

THIS COPY FOR _____

N E W S C O N F E R E N C E

68

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH JACK HUSHEN

AT 12:15 P.M. EST

NOVEMBER 11, 1974

MR. HUSHEN: The President was in the office at about 7:45 a.m. this morning. He has met with Jack Marsh, Don Rumsfeld, Bob Hartmann, Bob Scowcroft, Secretary Kissinger, Ron Nessen, and Bill Timmons. His meeting with Secretary Kissinger lasted about 50 minutes.

At 10:00 the President met in a separate meeting with Bill Timmons, Ken Cole and Roy Ash, and other staff members to discuss priorities to be included in the message which the President will send to Congress when it returns next week. That message, as we previously announced, will go to Congress a week from today, Monday, November 18.

The President's schedule is running a little behind, and the 12:30 ceremony for him to receive the Thanksgiving turkey from the National Turkey Federation will probably be delayed about 40 minutes.

Q This turkey, is it live or is it dead? Is it live?

MR. HUSHEN: It is a live turkey.

Q Is it in a crate?

MR. HUSHEN: Attend the ceremony and you will see.

This will make the 28th year that the National Turkey Federation has presented a turkey to the President.

Q Speaking of turkeys, is there any truth in the report that Father McLaughlin is being considered for Ambassadorship to England? That is in the paper.

MR. HUSHEN: There is no truth to that.

Presenting the turkey will be the President of the National Turkey Federation, W. H. Shepard, Jr., and the Executive Vice President, G. L. Walts. They will be accompanied by their families, and we will have a news photo of the presentation, and you should be able to get more details from them, if you care to, at that time.

MORE

#68

Q Where are they from?

MR. HUSHEN: We will have to get that for you when the presentation takes place.

After receiving the turkey, the President will return to the Oval Office where he will sign the annual Thanksgiving Proclamation. We will make copies of the Proclamation available to you at that time.

Q Is that embargoed?

MR. HUSHEN: The proclamation?

Q Yes.

MR. HUSHEN: Until he signs it.

The Proclamation that the President signs will be presented to the Thanksgiving Square Foundation of Dallas, Texas. The Thanksgiving Square is currently being built in Dallas, and when completed, it will house many of the known documents and artifacts related to one of America's oldest traditions -- Thanksgiving.

The Foundation already has many of the previous Thanksgiving Proclamations, and the President will present the Proclamation to Peter Stewart, who is the President of the Thanksgiving Square Foundation.

At 2:00 this afternoon -- if his schedule holds up -- the President will hold one of his regular meetings with the Executive Committee of the Economic Policy Board in the Cabinet Room.

This afternoon at 3:00 the President will meet with Secretary Weinberger, Ken Cole, Bill Timmons and others -- we will post the list -- to discuss health insurance legislation.

At 4:00 this afternoon the President will meet with his Labor Management Committee. The committee will be meeting here all day, and the President will be with them this afternoon at 4:00. We plan to have a photo in the Roosevelt Room of that meeting, and we will also post a list of the participants when they are determined.

Q Do you have a fill on that, Jack -- or a posting?

MORE

#68

MR. HUSHEN: We will try to do something for you.

This evening at 6:00 the President will host a reception for the Republican Chairmen of the 13 Southern States. This reception will be in the Map Room in the Residence.

The Southern States Chairmen are in Washington for one of their regular meetings. The President invited them to come to the White House for an informal, private reception, and there will be no coverage of that.

Tomorrow, as you know, Chancellor Kreisky of Austria will be here for an official visit. There will be coverage of his 10:30 arrival ceremony, his 11:00 meeting with the President, and the State Dinner that evening at 8:00.

The President has invited the Governors of our Coastal States to meet with he and Secretary Morton at 5:00 p.m. Wednesday to discuss how this Nation can expeditiously and wisely explore and develop the oil and gas potential of our outer continental shelf. The meeting will be attended principally by Governors from the New England and Mid-Atlantic States because the Southern Governors will be attending a meeting of the Southern Growth Policy Board in Atlanta.

