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NEWS CONFERENCE

#53

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 12:32 P.M. EDT

OCTOBER 18, 1974

FRIDAY

MR. NESSEN: The President was in his office at 7:30 this morning. He met with various staff members, including Marsh, Scowcroft, Rumsfeld, Kissinger, Timmons, Hartmann, and myself.

He also met at about 8:30 with Secretary Morton to discuss energy matters.

At 10:00 the President met with Senators Jackson and Javits and Congressman Vanik, and I think they reported to you on the results of this meeting.

At 10:30 the President signed Senate Bill 3979, the Emergency Home Purchase Assistance Act of 1974. You have a fact sheet on that and a Presidential statement, and also Secretary Lynn gave you a briefing.

The President then went over to the new Labor Department to participate in the dedication ceremonies. We will have a transcript of the remarks for those of you who couldn't get there to cover it.

I will give you a little information on the trip to Mexico. That is on Monday, in the border area near Nogales, to meet President of Mexico Echeverria. The main places where the meetings will take place will be at Magdalena de Kino --

Q Is this a village or what?

MR. NESSEN: Yes. I am going to get to that in a little bit.

On the American side, the meetings will be at Tubac, Arizona.

President Ford, early in his Administration, expressed interest in meeting the President of a country which is our close friend and neighbor. This will be an informal meeting with no fixed agenda.

MORE

#53

The two Presidents will discuss a broad range of subjects, both international and U.S.-Mexican relations.

On the bilateral relations, I would expect the two Presidents to discuss subjects of particular interest to either country with whatever matter either country wanted to bring up. I think on President Ford's side, he may want to review the cooperative efforts with the Mexican government to deal effectively with the narcotics problem.

The Mexicans, I know, have a number of subjects they want to bring up, and the President is looking forward to hearing President Echeverria's views on these and other matters.

The President will leave the White House at about 7:00, Monday morning, and arrive at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson at 8:40 a.m., there having been a three-hour time change.

There will be a full trip itinerary for you soon.

Briefly, though, the two Presidents will have their initial meeting and initial remarks at the border in Nogales, and Nogales is 65 miles from Tucson.

After that initial meeting and remarks, they will go to Magdalena de Kino which is in Sonora state, and it is 70 miles from Nogales.

At Magdalena de Kino, they will lay a wreath at the tomb of Padre Kino. Padre Kino was an early missionary and settler of the region.

After that, the two Presidents will travel back across the border to Tubac which is 15 miles north of the border. They will have lunch there and a second meeting. They will return to Tucson for a departure meeting by both Presidents at the air base. And then President Ford will fly to Oklahoma City.

Some of you have asked where are we going to spend Monday night, and the answer is Oklahoma City.

Q What time is he due in there, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have the exact schedule.

MORE

#53

The President will meet with Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau of Canada at the White House on December 4, 1974. They will review international developments as well as bilateral matters of interest to the two countries. This will be a one-day visit. They will have a meeting in the afternoon and there will be a dinner for the Prime Minister that evening. This will be the first time they will have met.

Prime Minister Trudeau has been on official visits to Washington twice before.

Q You say this is the first meeting?

MR. NESSEN: This is their first meeting, yes.

The President has invited Chancellor Bruno Kreisky of Austria to pay an official visit to the United States on November 12, 1974.

The President and the Chancellor look forward to exchanging views on a number of international topics and bilateral matters during the meeting.

Q Ron, on Trudeau, I assume that is an official visit, right?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

The President is meeting now with President Francisc da Costa-Gomes of Portugal. That started at noon and is still going on.

Secretary Kissinger and the Portuguese Foreign Minister..Soares are also in the meeting. This is the first meeting between President Ford and the Portuguese President, and they will have a discussion of a broad range of issues, including a review of NATO and bilateral issues of current interest.

