

This Copy For \_\_\_\_\_

NEWS CONFERENCE

#23

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH JERRY TER HORST

AT 12:45 PM EDT

SEPTEMBER 4, 1974

WEDNESDAY

MR: TER HORST: My apologies for keeping you so late, but as we go along here, I think it will be obvious to all of you why it took so long.

You have today's schedule which was posted late yesterday, so you are aware the President met with General Haig and myself this morning, Bob Hartmann and others.

He signed also the Proclamation for Hispanic National Heritage Week, 1974, in the Cabinet Room, with Spanish-American representatives. The purpose of that meeting was to elicit suggestions for addressing the problems and needs of the Nation's Hispanic Americans and to demonstrate the President's personal interest and the commitments of his Administration to these concerns.

I believe you have a list of the participants and a copy of the Proclamation.

A couple of other points on the President's schedule thus far today.

He dropped by briefly this morning in a meeting of Presidential women appointees in the Cabinet Room. He spent about five minutes with this group and reinforced his dedication to the principles of the Equal Rights Amendment and the role of women in the Government.

Anne Armstrong may be able to help you with any further details on that meeting if you need them.

The President also dropped by briefly at a meeting in the Roosevelt Room that involved the chief executive officers of several insurance companies. This is one of a series of meetings held every two weeks with various segments of the national community and senior members of the White House staff which have been organized by the public liaison office under Mr. William Baroody.

He spent about five minutes also with this group just to drop by and say hello and, again, if you want details on the meeting itself, I suggest you talk to Bill Baroody.

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This afternoon at 2:00, the President will meet with several members of his staff for a discussion of legislation pending in Congress concerning the campaign reform issue.

At 3:30 the President will meet with some members of the Domestic Council as a part of a series of meetings he is having with this group. As you know, he met with the entire Council under Ken Cole two weeks ago at which time he indicated that there would be other substantive meetings. This is one, and another one is still planned, I am told, I think on Thursday, on the Domestic Council front.

Q Tomorrow?

MR. TER HORST: Yes.

Besides Mr. Cole, present will be Dr. James Cavanaugh, the Deputy Director, and Mike Duval, the Assistant for Natural Resources, and Todd Hullin, who is Assistant for Community Development.

At 4:30 the President will meet with Russell Train, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. This will be Mr. Train's first meeting with the President and it will be an opportunity for the President and Mr. Train to discuss the progress and problems of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The remainder of the schedule today includes a swearing-in of Alan Greenspan as Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers and, of course, the events tonight at the Kennedy Center.

I believe we have posted the pools and coverage plans for those activities. Just a word about those plans. The President and Mrs. Ford will leave the White House shortly before 7:30 to attend a reception hosted by the National Endowment for the Arts Council, and at 8:00 they will attend the performance of "Mac and Mabel" in the Eisenhower Theater.

The coverage there will be essentially pool, since it is mainly a picture story, but there will be open coverage at one point outside the reception and, for that area, for that coverage, for those of you interested, you should contact the Kennedy Center for that information and we will meet with the pool later tonight to fill you in on what is going to be happening this evening.

That takes care of today's schedule here pretty much. As you know, you are aware Mrs. Ford is holding a press conference today in the State Dining Room at 3:00 and those from here who want to cover should assemble promptly at 2:30 in this room to go over.

I might give you a word on coverage for tomorrow's economic conference in the East Room. There is only limited space for a writing press and each organization will have to be limited to one seat. Radio will have one crew per organization. The entire event will be covered by network television pool and will be available to others under the normal rules established for that kind of coverage.

Q Live television?

MR. TER HORST: I am not positive if it is live, but I believe that is right.

Q From when to when?

MR. TER HORST: Which means it will be visible here in the Press Room. Channel 26, NPV.

Q All day?

MR. TER HORST: I presume that is their intention, yes.

Concerning Presidential travel, we can announce the following today. On Monday, next Monday, September 9, the President will go to Pittsburgh for the Sixth International Conference on Urban Transportation. He will address that group at 11:30 A.M.