We have advised those Governors and also Western Governors that we will meet with them at a later time.

The meeting with the President will be followed that evening with an informal dinner, hosted by Secretary Morton, which the President will not attending.

Q Where will that be?

MR. HUSHEN: I am informed the details are being worked out as to the location of that dinner.

On Thursday, as we have announced, the President will be going to Las Vegas and Phoenix. He plans to depart from the White House at about 7:30 a.m., so we will have check-in time at Andrews at 6:30 a.m. with the press plane departure at 7:00 A.M. This is to get you in shape for the rigors of the trip the following week.

In Las Vegas the President will address the National Association of Realtors at about 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time at the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel.

That evening at 6:00 p.m. Mountain Time, the President will take questions at the 65th Annual Convention of the Society of Professional Journalists, which is probably better known as Sigma Delta Chi, and this will be at Dell Webb's townhouse in Phoenix. We will have further details for you later this week.

The President will be getting back to the White House about 1:30 a.m. Friday morning and, of course, the press plane will be in after that.

Q What time are the questions?

MR. HUSHEN: At 6:00 p.m. Mountain Time, which will be 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

Q You said that was going to be Pacific Time before, Jack.

MR. HUSHEN: Pacific Time for Las Vegas.

Q Jack, will the Sigma Delta Chi be televised nationally, do you know?

MR. HUSHEN: It is available for that, and I think it will be. We don't know for sure yet.

Q Jack, will there be questions from the White House reporters traveling with the President as well as Sigma Delta Chi? Is that right?

MR. HUSHEN: We worked it out whereby the White House correspondents will alternate their questions with the SDX people. Follow-up questions will be allowed on the same subject.

Q And the length of it will be what, a half hour or what?

MR. HUSHEN: I don't know. We don't have that. I don't have it firm as to whether it will be a half hour or longer.

Q Who will end it, an SDX member or senior wire service man?

MR. HUSHEN: We will have further details on this later, and I think we will get it ironed out to everybody's satisfaction, hopefully.

I don't have any more details about the Japan trip, particularly, but I do have -- because the advance team has not been able to make their report -- but I do have the hotels in Japan and Korea where we will be staying, if that will be of any help to you.

In Tokyo it will be the Okura. In Kyoto it will be at the Kyoto Royal, and in Seoul, it will be in the Chosen.

Today is the deadline for your photographs and visa applications, and those of you who are not getting shots from your private physician can step into my office after 1:00 tomorrow, and we will take care of you.

Wednesday is the deadline for you to turn in your list of camera and sound equipment to Ray Zook. This should include any personal cameras or other equipment that you are taking on the trip.

I think that just about covers our announcements.

Q Before we get off that subject, can you tell us anything more about these -- I guess you would have to call them rumors or reports or published reports -- about the situation at Vladivostok as to how many people are going to get in, whether the entire traveling press will be in or not?

MR. HUSHEN: No, I have heard the same reports you all have heard, and there is nothing I can give you on it today. There has been nothing finalized on that.

Q You are, I assume, in your dealings with the Russian Government, attempting to have all the traveling press allowed into Vladivostok, right?

MR. HUSHEN: Most assuredly. You understand that the meeting place is some distance from Vladivostok?

Q Of course I am talking first about Vladivostok. Now, what do you hear about it from them?

MR. HUSHEN: Nothing that I can give you here today that would do anything more than just fuel the fires of the rumors. We have gotten no official report back.

Q Jack, just so we can put it on the record here, I think we are all requesting permission to go into Vladivostok, so whoever is representing the United States with the Russians knows that we want this, that we are officially requesting it.

MR. HUSHEN: Well, I think we know that without an official request, and we are certainly trying to do what we can to make sure that everybody goes along --

Q We are doing more than requesting. We are kicking and screaming.

MR. HUSHEN: I hope we don't have to drag you in there kicking and screaming.

Q Jack, is there any new developments in the tapes agreement with former President Nixon? There is a rumor that there may be some.

MR. HUSHEN: Yes, there is, and we will pass the announcement out right now.