As you know, President Costa-Gomes assumed office in Portugal on the 30th of September, and President Ford welcomes this opportunity to reaffirm the ties of friendship between the Portuguese and the American people.

This afternoon at 2:30 the President will greet the winners of the National Civil Service League Award Program. These Federal employees received their awards on October 9 and the President heard about it and expressed an interest in personally congratulating them.

MORE

#53

He has said before that he has the highest regard for the Federal Civil Service and for the individuals who work for the Government. And there will be an opportunity to take pictures there.

At 2:45 the President will meet with the top Federal officials involved in the fight against drug abuse to discuss current efforts of the Government to combat drug abuse through international incentives, through treatment and through law enforcement.

The participants will be Ambassador Sheldon Vance, who is the Special Assistant to Secretary of State Kissinger for narcotics matters, Dr. Robert DuPont, the Director of the Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention at the White House, and John Bartels, who is the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

At 3:00 the President will meet with the National Security Council.

At 5:00 the President will meet with the Executive Committee of the Economic Policy Board. This is a periodic meeting that the President holds to review the economic situation.

Tomorrow the President will be making appearances in South Carolina, North Carolina, and Kentucky, and we will give you the detailed schedule. But just to take you through the highlights of it so you can plan your day--it is going to be a fun-filled day. Press check-in--are you ready?--6:45. Press plane leaves at 7:15. The President leaves the South Lawn at 7:40. He arrives at the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport at 9:15.

He will speak at the airport and then will go by helicopter to Anderson, South Carolina, where he will speak at the dedication of the new building of a newspaper called the Anderson Independent. and the Daily Mail.

The President will speak there at about 10:40 and will go by helicopter then to Rock Hill, South Carolina, where he will speak at about 12:20. Following that appearance, the President will go by helicopter back to the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport, and go by auto into Greenville to speak at the Greenville Memorial Auditorium at 1:45.

Now there are a limited number of seats on the helicopters and we are going to have to limit somewhat the number of people who can go along to the stops in Rock Hill and in Anderson. But all of the organizations will be represented in those cities.

And those of you who are unable to go along on the helicopters because of space will be able to cover the other events. That will be four out of six events.

Okay. After that--South Carolina appearances--the President will fly to the Greensboro-Winston-Salem-High Point Regional Airport, getting there about 2:55, and speaking at 3:20 at the airport.

He then flies to Standiford Field in Louisville, Kentucky, getting there at 3:45 Central Time, and at 7:00 Central Time, Saturday evening, the President will attend a reception and then a dinner at Freedom Hall on the Kentucky State Fairgrounds.

The President is expected to speak at about 8:30 Central Time. Following those remarks, the President will leave Louisville at about 9:10 Central Time, and get back to the White House at about 11:45 Eastern Time, at which time blood transfusions will be available for all of us. (Laughter)

Q When do you expect the bible?

MR. NESSEN: Later this afternoon.

Q Ron, will there be in the bible any indication of to whom he is speaking at these various places? You mentioned one or two, like the dedication of the auditorium.

MR. NESSEN: Yes, that will be spelled out.

Q Is the Louisville thing a Republican gathering, a fund-raising?

MR. NESSEN: I think so.

Q How much a plate?

MR. NESSEN: On Sunday, the President plans to spend the day at the White House. And on Monday, we have the fun-filled trip to Nogales and points south.

Q Is he going to church on Sunday?

Q Ron, you didn't say what those movements were going to be on the Mexican border.

MR. NESSEN: I was just coming to that.

We are going to have some of the same problems on Monday that we are going to have tomorrow, which is movements by chopper and actually all the movements haven't been finalized yet. But there is going to have to be pool coverage on one or two of the events just because there are not enough helicopters to take everybody.

Eric is down there now and has been, I think, the whole week, trying to get the transportation and coverage problems straightened out. I think you may have to be understanding on Monday because there are a lot of problems.