This was an invitation extended to the President when he was Vice President and he has agreed to keep that invitation on his Presidential schedule.

On Wednesday, September 11, the President will fly to Pinehurst, North Carolina --

Q What was the date?

MR. TER HURST: Wednesday, September 11 -- for the opening of the World Golf Hall of Fame. The President -- that is the day that there will be a professional-amateur tournament. The President will play in the amateur side after which there will be ceremonies of dedication for the new Golfing Hall of Fame and the President will be at those ceremonies, and then he will return here after that.

Q Will there be any swimming at that place, Jerry?

MR. TER HORST: Will you just hold the questions, please, until I get through. I have a lot to give you.

September 18 the President will address the United Nations General Assembly in New York. That speech time is set for approximately 11:00 A.M. in New York, and the President plans to return to Washington directly after that also.

Yesterday, as you know, we announced the Philadelphia trip for this Friday for the Bicentennial event, celebrating the Continental Congress, and we also announced the trip to Detroit on September 23 for the World Energy Conference.

The Philadelphia trip Friday involves an evening speech by the President and the Detroit visit, he will be speaking approximately mid-morning.

Q What day is the 18th, Jerry, the U.N.?

MR. TER HORST: I think it is a Wednesday.

We are releasing the President's report to Congress on activities under the Highway Safety Act, and the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act for 1973. Copies of that are available in the Press Room afterwards.

The President, as you know, has made a statement and we have posted it on the death of General Abrams.

In addition, the President has sent a letter to Mrs. Joseph Bierne expressing his sorrow on the death of her husband, the past president of the Communication Workers of America, who was also a long-time friend of the President's.

We are also announcing today that Mrs. Armstrong and Dean Burch will remain on the White House staff at the request of the President. Both are Counsellors to the President with Cabinet rank.

Mrs. Armstrong will continue in an expanded role, reporting to the President on a broad spectrum of subjects with special responsibilities as a member of the new Council on Wage and Price Stability. She will be one of two women members along with Mrs. Virginia Knauer.

Mrs. Armstrong will, of course, participate in the Domestic Council and will continue her duties in conjunction with the 1976 Bicentennial, her efforts and the President's efforts to bring more women into responsible Government positions, and her work, of course, with the Hispanic Americans.

Mr. Burch's duties will include numerous capacities, including liaison with the independent regulatory agencies. He will also remain in close contact with the Republican National Committee and the Congressional and Senatorial campaign committees, and will function as a campaign coordinator for the President vis-a-vis the 1974 elections.

I should also like to announce that Gwen Anderson, who is a former National Committeewoman from Washington, and a member, as you know, of the President's staff when he was Vice President, will continue to work closely with Mr. Burch in his office as his assistant.

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I can announce today that the President intends to make some recommendations to the Republican National Committee. After intensive consultations with Chairman Bush and other party leaders, he will recommend to the National Committee the nomination of Mrs. Marie Louise Smith of Iowa to succeed Mr. Bush as Chairman. Mrs. Smith is presently Co-Chairman of the National Committee.

The President also has indicated his pleasure with her intention to appoint Richard D. Obenshain who is now Chairman of the Virginia Republican party as Co-Chairman with her.

Chairman Bush has called a meeting of the Republican National Committee for Monday, September 16, in Washington to elect a new Chairman of the Republican National Committee.

In making the announcement, the President wanted to put particular emphasis on building the strength of the Republican Party nationwide. He has expressed complete confidence in the professionalism and the competence and practical experience of Mrs. Smith and Mr. Obenshain and reaffirms his intention that leadership of future campaigns should be entrusted to the Republican National Committee and State party organizations.

Mr. Burch will be the principal aide in working with the party, as I said, in connection with the President's own participation in the 1974 campaign.

The President today is announcing his intention to nominate the following to the Senate of the United States. Kenneth Rush to be Ambassador to France; John Sherman Cooper to be Ambassador to the German Democratic Republic; George Bush as Chief of the United States Liaison Office, the People's Republic of China; and William D. Rogers to be Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs.

I believe you have biographical information on these nominees already.

I think I am ready to take your questions.