This agreement has been filed in court this morning, and I will just have to say that the statement as far as this briefer is concerned, pretty much is going to have to stand on the statement, and questions should be referred to the Department of Justice.

Q Jack, what does this change, if anything?

Q How does it affect the requirement about what happens to the materials should the President die?

MR. HUSHEN: Well, under the previous agreement, nothing would happen to any of the materials for five years whether the former President lived or died.

The former President has filed suit to seek to implement that agreement, and temporary restraining orders have been filed on his behalf, and I think because of the complexity of this matter, it is going to have to be something that will be addressed by lawyers.

Q One thing that you might be able to address, Elizabeth Holtzman and Bella Abzug wanted any possible conversations relating to the pardon between the President and then Vice President Ford to be made public, if there were any. This does not address itself to anything other than the tapes that the Special Prosecutor is interested in. Is the White House interested in commenting on the Holtzman reports?

MR. HUSHEN: No. I think, as the President said, that any relevant material should be made available to the Special Prosecutor, and it is pursuant to the statements that he made up there at the subcommittee that this agreement --

Q So, the Prosecutor does not want these particular materials, he is not interested in the pardon, and those materials, if they do exist, would not be covered by this?

MR. HUSHEN: This is an agreement between the people mentioned in it, and not with the subcommittee.

Q Jack, let me see if I can approach this this way. Although this is referred to in the release as a joint motion, it appears to be in the nature of a reply brief to the original motion filed by the former President which the former President seeks to have those tapes turned over and these, in effect, respondents -- the Department of Justice, the GSA and so forth -- seem to be saying, okay, here is our reply to the original motion of the plaintiff, Mr. Nixon, and we state as follows, we need these tapes for thus and so reasons. Is that the way you interpret it?

MR. HUSHEN: No, because it is my understanding of the President's suit that anything needed by the Special Prosecutor under subpoena would be exempted from being turned over.

Q What does this change or what does this do, then?

MR. HUSHEN: Well, I think if you read it, it says what it does.

Q Does this have any impact on the former President's suit at all? Is it a separate lawsuit?

MR. HUSHEN: Well, it is written with an awareness of the suit.

Q But this is a separate suit.

MR. HUSHEN: This is not a suit, this is an agreement in the form of a motion which the people are asking the judge to accept.

Q Jack, does the President wish to nullify the agreement with former President Nixon?

MR. HUSHEN: I can't respond to that, but I can say that that agreement was never implemented.

Q Does he now wish to officially nullify it and make it meaningless?

MR. HUSHEN: I just can't answer the question.

Q Jack, I have read this thing twice and I still don't understand. Can you state precisely for us what this agreement does?

MR. HUSHEN: No. That is why I suggested you contact the Department of Justice.

Q Jack, why was it the other day we had Roy Ash out here giving us what he called an education on the budget and yet you hand out something as complicated as this and don't have a qualified briefer to explain it? You are asking us to report something that we really, without having a briefing on, will have a difficult time reporting.

MR. HUSHEN: A qualified briefer is at the Department of Justice.

Q Jack, did you ask Mr. Buchen to come out?

MR. HUSHEN: No, I did not.

Q Would you?

MR. HUSHEN: I will put the question to him. I think that this is something that is being handled by the Justice Department and by the Special Prosecutor's Office, and Mr. Buchen is a party to the suit, as is Mr. Sampson and Mr. Knight.

Q Why is it we don't have a copy of the joint motion itself?

MR. HUSHEN: That is available at the Justice Department.

Q It is available at the Justice?

MR. HUSHEN: Yes.

Q Who is supposed to report this story, the people over there?

MR. HUSHEN: Well, it has been filed in court.

Q Today?

MR. HUSHEN: All that material was filed in court at 11 o'clock this morning.

Q Jack, does this motion ask Judge Richey to replace what you might refer to as the Nixon agreement with the new agreement between the White House and the Special Prosecutor? Does it ask that that new agreement supercede the original agreement on the tapes?

MR. HUSHEN: I do not know.

Q Jack, is the agreement between Mr. Nixon and Mr. Sampson still in effect, the agreement dated, I believe it was September 8.