Okay, now let's see. When I last left you, you were overnighing in Oklahoma City. Also, you better plan on possibly having to check in as early as 5:00 a.m. on Monday.

Q Will we know that before the end of today or will we have to call in Sunday to find out Monday's check-in time?

MR. NESSEN: Get up early and call up Monday and see what time you have to be at Andrews. We will get it for you as soon as we can.

After overnighing there in Oklahoma City, the President will make a midday appearance at a Republican rally in the main arena at the Myriad Center, Oklahoma City. He then flies to Cleveland for an appearance at an Ohio Republican dinner at the Sheraton Cleveland Hotel.

The President will probably get back to the White House at about 11:00 Tuesday night.

Q Doesn't he have a breakfast in Oklahoma City on Tuesday morning?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have any details on that, Tom, but that is true, there will be a breakfast and a reception, but I don't have the exact details.

Q Is that another fund-raising thing?

MR. NESSEN: It must be.

He will have some time in the morning to do Presidential work in Oklahoma City.

Q What time is the Myriad Center -- noon?

MR. NESSEN: The Myriad Center is midday.

Q Will the Republican Committee pick up the tab on these?

MR. NESSEN: As always.

Q How much is the coffee in Oklahoma City?

MR. NESSEN: The coffee is cheap. It is the oil that is expensive, Dick. (Laughter)

We have a guest at our briefing today. It is another president I used to work for, Dick Wall at NBC. Dick is the President of NBC News.

Q Ron, are you open to questions now?

MR. NESSEN: I think I can't find any other travel plans or anything else to talk about, Peter, so fire away.

Q This is a procedural question. Why did the White House not announce what Jackson called a historic step, this agreement with the Soviet Union? Is this part of the legislative dictatorship that the President is fearing with Jackson doing this?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think there was any special reason for it that I know of.

Q It is kind of unusual, isn't it?

MR. NESSEN: Well, the text of the letter from Secretary Kissinger was published at the time.

Q Announced by Senator Jackson, though?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know.

Q I am just curious about the procedure.

MR. NESSEN: I don't think there was anything unusual or anything mysterious about it.

Q Ron, can you tell us if oil is going to be on the agenda when the President meets with the Mexican President?

MR. NESSEN: The question asked is whether they will discuss oil. This meeting has been in the works for quite some time before that announcement of an oil find down there. I suppose that when they are talking about international matters and economic matters it could come up.

Q Ron, did Secretary Morton ask him to bring it up? He said in a press conference that it might be a good time to talk about it.

MR. NESSEN: I tell you I didn't get a very full report on the meeting between the President and Secretary Morton, so I can't tell you that.

Les.

Q Ron, regarding the President's testimony yesterday in regard to his continuing to proclaim his belief in Nixon's innocence and after he learned about the June 23 tape, the question regarding Congressman Edwards, who has commented that the President has deceived both the press and the public despite his statement during the Vice Presidential hearings that he couldn't think of any occasion on which he would lie -- that is Edward's statement, not mine -- and I wonder can the White House provide any information to the contrary or respond to Mr. Edward's question?

MR. NESSEN: What was Mr. Edward's question?

Q He made the statement that the President's testimony yesterday -- you were up there, I gather -- when the President said I knew about the June 23 tape but I did tell the press that I was still convinced of the President's innocence. This is what Mr. Edwards contends is deceiving both the press and the American public, particularly when he had told during the Vice Presidential confirmation hearings that he could think of no occasion when he would have to tell a lie.

MR. NESSEN: What is your question?

Q My question is, can the White House provide any information to the contrary or a response to Mr. Edward's charge; in other words, if there is another side to it, Ron, I am most interested in hearing it.

MR. NESSEN: The President, I believe, gave an explanation of that, and I certainly wouldn't go beyond his explanation.

Q Ron, Senator Jackson called the agreement historic. What does the President call the agreement? How does he feel about the agreement?

MR. NESSEN: In what way?