Q Jerry, what about General Haig?

MR. TER HORST: What about General Haig? What was your question on General Haig?

Q Is he going to be made the NATO Commander?

MR. TER HORST: Well, the President has been exploring many options with General Haig. As you probably are aware, the General is a long time career officer in the Army. He is a man of fine record there. He has always felt the Army was his home and the Army is a place he would like to return to. However, there is nothing I can give you at this point on which options he or the President might agree on except I can say that until one is decided and we have something for you to announce, General Haig will remain on at the President's request for an indefinite duration.

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Q Jerry, let me ask you, did the death of General Abrams change the plans for General Haig in any way?

MR. TER HORST: No, I would not say the tragic death of General Abrams has changed the plans of General Haig. As I said, the General has long expressed his desire to return to the Army.

Q Did the opposition of the Dutch Foreign Minister to the appointment of Mr. Haig change the plans?

MR. TER HORST: No. As I said, the potential, or the rumored or reported assignment of General Haig to the NATO Command was only one of the options that the President and the General have been exploring and, when there is a decision why we will announce it.

Q Jerry, is it definite that General Haig will be recalled to active duty in the military?

MR. TER HORST: Well, if that is the option that the President elects, obviously he would be recalled to active duty, if that works out, yes.

Q Jerry, what has happened since you said a week or so ago that he would stay on for the duration?

Q It was yesterday.

MR. TER HORST: Nothing, because what I said before is what we have said almost from the first day here, that the President had asked General Haig to remain on for the duration and he had agreed to. And, as I said, the President defined the word "duration" as being indefinite.

Q Jerry, why did you start examining options since Sunday when you said he would be staying on for the duration?

MR. TER HORST: Well, I think it should be aware to all of you that the General has served here in the White House for many months under very arduous and trying circumstances and performed well for the previous Administration and has been performing equally well for President Ford.

The President, in the interest of continuity and stability asked him to stay on and he has agreed to stay on until he and the President have finished exploring their options for whatever assignment General Haig might have in the future. But in the meantime, he remains aboard functioning as always.

Q Jerry, I don't think you addressed the question whether there was serious opposition to General Haig's appointment as NATO Supreme Commander.

MR. TER HORST: Well, that is something I couldn't comment on even if I knew, obviously. But as I am saying, it is one of the many options under consideration. It is by no means something you should lock on to too hard.

Q Jerry, the stories this morning said, quoting senior authoritative Administration officials, the story said that the decision had been made that General Haig would be assigned as Commander of Allied Forces in NATO. Are you saying that was incorrect, there was no decision?

MR. TER HORST: I am saying only that the President and General Haig have not reached a decision on what his future role will be except that, during this interim while they are exploring possibilities, the General is going to stay here in his present role.

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Q Jerry, do you feel that your previous statements on this subject have been at all misleading to us?

MR. TER HORST: I don't think so. No, I don't, because I told you exactly what the situation was as the President himself has expressed it. In fact, I believe actually I came out one day and gave you a direct quotation from the President to that effect, that the General had been asked to stay on for the duration and he agreed.

Q Was one of the options making General Haig Chief of Staff of the Army?

MR. TER HORST: There were many options explored.

Q Was that one of the options?

MR. TER HORST: I can't identify them for you.

Q Is General Haig going to be replaced as Chief of Staff?

MR. TER HORST: As you know, the President has on his desk and in his briefcase recommendations from this transition team for restructuring the staff of the White House. And I think we will have to see the outcome of that before we can talk about the future of a job that is now being held by General Haig. There is no vacancy at this point.

Q Do you have a replacement to name for Kenneth Rush?

MR. TER HORST: At the present time the President does not have a man who will take his place as Chairman of the Wage and Price Stabilization Council, but that is a matter which is under consideration and we will have a decision very shortly.

Q Jerry, Rush's role as chief economic coordinator to the White House, will the President fill that or will that go vacant?

MR. TER HORST: No, the President intends to have a chief economic coordinator. As you know, Mr. Rush's nomination must be submitted to the Senate and until the Senate confirms him for his new appointment, he will continue to function in that role.