MR. HUSHEN: As far as I know, it is. It has not been implemented, but the agreement is still in effect.

Q So, it is not superceded then? Weren't you just asked whether the old agreement was superceded, and you said you didn't know and now you say it is still in effect, although it has not been implemented?

MR. HUSHEN: That is what I said before.

Q Would this agreement that is referred to in the motion, the new agreement between the White House and the Special Prosecutor, if Judge Richey approved it, would it have the effect of either superceding the old Nixon-Sampson agreement or preventing the old Nixon-Sampson agreement from being implemented?

MR. HUSHEN: Well, as I think I said before, it is my understanding that the old Nixon agreement, if you want to put it in those words, would have exempted the materials sought by subpoena but it was a rather cumbersome and, I think, somewhat difficult process by which the Special Prosecutor's Office would have been able to get at the material that they thought they needed.

Q Only by subpoena?

MR. HUSHEN: It is my understanding that this will make it much easier for them to get at this material, and if you will notice in about the third line of the second paragraph, that it is President Ford's determination that the due administration of justice and the public interest require that the Special Prosecutor have prompt and effective use of those Presidential materials of the Nixon Administration now located in the White House complex that are relevant and important to ongoing criminal investigations and prosecutions within the Special Prosecutor's jurisdiction.

I think the key word there is prompt.

Q Jack, had the original agreement been signed by someone on behalf of the former President and President Ford? Were there any signatures there?

MR. HUSHEN: Well, there was an agreement that was signed by former President Nixon in a letter to the General Services Administration saying, as I recall, what he would allow to be done with his papers and documents.

Q But did someone from the present Administration sign that same sheet of paper; in other words, is there an agreement from the September 8 that both parties have signed or is this just something that they talked about and they put down on paper and said this is the way we will do it, but never signed it?

MR. HUSHEN: Are you talking about the September 8 agreement?

Q Yes, the original, the old Nixon agreement.

MR. HUSHEN: Yes.

Q Was this a piece of paper signed by --

MR. HUSHEN: Yes, it was a letter signed by former President Nixon to Sampson.

Q And did Sampson sign or did President Ford sign or has anyone signed?

Q It was signed by Arthur Sampson the following day.

MR. HUSHEN: Was it?

Q Yes.

Q Jack, does this mean now that the former President no longer has the right to legal challenge against any subpoenas that are addressed to documents or tapes now in the custody of the White House?

MR. HUSHEN: I think the answer to that is that he can still challenge, but again, you are getting into the area that you better --

Q Then this does not change the September 8 agreement?

MR. HUSHEN: As I said, I think the key word is prompt. The September 8 agreement, as I said before, as I understand it, was not written to cover -- it was written to acknowledge that there would be material that the Special Prosecutor wanted and would seek.

Q But the former President could challenge those subpoenas in what would turn out to be a lengthy legal process. When you talk about prompt action, now if he still has that right to challenge his subpoena, what is prompt about it? It is the same legal process that was in effect before.

MR. HUSHEN: You are going to have to go to the Justice Department for that answer.

Q Jack, let me try it this way. Under the September 8 agreement, the Special Prosecutors had to have a subpoena before they could come in and look at the material; is that correct?

MR. HUSHEN: Under the September 8 agreement?

Q Yes.

MR. HUSHEN: I think there were some letter requests that were responded to, but --

Q In other words, now under this agreement, under this one that you are handing out today, they can simply come over here and look through the tapes and files if they want to without having a subpoena; is that correct?

MR. HUSHEN: Well, that is an important question that I just don't have the answer to and it is not something that I in any way want to guess at.

Q Do you know who might have the answer to that?

MR. HUSHEN: Well, as I said, the Justice Department or possibly the Special Prosecutor's Office, although I don't think I should recommend that somebody should talk to them, they should talk to the Justice Department first. This agreement was prepared under the direction of Deputy Attorney General Silberman, and the attorneys for the Department of Justice and Special Prosecutor Ruth and his attorneys in consultation with Mr. Buchen, the Legal Counsel, and I believe Mr. Samson and Mr. Knight.