Q Well, does he see it as an erosion of the power of the Presidency, or does he see it as a great step forward? How does he see it?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have a specific comment from the President. These negotiations have been going on for a long time, and he obviously wants the trade bill to move forward and this seems to resolve the problem that was blocking the trade bill.

Q Ron, Secretary Butz told a Kansas City audience this morning that the suspended grain deals with the Soviets are going to go through, although possibly with some deferrals on the corn? Do you have a comment on that, and has the President made a decision that he is going to announce?

MR. NESSEN: We said the same weekend that the President asked that the contracts be held back or cancelled that -- it was about three days before the latest crop report came out -- and we said then that once the size of the crop was known, it was likely that at least some and possibly all of the grain would be sold to the Soviet Union.

Q Has he made a decision, though, that it is going to be sold?

MR. NESSEN: It is not a Presidential decision. The process, as you know, is for the grain dealers to, when they have a proposed contract, the new procedure now is to check with the Agriculture Department and get Agriculture Department approval.

I don't know that that process -- have they taken back the contracts and asked the Agriculture Department to approve them?

Q Well, when Secretary Simon returned from Moscow this week, he said that he was going to discuss the grain deal with the President and the President would be making the decision.

MR. NESSEN: I will have to check and see if he has made the decision or if the Russians have asked to buy the grain again.

Q Ron, what did the President really gain out of vetoing the continuing resolution yesterday when the version that he finally signed today has two more restrictions and all they can do in the way of sending equipment is things like trucks, or bandanas or uniforms?

MR. NESSEN: Did you get the statement we just put out I think a short time before this briefing?

Q Yes, Eagleton and others are saying they really made a victory on that one.

MR. NESSEN: I think the statement by the President on why he signed the bill is about all we can say.

Q Does the President have any plans to meet with the cattlemen about their problems, and how is the President responding to requests from Senators and Congressmen that he meet with cattlemen and dairymen?

MR. NESSEN: He said the other day, I believe in Sioux Falls, that he was going to meet with the cattlemen and it is being arranged now. I think you can look for it before the end of the month. October 30 might be the date, but that is tentative.

Q Is he thinking about taking any action toward import quotas on beef?

MR. NESSEN: The President is opposed to quotas.

Q Ron, what kind of a reaction or response have you gotten from the public to the President's appearance before the committee yesterday?

MR. NESSEN: I haven't gotten a check on the mail room, Peter. I know that the initial phone calls that came into the Press Office, there were several dozen of them, and I think Larry told me there were three or four opposed and the rest in favor.

Q How many were the rest?

MR. NESSEN: I said there were several dozen all together out of which three or four were critical.

Q Ron, the question about quotas. I think the question was import quotas, and I wonder whether your reply refers to the President's remark about export quotas?

MR. NESSEN: What import quotas are you thinking of especially?

Q Beef import quotas. Under the 1964 law, that had a certain trigger point to impose quotas on beef. They haven't had them since 1972. Secretary Butz told a group of visiting cattlemen day before yesterday that he would like to see some revision of such quotas.

Mr. Butz also said he was very fearful of an accumulation of beef from Australia, that if prices of beef were frozen in this country, that Australian beef might come flooding in, and he was hoping to avert this.

MR. NESSEN: I will have to check on import quotas for you. I don't have an answer for you today.

Q Ron, regarding another question you took, you have taken it twice since the President's last press conference. I would like to ask, do we have an answer yet.

The President, as you will recall, said \$850,000 is in keeping with what has been paid to other former Presidents and the GSA figures, as another of my colleagues pointed out, don't match this. And you have taken the question twice.

MR. NESSEN: The GSA figures don't what?

Q The GSA figures provided the Senate Appropriations Committee, they indicate that only \$260,000 more was paid to L. B. J. in five years than what Mr. Ford is asking for Mr. Nixon for one year. Could we get the answer to that now; you have taken the question twice.