Q Could the role of economic coordinator be filled by an existing economic official, or are you saying that somebody else will be brought in?

MR. TER HORST: No, I don't mean to imply somebody else will be brought in. I am just saying there are many people the President could turn to for that role and that matter is under very active discussion, obviously, and it will be filled shortly.

Q Jerry, we just heard recently that Mr. Rush was going to be heading this wage and price group and then along comes still another appointment. Was there something that happened in the interim that brought about this sudden change of plans because, clearly, the appointment of an Ambassadorship was not thought of or contemplated at the time the other appointment was announced?

MR. TER HORST: No, I guess my answer has to be this way, Marty, obviously Ambassadorial appointments are given a great deal of thought which requires time. At the same time, the President, because of the urgency of the economic problem and his desire to use every available and talented person here in the White House and in the Administration in the interest of continuity and stability proceeded with the work that had to be done and Mr. Rush voluntarily and willingly pitched in.

Q But it would seem -- can you discuss at all the possibility that Mr. Rush might not have seen eye to eye on economic matters with either the President or his other economic advisers and, therefore, it was desirable to shift him to another role?

MR. TER HORST: No, I think that would be a wrong analysis. There is no difference on that point at all. The economic policy of the United States and the Ford Administration is not set by any one individual. It is a collective job by many people and so I see no change at all in that respect.

Q Jerry, yesterday for the second time you explained that Father McLaughlin, who is on your payroll, is on his way out, and you said, "I advise that you believe me."

Immediately after that yesterday afternoon, Father McLaughlin informed part of the press that he doesn't believe President Ford is going to move him out the front door because of his work for Nixon.

Now, Jerry, the question is: Will you tell us precisely when McLaughlin will get out or be gotten out, or are you retracting your statement or is this the first Ford press room credibility gap? Can we get a statement? This is twice this has happened. You announce he is going. He immediately announces he is not going. Is he going or is he not going and when?

MR. TER HORST: I have the authority and I suggest you take that advice I gave you yesterday.

Q What do we do, Jerry, really? Can you just give us some hint as to when he is going to be gone?

MR. TER HORST: I also remember yesterday, Les, you also said you hoped this was the last time you would bring up Father McLaughlin.

Q Hope springs eternal. Now, as soon as he is out I will never mention him again. (Laughter).

Q Jerry, does the President have any position in mind for Mr. Rumsfeld, or is he exploring any options with Mr. Rumsfeld?

MR. TER HORST: I know that question comes up naturally because Mr. Rumsfeld is back in town, but he comes back about once every six weeks from his NATO post because one of his tasks is to continue liaison with the NSC and with the Secretary of State and he obviously was a member of the transition team that helped President Ford in developments of the recommendations that were submitted to him, and so I would not read any special significance into the fact that he is here.

Q The answer is "no" to my question?

MR. TER HORST: Essentially, yes.

Q Jerry, will the chair that you have Father McLaughlin carried out on, will that be billed to your budget?

MR. TER HORST: My what?

Q The chair, like papal chair?

MR. TER HORST: No.

Q Jerry, in discussing the NATO Command, you said that that was one of the options that was under discussion. You used the past tense. Is that no longer an option under discussion?

MR. TER HORST: I didn't mean to use the past tense, if I did. I would say all of these are options under consideration.

Q Jerry, you said the President would not be accepting or taking up his Vice Presidential speaking dates until he got through this transition, that he felt the transition of Government was more important than speaking dates around the country. As I count it, he is now accepting three. Does that mean the transition, as far as the President is concerned, is for the most part concluded?

MR. TER HORST: No, I don't think so. What is happening is that the President, as he looks at his schedule and his transition process, sees that he can take up some of those additional assignments which he had originally committed himself to and which he knows he would like to do because of the upcoming elections, and when he can fit them into his schedule, he is doing so at no risk to the transition process.

Q Jerry, may I get back to Rumsfeld for a minute. Are you saying Rumsfeld is back here on a routine mission?

MR. TER HORST: So I am advised.

