be more meetings directly, face to face, with him in the Oval Office in the next coming few days, I am sure.

These recommendations are coming in and they are going back for refinement and reconsideration and there is just an ongoing conversation in process.

Q I had the impression from what you just said that at some point he asked these people for a specific set of recommendations, but in fact you seem now to be saying it is basically just developing the process of constant conversation with them?

MR. TER HORST: No, they are going asked to supply specific recommendations, there is no doubt about that. But as to what they are and when a decision will be made on which tools the President thinks would be most useful and the process for setting them in motion and making the announcement, that I can't give you any guidance on at this time because the process itself isn't far enough along to talk about that.

Q Jerry, I just asked Mr. Meany if he had made any commitment to the President in the meeting just ended, and he said he would not comment; that that would have to come from the President, from you. In that regard, can you now tell us?

MR. TER HORST: I have given you the President's characterization of the meeting and I can't go beyond that.

Q That, of course, places us in a round robin, sort of Catch-22 situation.

Q Jerry, since the President made such a point about this forthcoming summit meeting, and since he did say he wanted labor's cooperation in it, surely you can find out for us if this issue was raised with Mr. Meany and if Mr. Meany was asked to bring the AFL-CIO into the summit conference and what Mr. Meany's reaction to that request was. Will you please find out?

MR. TER HORST: I will try to see if we can find out for you.

Q Do you now anticipate that you will have a VA Administrator to announce before the VFW speech?

MR. TER HORST: I cannot say. I am not aware that that is the plan.

Q I thought you indicated the other day it would be very shortly.

MR. TER HORST: I know it is a matter of high priority for the President.

Q Did Mr. Meany offer any recommendations for Vice President?

MR. TER HORST: I can't tell you that.

Q Jerry, do you know if Mr. Meany make any comment about the two specific proposals the President made yesterday on the economy; one, reestablishment of the Cost of Living Council, and two, on the summit?

MR. TER HORST: I couldn't say for sure, but he did give the President his recommendation on what he thought should be done and if those were his proposals yesterday, I presume those were incorporated.

Q Has the President invited any other labor leaders to come to the White House?

MR. TER HORST: I have no specific meetings to announce to you in that respect, but the President does intend to meet soon with a number of other leaders of labor.

Q How about industry?

MR. TER HORST: Yes, he will be meeting with leaders of industry as well.

Q Is there anything you can give us now?

MR. TER HORST: Not at this point, no.

Q Will you be back to us with some answers to these questions?

MR. TER HORST: I am going to try, yes.

Q When?

MR. TER HORST: As soon as I can find out.

Q What time will you brief on the afternoon meeting?

MR. TER HORST: That meeting is at 4:15. As soon as it is over, I will come out and brief, but I would not look for it much before 5:00.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Mr. Press Secretary.

END

(AT 1:21 P.M. EDT)

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH JERRY TER HORST

AT 4:46 P.M. EDT

AUGUST 13, 1974

TUESDAY

MR. TER HORST: This is a briefing on the President's remarks in the East Room to the Presidential appointees, whom he asked to come in for a brief meeting with him. As I mentioned this morning, these are appointees below the level of Cabinet rank.

The East Room was filled. I would imagine there were more than 300 people there, roughly 300.

The President began by expressing his gratitude to each of them and noted that they had served through hard and frustrating times, and he knew it had not been easy for them, but he said that the loyalty and perseverance that now lies behind us had not been wasted.

He told them in his opinion the accomplishment of the past in the field of foreign policy needed almost no repetition to the people in the room. He also told them that he thought the Nixon Administration had done better on the domestic scene than most people or most critics give the Administration credit for, and he particularly singled out as a highlight what he called the successful program of general revenue sharing and the special revenue sharing programs that had been started.

He said he hoped that these programs would be broadened and continued. He said he did not want to leave the impression that there weren't problems in the field of foreign policy for the United States of America and made the observation that as always, as soon as one situation seems to have been eased and resolved, why, a fresh situation pops up someplace else.

But, as he said to them in calling the attention to his speech last night, the number one problem in the country is inflation, and while he did not expect to be able to give the country any solution that would be a panacea, at least there would be a Ford program to deal with the problems of inflation and the economy and, as he said, "We are going to carry it out, and we are going to hope that the Congress will be cooperative with us in that endeavor and the American people as well."

He noted a couple of things about his speech which he particularly wanted to call to the attention of the Presidential appointees, and that was, as he put it, the big job of not only talking to the American people but a big job of also talking to the Congress, and he said that the best way he knew to solve a problem was to get at it, work on it, put in your best effort and try to solve it.

He said it would be important for the members of the Executive branch to set an example in this regard. He said, "It is going to mean a lot of long hours, it is going to mean a lot of unselfish giving. It will be the same kind of dedication in the future that you have given in the past."