MORE

MR. NESSEN: GSA has said itself that the funds requested by former President Nixon are comparable to the amounts requested by --

Q Why is it -- Senator Montoya's office has got the GSA report. They did a computerized check on every dime that was paid to Lyndon Johnson, and they have the whole thing broken down, and it is only \$266,000 more in five years than the \$850,000 in one.

MR. NESSEN: May I finish my answer? Do you have another question?

Q No.

MR. NESSEN: May I finish this answer?

Q Please. I thought you were finished.

MR. NESSEN: It is a complicated comparison, and the GSA is prepared to provide specific answers to specific questions. You may recall that former President Johnson announced his intention not to seek another term in March of 1968, which allowed him ten months of transition and White House funds before he actually left office in January of 1969.

President Nixon resigned abruptly and there was no time for any transition or transition spending before he left office.

Also, since the departure of President Johnson, there has been Congressionally-approved increases in the appropriations voted by Congress for pensions and staff allowances. There has also been five years of inflation.

For specific numbers and specific answers to your specific questions, the GSA is prepared to answer.

Q But Ron, your answer leaves the implication that the GSA-itemized funds included the amounts of money or funds that Johnson got during the ten months he remained in the White House. Do you mean to leave that --

MR. NESSEN: I don't mean to leave that impression, Peter. The reason I mentioned the ten months was to explain that part of the cost of transition by President Johnson was taken care of during the period when he was still President. He didn't need special transition funds for any of the activities that took place during that ten months.

Q Is that money that was spent, for instance, on his home in Texas? Is that what you are talking about, or is it money expended while he was still in the White House and you are calling that transition money?

MR. NESSEN: There was a period of ten months when he knew he was going to be leaving office on a specific date. I don't know what specifically the money was spent for.

Q It sounds like a bookkeeping device to make it sound comparable to the \$850,000, Ron. That is the point I think we are getting at.

Q Are you referring to such items as roughly sorting out and transporting the Johnson papers to Texas during his Presidency.

MR. NESSEN: I think that is one good answer, John. Certainly that took place during that period.

Q That is taking place during this period also because the White House is still funding the Nixon transition out of the White House budget.

MR. NESSEN: Because he has no budget of his own.

Q I understand that, but precisely the same thing is occurring now that occurred during the Johnson Administration.

MR. NESSEN: But it will be paid for out of transition funds when Congress appropriates the transition funds.

Q All the way back to August 9?

MR. NESSEN: It is my understanding that many of these charges are reimbursable after he gets his transition funds.

Q Is there any reaction to Senator Scott's statement on the floor yesterday about pulling out the nomination of Rockefeller?

MR. NESSEN: The President has no plans to withdraw the nomination of Governor Rockefeller.

Q Is there any reaction to the latest GNP figures, and does the President still maintain the country is not in a recession?

MR. NESSEN: Well, I think whether you call what we are in a recession or not call it a recession is really a semantic question. There is an organization which is generally agreed to be the designator of recessions, when we have one, called the National Bureau of Economic Research and, as I understand it, their last report did not call this a recession.

I don't think there is any question that everyone agrees that economic activity is sluggish. The period we are in has many characteristics that are not typical of a recession. The rate of inflation is high and the stock market and housing starts have declined sharply. Retail sales have been weak.

But employment has not declined and in fact employment set a record, an all-time record, in September. Investment spending is booming, which is not typical of a recession.

So this sluggish period has some peculiar characteristics. There is no question that we have a combination of declining economic activity and high inflation, and I think it would be appropriate to call this "stagflation", which it has been called, and I think whether the word "recession" is used or not is a matter of semantics.

The name you give a thing doesn't change its characteristics.

Q Commerce Secretary Dent called it a spasm yesterday -- the third quarterly decline in the GNP. Does the President share that characterization?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know, Tom. Whatever you call it, as I started to say, it doesn't change the figures under the basic situation.