Q Jerry, is Mr. Rumsfeld being considered for General Haig's job?

MR. TER HORST: I can't give you any guidance at all on that.

Q Jerry, is Senator Fulbright being considered as Ambassador to London?

MR. TER HORST: I am afraid I can't give you any guidance on that.

Q Jerry, what kind of an answer is that?

MR. TER HORST: Well, I am just not aware of any consideration at this point that I can give you.

Q That is better.

Q Jerry, does the appointment of a chief of the Liaison Office in Peking require Senate confirmation or is this a courtesy that is being extended to the Senator?

MR. TER HORST: Did I say this nomination was going to go to the Senate?

Q You said he was nominated and that implies --

MR. TER HORST: I am sorry, I probably misspoke myself at that point. Let's check that.

Q Doesn't Bruce carry Ambassadorial rank?

MR. TER HORST: Yes, I believe that is right. Yes, it does carry Ambassadorial rank for Mr. Bush.

Q Does that mean we have diplomatic relations with China?

MR. TER HORST: At the present time it does not. Let me check that out for you.

Q Does the NATO Commander job require Senate confirmation, do you know?

MR. TER HORST: We will have to check that for you, too, Don.

Q Jerry, do all the options which General Haig and the President are exploring, do all of them involve General Haig returning to active duty?

MR. TER HORST: I am not aware that they all do, but, as I said, knowing the General's desire to return to the Army, to military service, I am sure that those are the options that he is most interested in.

Q Jerry, when you were talking about the options a few moments ago and you were asked about the Chief of Staff opening, can you rule out the possibility that the President will appoint General Haig as the new Army Chief of Staff?

MR. TER HORST: At this point I cannot rule out anything, including that one.

Q Jerry, will Ambassador Rumsfeld see the President when he is here?

MR. TER HORST: I believe he did; I believe he dropped in to see the President in between two appointments this morning very briefly.

Q Do you know how long he will be here?

MR. TER HORST: I don't know; I don't think it will be a great deal of time, but I am not certain.

Q Jerry, what can you tell us about the published reports that Mr. Seidman said that major decisions on the economy will be delayed until the first of the year?

MR. TER HORST: Well, I think Mr. Seidman was addressing particularly the fact that a good deal of the program that has to be considered in dealing with the economy is a joint Congressional-Executive program, and therefore, at this late stage in the Congressional session, it is unrealistic to expect that very much of that could be done in the current session.

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It doesn't mean that the President is simply biding his time until next year to take action. There are actions that he can and has already indicated he is taking to get a handle on this economic problem, particularly inflation.

Q Jerry, how does the President feel about the opposition of Mr. Dulski to his plan to defer the pay raise for Federal workers?

MR. TER HORST: Well, I don't know if many of you heard Senator Griffin this morning on one of the network shows, but the President strongly supports the views expressed by Senator Griffin which was that he hopes that Members of Congress will be supportive of his efforts to hold down inflation and the size of the Federal budget by deferring this pay increase for 90 days.

It is not a cancellation of the pay raise, as you know. It is only a deferral for 90 days, but it has substantial impact of about \$700 million on this year's budget alone. And, as Senator Griffin expressed it, this would be one tangible way in which the Members of Congress could express their support for this joint effort to control inflation.

Q Does the President view this as an important first test of the cooperation between Congress and the Executive Branch?

MR. TER HORST: It certainly is an important test.

Q Jerry, why would he ask Congress to delay the 5.5 increase, yet yesterday he signed this D.C. increase of 16 percent for salaries to firemen, policemen, and teachers?

MR. TER HORST: As you know, they come under different acts and are slightly different in character. The pay raise for the District of Columbia police, firemen, and teachers, falls under part of the District of Columbia's budget, which is a separate item, and does not increase the Federal contribution to the District of Columbia budget at all. It is within their budget already allotted.

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Q Yes, in the D.C. Appropriations Bill there was a ten percent increase in salary allowed, and the Federal taxpayers paid for that. But that is not enough. Congressman Rees from California came along and said, "Oh no, we have got to give them more."