Q Jack, when you say the September 8 agreement was never implemented, are we to understand that since the signing of that agreement no tapes or documents have been sent to Mr. Nixon?

MR. HUSHEN: That is true.

I am asked if I will please announce that the turkey is now in the Rose Garden. Those who wish to cover the presentation should assemble at the outside entrance and Mr. Roberts will take them over.

Q Well, we didn't hear a gobble.

Q Jack, this new agreement, does it facilitate the turning over to Mr. Nixon of those tapes which are not sought by the Special Prosecutor? Will it implement the old agreement to that extent?

MR. HUSHEN: You are going to have to get that question answered at Justice.

Q Jack, if I could get a question in edgewise on a different subject. What will be the impact of the new wheat agreement with Egypt on the price of food in the United States?

MR. HUSHEN: Let me see if there is anything I can give you on that.

Q Jack, I didn't hear your answer.

MR. HUSHEN: I have not given the answer yet.

Q Just these two turkey announcements?

Q Jack, regardless of what this motion states --

Q Wait, I have a question pending.

MR. HUSHEN: I think I can't answer that question.
(Laughter)

Q Jack, has there been no study? Does the Administration not know what the impact of this agreement is on food in this country?

MR. HUSHEN: I am sure that the Administration is aware of what it is.

Q Where can I get an answer as to what the impact is?

MR. HUSHEN: Well, I will try to get you an answer.

Q Jack, is there anything new on Gibson today?

MR. HUSHEN: Our position is the same on Mr. Gibson as it was on Friday, that the FBI checks are proceeding and the matter is under review.

Q Has he been over here today?

MR. HUSHEN: Yes, he has.

Q Who did he talk with?

MR. HUSHEN: It is my understanding, although I didn't personally see him, that he came in with a large group of individuals who were attending an energy meeting this morning. Mr. Gibson was coming in to meet with White House officials.

Q Jack, I thought he was not supposed to be fooling around with this. Staying away from the office and all that jazz is one thing, and still coming over here and acting as part of his official capacity is another. He is either out or in. Is he out or in?

MR. HUSHEN: My understanding is Mr. Gibson was coming to the White House this morning to meet with the White House officials regarding his nomination.

Q Jack, can you say whether he met with either the President or Don Rumsfeld?

MR. HUSHEN: He did not meet with the President and I seriously doubt if he met with Don Rumsfeld.

Q Can you tell us who he did meet with, Jack?

MR. HUSHEN: Well, it is the same officials that he met with last Friday.

Q Who were they?

MR. HUSHEN: Sir?

Q Don Rumsfeld?

MR. HUSHEN: He did not meet with Don Rumsfeld last Friday.

Q Who did he meet with last Friday?

MR. HUSHEN: We didn't disclose that and we are not now. He just came to see White House officials involved with his nomination.

Q Why is that so secret, Jack, who he is talking with? It is not a breach of security, is it?

MR. HUSHEN: No, we are just not going to disclose who it is that he is talking to.

Q You disclosed that he did not talk with the President.

MR. HUSHEN: That is right.

Q And it was not Rumsfeld?

Q Did he meet with Mr. Marsh this morning?

MR. HUSHEN: That I do not know.

Q Jack, do the people he is meeting with normally sit with the Cabinet? Is it at that level or is he meeting with people below that level?

MR. HUSHEN: He is here to meet with White House officials who are concerned with his nomination.

Q Is he meeting with the legal staff at the White House? Is he meeting with either Mr. Buchen or Mr. Buchen's staff?

MR. HUSHEN: I am giving you the answer.

Q Has he requested a meeting with the President?

MR. HUSHEN: Well, all I can say to that is not that I am aware of.

Q Jack, there have been reports that the White House is trying to get Mr. Gibson to withdraw his nomination. Can you confirm or deny those reports?

MR. HUSHEN: No, all I can say is what I have just said, that the matter is under review.

MORE

#68

Q Can you tell us when the White House was informed of his separation agreement? Maybe that has come up here before when I was not present.