Near the end of his remarks -- actually, they lasted six and one-half or seven minutes -- the President used a quotation from Thomas Jefferson, one which he said he particularly liked, and that was the quotation from Jefferson, which he repeated as: "That Government is strongest of which every man feels himself a part."

And he said, "This is the kind of Government I hope we can build together." He said, "I do not promise a utopia, but the prospect of an open, honest Government of the people, by the people, and for the people."

After he finished his informal remarks, he went into the Green Room, where he positioned himself so that he could shake hands with everyone in the room, and then they began filing through and when I left to come back here, that was still going on.

Are there any questions?

Q What did he mean by a Ford program?

MR. TER HORST: The thing I have been mentioning this morning, the economic program and package for dealing with the problems of the economy that he hopes to develop.

Q Jerry, was there any part of this that he asked you not to relay to us?

MR. TER HORST: No, there really was not. I am giving you my best judgment on what he thought you would like to hear.

Q Then I wondered why it couldn't have been piped in here or a transcript, anyway?

MR. TER HORST: The President wanted the opportunity to talk to them in the same manner with the same degree, if it is possible with a roomful of people, you know, of a one-to-one situation that he had had with the Cabinet and with the senior White House staff.

Q It would have been destroyed if it had been piped?

MR. TER HORST: He felt if it became a public appearance some of the intimacies of the gathering and the reason for having it would have been dissipated.

Q Can you give us any general discussion, Jerry, on what they talked about in the Joint Chief's meeting?

MR. TER HORST: Only in a general way. The Joint Chiefs, of course, had this opportunity as their first meeting with the new Commander-in-Chief. The President talked to them and told them his pride in their work as the Joint Chiefs and the leadership of the Defense Department and told them what he expected them to do for him as Commander-in-Chief, and the Chiefs responded individually at his request, talking a little bit about the needs and the outlook of each of the individual services and they gave him a general briefing of the defense picture as it stands globally for the United States of America's military forces.

Q Jerry, going back to statements the President made that you reported, you said at least there will be a Ford program. Now, is there indeed going to be something that we have not seen yet, and that he did not outline last night at some point, and the next quote is that he hoped Congress would cooperate and the American people as well, and the follow-up question to that would be almost this program, when and if it comes, ask for the American public to do something of a specific nature?

Or in fact, did he more or less outline his idea about inflation last night? I am becoming a little bit confused.

MR. TER HORST: You may be trying too hard to read more into it than is ready to be read into it at this time, Fred. What the President is doing at this moment, as I have tried to say, and maybe it is my fault for not being able to put it clearly so that you can understand it, is that he is, as I have tried to explain, gathering the best options and things that might be done to help rectify the problems of the economy, both inflation, high interest, the problems of unemployment, the whole range of problems.

I don't mean to just single those out as the only ones or put any priority on them by the way I listed them, but just to give you a feel for it. And he is getting these options and suggestions and recommendations from his economic advisers, from those he relies upon for economic counsel.

He expects to get input into this process from businessmen and labor and when it is refined for him to take action and make specific choices, then what will emerge through his selection process will be the Ford program for attempting to deal with the economy.

That is not ready now. It may not be ready for several weeks, but certainly as he said, it is not going to be a panacea. The problem of inflation has been with us, for one thing, for too long to hope that it can be turned around and stopped in a matter of days or weeks or possible even months.

Q I wonder if you can put this in context of the fact that a couple of weeks ago, I believe out in Los Angeles, President Nixon made a speech on television in which he said basically, as I recall, the decision had been made that we are going to continue on the present economic policy.

Now, perhaps what is confusing me a little is that basically these are the same men advising President Ford as those who had advised Richard Nixon before he came to that decision. Now, has President Ford told them that is all off and he wants a new program of some sort?

MR. TER HORST: He has told them that the country has a new President, which is obvious to them, that he is going to put his own input and imprint on the program, that he has reason to think the country expects him to do that and that he has reason to feel that Congress would cooperate if he presents a program that makes sense also on Capitol Hill.

And that is the reason why he intends to work so closely with Congress as well as with the economic advisers to the President.

Q But Jerry, I think Fred's question is a very fair one. He is getting input from the same people who were giving input to President Nixon. That is what Fred is getting at. Where is he going to get his fresh ideas?

MR. TER HORST: He has many people around him, and if you have been observant, you have seen them and at least read their names. Not everyone is the same. The people who have been there are still there, of course, but there are other people who he can draw upon and has drawn upon for ideas and suggestions.

I can't push this much further because I do not have a program to announce, and when he makes his decisions, I will be educated along with the rest of you. I am just trying to give you some guidance on how this is shaping up.