Then they raised the residential taxes in the District of Columbia in order to make up this \$14 million.

MR. TER HORST: You see, we are in the process of moving toward home rule for the District of Columbia which the residents of the District of Columbia voted and seemingly want badly, and we are going to find shortly in a period where the District of Columbia truly operates more and more as a city on its own, with its own responsibilities of raising taxes.

But in answer to your question, the District of Columbia budget has been set. This increase for the teachers and firemen and policemen which the President authorized falls within that budget. It has no greater impact on the Federal budget than before.

So, therefore, the President felt it was not inflationary.

Q Jerry, can we resolve a couple of seeming incongruities here. You have again referred to the urgency of the economic problem in discussing Mr. Rush. However, against that background Mr. Seidman has told us about a delay until next year, evidently indicating there will be no rump session of the Congress and at the same time we are told by Mr. Ash that this problem is two to three years long and equally, instead of calling the thing the summit now, you are all talking about the conference, which would seem to be a kind of change in approach to this whole thing.

Now, how urgent is the economic problem, and why can't some of these things be done which clearly are within your province to do to rush decision making in that area?

MR. TER HORST: As the President said, Jerry, he wants both the Congress and the Administration to work jointly together to tackle this problem, which has been around for a long time, and is not the fault of particularly any one branch of Government but, perhaps together, they both can resolve it.

Now, the fact that it has been around for a long time means that it is not likely to be cured by moves or decisions to which the President and the leaders of Congress haven't given full thought and study. That necessarily takes some time.

The President hopes it won't take terribly long but we must also be realistic and look at the thing from the standpoint of Congressional schedules and the fact the President has asked for input through this summit process, which you can call an economic summit or a conference on inflation -- and we use the terms interchangeably -- to get the input of the best ideas.

As you know from the questions that went out, he is not restricting it to simply the views of the economic advisers to this Administration.

Q Jerry, will you please tell me, can we get a copy of the transition recommendations? Can we see that?

MR. TER HORST: The ones that were submitted to the President?

Q Yes.

MR. TER HORST: I don't believe so; I believe the President wants to keep those until he sees how they will be acted upon.

Q About the amnesty recommendations, can we see any documents that are there?

MR. TER HORST: That is another subject on which the President feels he was asked for recommendations by his Cabinet officers and which he will be announcing shortly.

Q Announcing shortly -- you mean this week?

MR. TER HORST: No, I didn't say this week. I said shortly, and as I indicated yesterday, I believe the schedule for this week, it already being a short holiday week, would indicate to me that the additional talks the President wants to hold with Secretary Schlesinger of the Defense Department and the Attorney General in the Justice Department, would probably slip this over the week-end.



Q Jerry, in talking about the economy, are you ruling out any new economic policy initiatives that require Congressional action until after the first of the year?

MR. TER HORST: No, I am not, if they can be done quickly. I am just saying, if you look realistically at the Congressional timetable, it is very doubtful that any substantive and long or controversial program could be gotten through any more this session.

The President was gratified the Congress gave him the Cost of Living Council Bill which he had requested so promptly and that had to be carefully structured, as you know, so that it would be a clean bill, as the President put it.

Q Jerry, can I ask you a question? I am not clear -- you gave a "no" over here about Donald Rumsfeld. Can I take that as "no", he is not being considered for any position here such as Chief of Staff?

And then a few minutes later you said, "I can't rule out any possibility."

Do you rule out the possibility that Donald Rumsfeld would be considered for Chief of Staff when General Haig leaves?

MR. TER HORST: All I can say is what Ambassador Rumsfeld has said to many of you individually and to me several times and to almost anybody that asked, and that is he is not at all interested in taking on an assignment on the White House staff.

He enjoys his NATO assignment; he feels that he can perform well there. He likes the work and the relationships with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense and his NATO allies, and as he has said, he is just not interested in coming to work in the White House.

Q Jerry, if the President is so opposed to price controls, why does he include that for comment in the questionnaire to businessmen?