Q Whatever you call it, it is not good.

MR. NESSEN: By any other name. John.

Q Does the White House have any measure, either authoritative or quantitative, of the reaction to the President's anti-inflation speech in Kansas City Tuesday night?

MR. NESSEN: It seemed to me that I saw somebody around here with a piece of paper here that said there had been 100,000 letters enlisting in the inflation fighter-energy saver campaign, and requesting buttons for that.

I have seen a couple of editorials and columnists who thought that an appeal to the people wasn't a bad thing to do.

Q This was pertaining to his speech?

MR. NESSEN: Isn't that what you were asking for?

Q I was asking for any measure you might have as to the volume and nature of the response to the Kansas City speech, the Future Farmers speech?

MR. NESSEN: I am saying there are 100,000 requests to join the thing, and editorial comments.

Q The way I am saying it is one thing -- as I know all too well -- but-- (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: You are a charter member, John. You are not going to back out on your membership now, are you? I may make you block chairman to pass out WIN buttons to your neighbors.

I am sorry. Go ahead.

Q Seriously, do you see anything in the way of a measure of a specific response to the Kansas City speech? Were people pleased or displeased?

MR. NESSEN: I see. I don't have a measure of that here in the White House. I guess Tom Wicker wasn't very pleased, but I don't have much beyond that.

Q Ron, who paid for the trip to Kansas City?

MR. NESSEN: The Republican National Committee is paying for all trips that involve politics, and in this case -- you may remember back during the Vice Presidential period, because you traveled on all those trips, that the Republican National Committee decided not to split hairs and decide which parts of the trips were political and which non-political, and so they picked up the price of the whole trip, and they did in this case also.

Q Ron, what does paying for the trip involve? Does it involve paying for Air Force One or Air Force One and the back-up plane? Does it pay for flying the car around? Is there anything that is considered to still be Presidential that he needs to do and you don't bill the Republican National Committee for it?

MR. NESSEN: The price of Air Force One is always paid for by the Republican National Committee when there is any political element to the trip.

Q How about the back-up plane?

MR. NESSEN: On some of the trips there has been no back-up plane. Was there one on that trip? I know there wasn't any on the first threetrips that we made.

Q How about the 141 that follows or takes the cars?

MR. NESSEN: Well, there are some -- I don't know specifically about the 141, Phil. I will have to check on that for you. But the fact of the matter is there are some costs of the trip, or some parts of the trip, which are considered to be necessary support for the President wherever he is and wherever he goes.

Q Can you get us a list of those, Ron, the things that are considered necessary support that are being paid for by the Government even though it is a political trip and the Republican National Committee is paying for the rest?

Q And the money, Ron. What they are actually spending.

MR. NESSEN: It varies, Fran, depending on the length of the trip. The cost of Air Force One is roughly \$2,000 an hour for actual flying time.

For instance, the Republican National Committee or the local Republican Committee, which also pays some of the cost of these trips, pick up the bill for the President's hotel room or whatever facilities he has, as well as for the White House Staff. The Secret Service, the Communications Agency and any military people are paid for by the Government. Just to give you some ideas of figures, Fran, you asked about -- I told you about \$2,000 an hour for air time for Air Force One, the helicopter flight to Andrews and back, just rough, approximate figures, \$372.72.

Q Who pays that?

MR. NESSEN: It is paid for by the Republican National Committee.

Q What about the cost of Air Force One being maintained on the ground at Kansas City or wherever the President happens to be, is that a necessary support cost or a part of the trip cost?

MR. NESSEN: If there is any cost -- and I am not sure there is -- I will check it for you. But the other costs, the local Republican committees pick up some of the cost and the National Committee picks up some, some of the lighting and facilities for coverage are paid for by the networks.

Q Did you say the RNC paid for the chopper flight to Andrews?

MR. NESSEN: That is my understanding.

Q Is that \$372 just one way?