It may be that as the days go along, the next couple of days, I can give you more ideas on how the structure of developing such things as the economic summit that he spoke of and its purpose and this sort of thing.

But right now, I am sorry, I just can't do that.

Q When did he make this statement to them? Did he tell them at that meeting on Friday that the country has a new President, and he is going to put his own imprint on the program and the American people expect that or said it individually to them over the last few days or what?

MR. TER HORST: What time frame are you putting it in?

Q I want to know a little bit about the statement you just told us that he had made to his economic advisers. Can you elaborate on that in terms of when he said this and what the circumstances were?

MR. TER HORST: I was just describing his general overall attitude each time he has talked to them and met with them. I think one should not lean too heavily on the appearance of drawing intelligence on the economy from, as has been put, only the same set of advisers.

For one thing, it is not quite the same. There is much more additional input, and secondly, you have a different man making choices, a different man reviewing the options.

Q Jerry, the last major ideas on the economy expressed by former President Nixon were given in that speech in Los Angeles. Are you telling us when President Ford reaches his decision and has something to say and has all of the input and makes Ford decisions they will be definitely different from those former President Nixon announced in Los Angeles, is that right?

MR. TER HORST: I would assume it would be. That doesn't imply that it is going to be a radical difference, but I am certain you will see a difference in emphasis, a difference in priority of tools that might be used, based only on the fact that the Presidency is now in different hands, at minimum, based on that.

Q Can you say there is no consideration at this time to a reimposition of wage and price controls?

MR. TER HORST: I am not aware of anything along that line. I would not encourage you to look for that.

Q Jerry, has the President reduced his considerations for Vice President to three men?

MR. TER HORST: I am not aware of that, either, Aldo. I really am not.

Q It has been on the wires all day. You haven't had a chance to ask him if that in fact is accurate?

MR. TER HORST: No, and I refrained deliberately because he has instructed everyone that he is doing the collecting of the ideas and the names. After all, I think the House today is just beginning to get its recommendations to him for one thing.

Q Would he reduce his thinking down to three even before he has opened all of those sealed envelopes?

MR. TER HORST: I have no way of knowing, because this is one subject that he feels very keenly about that he is not discussing with other people. He is making this decision himself. So, unless President Ford tells you he has reduced the list to three, I would hesitate on buying it.

Q Jerry, did the President indicate to the sub-Cabinet officials today or to the Cabinet members last week that in his Administration he is going to depend a great deal more on the line departments and agencies for making decisions and running the Government and with less concentration of that in the White House?

MR. TER HORST: What the President has asked his transition team to do, and that is the key to it, is to re-examine the structure of the White House so that it works better for him, to see if it is possible to come up with a structure here that works better for him in dealing with the line agencies of Government who obviously must operate the programs and run the Government.

And the thrust, obviously in doing that, it would seem to me, would indicate that he does indeed expect to rely very heavily on the established agencies and Cabinet departments to carry out whatever policies are determined by the President.

Q Can I follow that? When President Nixon was preparing to begin his second term, he said the White House staff had grown like Topsy. It was then a little over 500 and he said it would be cut by 50 percent. It is now at the latest count, about 550. Do you anticipate any substantial reduction in the White House staff?

MR. TER HORST: Well, it would be perilous for me to try to indulge in a numbers game, but President Ford is the type of man, if you have watched him down through the years, who is not overly impressed with layerization of staff, or overlapping of small bureaus and offices and shops or whatever you care to call them.

He likes a rather straight forward, direct line of command from the Oval Office down to the agencies where it counts, and so without trying to guess whether this will require fewer or more people than we have here now, I would think that every indication would point to the fact that the process will be streamlined rather than expanded in the White House.

Q Will you be announcing on a regular basis as it occurs the departures and resignations of various people on the White House staff?

MR. TER HORST: Yes, as far as we get them.

I might say a word on that in case some of you didn't get the word, someone inquired about whether we might get double briefings, back to the old business of two briefings a day, and I would prefer to operate, I think, on the basis of one regularly scheduled daily briefing, and then doing this sort of thing in the afternoons, briefing when there is a need to brief or posting if there is nothing at all to brief, so that you can count on my not being up here just to talk at you in the afternoon when I really don't have anything to talk about, or running the risk of holding things out of the morning briefing just for the sake of having something to say in the afternoon.

Q The problem with that, with all due respect, Jerry, is that often times we have something we want to ask, and if you don't have a scheduled briefing on a regular basis and some news event comes up elsewhere, we have no opportunity to check on it.

MR. TER HORST: That is part of my assignment here, to try to figure out a way in which we can be, or at least it is my intention to be as fully responsive to calls and queries and give you some reaction to this sort of thing as fast as we can, and I hope it will work out that way.