MR. HUSHEN: It is my understanding that we knew orally of the fact that he had a separation contract, but that we didn't see any of the papers on it until after the nomination.

Q But you knew several days in advance of the announcement of his nomination agreement?

MR. HUSHEN: Only that there was just some kind of a separation contract; I mean, no knowledge as to the size.

Q Jack, is the White House concerned that the miners are now likely to be out for two weeks at least?

MR. HUSHEN: Well, there certainly is concern on the part of the President about dislocation and hardships that will result from a strike, and we continue to be hopeful that the collective bargaining process will work. It is our understanding that the negotiations are still continuing, and that the prospects for a settlement are good.

Q Jack, back to Gibson, if I may, for a minute. You said that the White House was aware verbally that there had been a separation agreement. Is it not true that the White House is also aware of the dollar figure involved?

MR. HUSHEN: That is not my understanding, and I have talked to the people who are involved in it.

Q They were aware that there was a separation agreement, and there was some sort of severance being paid, but they didn't know how much?

MR. HUSHEN: All I understand is that we were aware there was a separation agreement and that the dollar figure was not part of our knowledge.

Q Does that include the President? Jack, the White House and we, does that include the President because you told us, I believe that the President was not aware of any severance agreement?

MR. HUSHEN: The President was not.

Q He was not?

MR. HUSHEN: No.

Q Jack, if aides knew then, they did not communicate that to the President before he made the announcement?

MR. HUSHEN: The fact that there was a separation agreement?

Q Right.

MR. HUSHEN: Well, that seems like a conclusion that you ought to be able to draw.

Q Why wouldn't they not do that, Jack? It seems like such a clear-cut question.

MR. HUSHEN: Let me talk in the abstract for a second without specific reference to Mr. Gibson. Somebody leaves a company, he may have a separation contract and it is not an unusual thing to have. Without knowing what the size of it was, I believe that the officials working on this nomination didn't give that much thought to the size of it.

Q To put him in charge of something that is going to come directly into contact with the people he is being paid by, would it not occur to them that that might be something to consider?

MR. HUSHEN: Well, as you know, the FBI update and other checks that might have been made were waived.

Q You said that he told them about this operation agreement, that the FBI didn't enter into that.

MR. HUSHEN: What I said was that he told them about -- it is my understanding that there was an oral communication about the fact that there was a separation agreement. As to the size of it, we did not have that knowledge.

Q Would it have made a difference if it was \$10,000 a year instead of \$80,000 a year? What is the difference? Or even \$10 a year.

MR. HUSHEN: You are asking for answers that I don't have.

Q Will you tell us who was told, who Gibson told about this separation?

MR. HUSHEN: Well, individuals concerned with those matters.

Q Did he tell Walker?

MR. HUSHEN: I am not going to go beyond that.

Q Why are you hiding the identities of these people, Jack? This is something that we ought to be able to find out. You say it was not the President, but somebody knew, but then you won't say who.

MR. HUSHEN: That is correct.

Q Why not?

Q Did he tell Walker?

Q Why not? These are people who had this information and did not pass it on to the President, and so as far as we know, maybe it is Rumsfeld. We don't know. Maybe it is Hartmann. Why don't you clear it up?

MR. HUSHEN: This nomination, as you know, is under consideration.

Q Is the President upset, Jack, that this information was not passed along to him?

MR. HUSHEN: I don't know.

Q Would you clear up what he is doing over here this morning? You said he came over here with some energy people.

MR. HUSHEN: He came in with some energy people. I didn't say he came over with them. He came in with them.

Q Who are those people?

MR. HUSHEN: That was the Executive Committee of the Energy Resources Council, which met this morning at 9:30 in the Roosevelt Room. The meeting was chaired by Secretary Morton, and among the items on the agenda were the status of the coal negotiations and also Project Independence.

Q Jack, are you saying that Mr. Gibson did not attend that meeting but only came through the gate at the same time they did or what?

MR. HUSHEN: I did not say that.

Q What are you saying?

MR. HUSHEN: What I said was that he was coming to the White House this morning to meet with White House staff personnel who were concerned about his nomination.