MR. NESSEN: No, I think they have to get him home, too, or give him cab fare from Andrews.

Q Is that one way?

MR. NESSEN: No, that is round trip, I think.

Q About the morning's exchange of letters, nowhere in the letters is there any mention of Jews. Does this figure, 60,000, that they are talking about, and do these easing of restrictions apply, as I think the Senator said, apply to all Soviet citizens or are we talking here specifically about Jews, dissidents and other minority group members, or can't you be more precise?

MR. NESSEN: Have you read Secretary Kissinger's letter?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: Well, I think all the answers to all your questions on this are in Secretary Kissinger's letter because he is speaking for the American Government.

Q Ron, one answer that is not in that letter, does the President see the only significance of the compromise in the Jackson Amendment is that it moves the foreign trade bill off dead center?

MR. NESSEN: I didn't say that was the only significance to the letter.

Q What does he see as the significance? You said he had no specific comment.

MR. NESSEN: That is because I didn't ask him for a specific comment. Can't you see what the American attitude is from reading the Kissinger letter?

Q That really doesn't tell us the President's attitude.

MR. NESSEN: It is the American Government attitude.

Q Ron, I think the thing is there seems to be sort of a curious foisting off of the responsibility for this whole business to Senator Jackson and Secretary Kissinger and it seems unusual you wouldn't ask the President for a comment on something that is --

MR. NESSEN: You have seen his schedule this morning. I haven't had time to ask him about everything. But, as I told Peter, I wouldn't see any special significance in the fact it was Senator Jackson who announced this and released the letters.

Q Can you get us a Presidential comment on this?

MR. NESSEN: I certainly will. If you would like to have one, I can ask.

Q Ron, now that there has been an extension until December 10th on the Turkish Aid Bill, is the President going to launch any special negotiating efforts in Cyprus?

MR. NESSEN: There are negotiating efforts on Cyprus, Fran, and I don't know of any special efforts that are being launched but the negotiating process has been going on.

Q Ron, a follow-up question.

Ron, is the President, in his meeting with the President of Portugal, seeking any special agreement or assurances on the use of the Azores?

MR. NESSEN: We are going to have something for you after the meeting. I would hope you can wait until after that.

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Q Ron, now the trade agreement is worked out. Can we get the White House version of the report two weeks ago that the attempts to negotiate agreements had come unstuck. Why did the White House notify people on the Hill that they couldn't go through with it at that time?

MR. NESSEN: Did they notify people on the Hill that they couldn't go with it at that time?

Q That is their side of it.

MR. NESSEN: Well, we have an agreement today. I don't know what the need is to go back in the history of it. I don't have the history of it to give you, anyhow.

Q Ron, do you plan any sort of reply to the questions that Mrs. Holtzman asked that the President didn't get a chance to reply to?

MR. NESSEN: I guess Miss Holtzman didn't give him much of a chance to reply to those questions. He certainly was prepared to respond to all the questions raised in the resolutions. There were two of them. I think it is up to the subcommittee to decide whether they want written answers to those questions.

I looked over the questions that she had raised, and I think he answered most of them either in his prepared statement or in response to other questions.

Q What about denying consultation with Saxbe and the selection of Benton Becker?

MR. NESSEN: Well, I don't want to really speak for the President because he went up there for the specific purpose of answering the questions, and she didn't give him much of a chance to answer.

On the question of not conferring with Saxbe, the pardon power is the sole power of the President, and he did confer with his legal counsel and it is really the President's judgment who to confer with on these matters.

Q A couple of days ago, Ron, the State Department was saying that if there were no restrictions attached to our aid to Turkey that the Secretary would go to Turkey to try to speed up the negotiations. Now that we have this compromise, will the Secretary go to Turkey?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have an answer on that. Have you checked the State Department?

Q Not this morning.

MR. NESSEN: Well, we will check, or you can check.