I am not trying to turn off your queries from, say, after the morning briefing until the next day, by any means. In fact, I welcome them, because that is one of the best ways I get a feeling for what the heck you people are up to. (Laughter)

Q Will you be the only briefer, Jerry?

MR. TER HORST: No, I don't expect I will, but I think I will probably do the majority of the briefings. I have, as is obvious, some staff slots to fill and we are working on those whenever I can get away from briefings and the things that I have to do for the President.

Q Do you expect anything for the rest of the day?

MR. TER HORST: I would not expect anything else. I think our schedule is complete for the day as far as the briefings are concerned.

Q Can you tell us exactly how the President is proceeding on this choice of a Vice President? Is somebody cataloging for him the number of people who are favoring one candidate and so on? What are the techniques of it?

MR. TER HORST: The President is doing this solo. I was thinking of the right word to emphasize the fact that this is one man's selection process based on the input he is getting. He is not sharing his narrowing down of the list with anyone, to my knowledge.

Q But he is not going to appoint anyone before he runs an FBI, financial and IRS check; is he?

MR. TER HORST: I am sure he is well aware of those requirements, Helen. No, I didn't mean he is going to suddenly pop a name out at any given moment because he thinks this might be a good time to do it.

He is proceeding very carefully and orderly, but he feels very strongly since he is charged with the selection that while it is important for him to get input, it is his decision to make, and I would frankly caution you to avoid over-speculation on sizes of lists, names and so on, because it won't be much longer before we know, and in any event, he is not telling anyone here how he is doing it.

Q Jerry, could you please tell us how George Meany reacted for those people who weren't here at the briefing? Could you give us a fill?

MR. TER HORST: We have a transcript available of that. I don't have the time to go through it again. I announced at the time of Mr. Meany's visit here that if I couldn't bring Mr. Meany out -- and we could not -- that I would get a fill from President Ford and then would brief, which I did.

Q We were out with Mrs. Ford.

MR. TER HORST: I was aware of that.

Q What is the President going to do this evening?

MR. TER HORST: As far as I know, it will be a private evening at home.

Q Do you know when he will leave the White House?

MR. TER HORST: I don't have the time, but I would guess along about 7:00 tonight.

Q Do you have a time for him moving into the White House?

MR. TER HORST: Not a hard time, no. Mrs. Ford may have shed some light on that for you.

Q Jerry, has he given any consideration to a pardon or clemency or immunity for Mr. Nixon?

MR. TER HORST: The President is not keeping that question on the top of his priorities for the Nation. He feels it is very important that the country move ahead on positive programs and I am not here, and neither is he, to dwell on the problems of the past and constantly rework and go over and replot all the ground of the recent weeks and months. I just can't say any more than that.

Q Jerry, that isn't valid. That question is not replotting; it is going forward as to what this man's future is.

Q And back to the question, has he considered it?

MR. TER HORST: I am not aware that it has come up to him for consideration.

Q Has he been in contact with the Attorney General since becoming President?

MR. TER HORST: Yes, he had a 30-minute session today with Attorney General Saxbe as I announced at the morning briefing.

Q Was there any discussion there of Mr. Nixon's legal situation or Mr. Jaworski's situation as far as Mr. Nixon is concerned?

MR. TER HORST: The purpose of that meeting was that the President wanted to get a report from the Attorney General on the Justice Department's study on privacy which President Ford had requested when he was Vice President, and also to review the national crime statistics and the crime rate.

Q Are you saying these other matters were not discussed?

MR. TER HORST: I am saying I have no knowledge that they were not, nor do I have knowledge that they were. I told you the reason for the meeting.

Q Jerry, do you know what the President's view is on amnesty for Vietnam deserters and draft dodgers?

MR. TER HORST: No, I do not. I can't tell you that.

Q Could you tell us, Jerry, whether you think it would be fair to say that the full economic program which was outlined by President Nixon last month is under review now with the possibility of changes?

MR. TER HORST: Yes, that is a fair statement.

Q Jerry, has there been any direct contact between President Ford and Mr. Nixon since the swearing-in on Friday?

MR. TER HORST: Russ, I don't know of any. There may have been, but I am not aware of any.

Q Jerry, has he decided on a format for revealing the Vice Presidential choice?

MR. TER HORST: No, he has not yet, and as he has told some of us, that decision will have to be made after he makes the selection because the nature of the individual selected may determine the method that would be best to use.

Q Jerry, when he decides on what his economic program is, do you expect him, or do you know, perhaps, if he will announce all of that in a speech on the economy?

MR. TER HORST: Again, I am not sure of that. I just don't know what mechanism will be used on it as to how it will be done. There are several ways to do it, obviously.

Q How long was the meeting with the Joint Chiefs?

MR. TER HORST: It ran over an hour.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Mr. Press Secretary.

END

(AT 5:16 P.M. EDT)