MR. TER HORST: As I explained, because he wants a full expression of opinion from sectors who have to be considered in the inflation battle. It would be almost patently cosmetic to ask for suggestions from all sectors of the economy and then carefully structure it so you only get pat answers.

The President is not interested in that; he truly wants this subject to be explored.

Q Jerry, did the President invite the economist Pierre Rinfret to the summit meeting only to have Kenneth Rush disinvite him two days or three days later?

MR. TER HORST: I read that report, Tom, and I cannot confirm that for you. We will check on it if you are interested. But I have no knowledge I can give you on that.

I am sure that if Mr. Rinfret wishes to come he will get a second invitation if the first one fell through the crack.

Q Jerry, has the President decided in principle that he does want a civilian review board to consider conditional amnesty and other matters involving the Vietnam deserters and draft evaders?

MR. TER HORST: That is one of the matters under consideration by the President as a possible mechanism for bringing this about. As you know, the Truman Administration had an amnesty board to handle similar type cases.

It is one of the points the President wants to refine further in talks with the Defense and Justice Departments.

Q Jerry, if he didn't want a civilian board, would that mean that they would do away with the present military boards which are now examining discharges?

MR. TER HORST: No, I can't give you that, Sarah, because until we see exactly what the President comes up with, I am not equipped to answer that.

As I said before, this is going to be an all-encompassing program and he is aware of the problems of many special groups and legislation that is on the books, existing policies both from Defense and Selective Service and the regulations that pertain to these cases and it will be an all-encompassing program if he can make it one.

Q Jerry, in regard to this campaign reform meeting this afternoon, do you know what the President's position is on public financing of Congressional and Presidential campaigns?

MR. TER HORST: Well, this meeting will give the President a chance to explore with his White House staff advisers what the Administration response should be to put the campaign reform legislation on the Hill and I think, after that meeting, or very soon, anyway, in his talks with Members of Congress, that will become very apparent.

Q Jerry, a housekeeping question. Would you think it possible that there will be an advance text sometime today of the President's opening remarks at the economic meeting tomorrow?

MR. TER HORST: I am not sure about an advance text. I am looking into that right now to see if it is possible. We certainly will try to get one to you if the President has remarks he is going to give in a prepared way.

It is possible the President may speak extemporaneously, in which case we would have to wait for the text.

Q Do you have any idea when you might have word one way or the other?

MR. TER HORST: I would hope I would have word this afternoon.

Q May I follow that up for a minute, Jerry? Will the President make a summation statement, too, at the end of the session tomorrow?

MR. TER HORST: Well, the plan, as you know, calls for the President to come back in the afternoon for another session with the economists who are at the meeting tomorrow and I think that meeting is essentially geared for their presentation to him of whatever concensus or differences develop during the day's meeting.

So, I can't really say. It is quite likely that he may have some remarks to make but I don't think it will be in the nature of a prepared statement.

Q Jerry, somebody is filing. Can we finish this pretty quick?

MR. TER HORST: Whenever you say.

Q Jerry, I want to get back to the economy. You are saying repeatedly now, you are stressing that this is a joint effort to solve the economic problems and you are confirming what Mr. Seidman said, that there will not be any major moves or decisions this year. And I am wondering if there is something you can tell us that will dissuade me from believing that this is primarily a PR exercise to shift some of the blame for the economy on to the Democratic controlled Congress?

MR. TER HORST: No, that is certainly not the case, to answer you last question first, Ted.

Q It really is only one question, but that is all right.

MR. TER HORST: All right, the last part of your question, then. As the President himself told Congress in his address to them, or I believe perhaps it was at the news conference, the issue of inflation is a real one. It is not a political issue, it is not a case of where you can make inflation go away by his blaming it on the Democratic Congress, or Congress blaming it on a President who has been in office one month, essentially.

But the problem is very real for the people of the country as we all know, and it is his opinion that the best way to tackle it is to do it jointly. And that is the process he is trying to achieve with the help of Congress because, as you know, they have members on the steering committee which has crafted and designed the process for the program that is built on the concurrent Senate resolution originated by Senator Mansfield.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END (AT 1:25 P.M. EDT)