Q Ron, a follow-up question to that. Since the President has certainly been focusing on the question of inflation and oil and since he formulates foreign policy, I was wondering, I understand there is a proposal of \$270 million in foreign aid to the OPEC countries, including \$1.6 million to Iran.

It doesn't seem like Iran really needs \$1.6 million. Is there any reason why we are doing this in view of his call to inflation, tightening Uncle Sam's belt and so forth?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that we are doing it, but I will check it for you, Les.

Q Ron, on September 8 in his briefing, Mr. Buchen said that he sent Benton Becker to the West Coast, I believe, on the 5th of September, and authorized him to tell the President a pardon was in the works. Yesterday the President said that he authorized Mr. Buchen to tell Mr. Miller that on the 4th.

Since Mr. Miller is Mr. Nixon's attorney, presumably Mr. Miller would have told Mr. Nixon on the 4th. Why then was it necessary to send Mr. Becker to the West coast on the 5th to tell Mr. Nixon again on the 6th?

MR. NESSEN: I will have to review that testimony. I don't remember that particular part of it.

Q It is on page 6 of the September 8 transcript.

MR. NESSEN: I don't have that transcript in front of me. We will try to get you an answer on that. I don't have an answer right here on the spot. I don't recall that there was any conflict, but I will look it up and see if there was or not.

Bill?

Q Ron, do you have any "Dear Ken Clawson" letters?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have anything I can give you on that today.

Q There is no change in his status?

Q Any other members of the Nixon staff?

MR. NESSEN: I am told that Manolo and Fina have --

Q Manolo and Fina?

MR. NESSEN: Effective October 5 Manolo Sanchez and Fina Sanchez are on leave without pay.

Q What does that mean?

Q From what?

MR. NESSEN: That means they are on leave without pay from their jobs.

Q Were they fired?

MR. NESSEN: No, they were not fired.

Q Relieved from White House service or relieved from the Nixon employment?

MR. NESSEN: They always worked for the Interior Department, as I understand it. They were detailed over to the White House.

Q Are they now on Mr. Nixon's payroll or are they off anybody's payroll?

MR. NESSEN: They are off anybody's payroll.

Q You mean they are unemployed?

MR. NESSEN: OFF THE RECORD, I think they are looking for a job.

Q Is Congressman Larry Hogan under consideration for any Federal employment?

MR. NESSEN: I haven't heard of any, Les.

Q Ron, is anything being done about an appointment of a Special Prosecutor?

MR. NESSEN: What do you mean, anything done?

Q Is the White House reviewing any applications or interviewing people for the job, or is the White House in contact with Saxbe?

MR. NESSEN: You know Saxbe has been away in Ohio and New Orleans for a while. Is he back now?

Q I don't know, but I presume it could be carried on without him being in town.

MR. NESSEN: Mr. Jaworski is going to stay on his job until the 25th of October.

Q Is the White House acceptable to having Mr. Ruth succeed him? Does that agree with the White House?

MR. NESSEN: Henry Ruth will be given strong consideration. He comes highly recommended.

Q Is there anything else you can tell us about that situation?

MR. NESSEN: I was just looking. The President and the Attorney General will consult about this. I can't give you any list of names at the moment.

Q Ron, in your package of handouts this morning, there is a letter to the chairman of the National Cancer Board which notes that the Board recommends Federal regulation of tar and nicotine content of cigarette.

The President says they didn't provide any scientific back-up to this suggestion. Does the President doubt that cigarettes are bad for you? What is the purpose of what he is asking?

MR. NESSEN: I will have to check, Norman.

Q Is that report available here?

MR. NESSEN: The whole report.

Q The whole report.

MR. NESSEN: It wouldn't normally be. I think you ought to check with the agency providing that.

Q It was only a preliminary copy, according to the President's letter. If it is not available, can you tell us what the report is recommending concerning tar and nicotine?

MR. NESSEN: I will check it for you.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

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