Q Jack, who was handling it?

Q Jack, did he attend the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Energy Resources Council?

MR. HUSHEN: I believe he did.

Q Jack, are you denying that the White House had a copy of that separation agreement before Mr. Gibson was named?

MR. HUSHEN: It is my understanding that that is correct, that we did not have a copy of that.

MORE

Q Jack, can you tell me whether Mr. Sawhill attended that Executive Committee meeting this morning?

MR. HUSHEN: Let's see. I think the following people attended it.

Q Why didn't you tell us about this? Why does it suddenly come out now?

MR. HUSHEN: Well, it was not a Presidential meeting.

Q It was a meeting in the White House.

MR. HUSHEN: There are a lot of meetings going on in the White House.

MR. HUSHEN: Right.

Secretary Morton, Jack Carlson from the Interior Department, Alan Greenspan, John Sawhill, Bill Seidman, Bill Simon, Frank Zarb.

Q If I can follow that up, if Mr. Sawhill is still attending as FEA Administrator, what was Mr. Gibson's position at the meeting? Did he attend as Deputy Secretary of Commerce, or did he attend as private citizen, or did he attend as an appointee?

MR. HUSHEN: I don't know.

Q Since these gentlemen discussed the coal situation did they also discuss whether the White House should follow through on the Taft-Hartley effort to get a cooling-off period?

MR. HUSHEN: I do not know what they discussed.

Q Is the White House in favor?

MR. HUSHEN: I cannot give you any information on that.

Q Jack, to go to another subject if I may, yesterday morning on page 1 of the Star News, there was an AP story out of Rome that a member of the U.S. delegation said there is nothing new, our difference of the Holy See is clear, this meaning in reference to the Pope's accusation that the rich nations are imposing birth control on the poor to keep them poor.

My question is, what is our difference with the Holy See? Is the U.S. in favor of birth control? Could you explain what the U.S. delegation meant by this?

We are trying to identify -- AP has got an inquiry into Rome right now -- who it was that said this. Could you explain what is the U.S. policy and how does it differ with the Pope?

MR. HUSHEN: I guess we will have to take that question because I am not prepared to respond to it.

Q When can I get an answer?

MR. NESSEN: I will have to find out what the answer is.

Q Jack, is there an interview with the President by NBC which is going to be aired tomorrow night?

MR. HUSHEN: Ask me that question again.

Q I understand there is an NBC interview with the President that is supposed to be aired tomorrow night.

MR. HUSHEN: There has been no interview by NBC with the President.

Q What is the answer?

MR. HUSHEN: I say there has been no interview with the President by NBC.

Q Is there going to be one between now and tomorrow night?

Q It has been announced by NBC.

Q Have we got the right President?

Q The President of the turkey manufacturers.

MR. HUSHEN: I will have to say that we are still in negotiations.

Q What?

MR. HUSHEN: And beyond that, I cannot say anything.

Q Negotiations over what? The interview, or the time it is going to be aired, or what?

MR. HUSHEN: Over the interview.

Q NBC may not have an interview with the President?

MR. HUSHEN: You can read it any way you care to.

Q Can you read it for us? Tell us exactly what is going on.

MR. HUSHEN: I told you.

Q The interview has not been granted?

MR. HUSHEN: I said the interview has not taken place.

Q Is this because of NBC or because of the White House that it is not settled?

MR. HUSHEN: I think I will just stay with the fact that the interview has not taken place.

Q Would you give us any more background on the Kissinger-Ford talks yesterday at Camp David and what happened, what the report was, and what the President's reaction was?

MR. HUSHEN: No, except they met for several hours. The President had a statement when he got back here last night which I think you all have, and if you don't, we have it available for you. And beyond that, I can't go.

MORE

#68

Q Jack, may I go back to the Gibson thing? I was in here Friday when you went over much of this, but here is a nomination that was under extreme fire, a close personal friend of President Ford --

MR. HUSHEN: I question that.

Q He was in the White House this morning, and the President did not want to see him at that time, is that correct? The President does not want to talk to Mr. Gibson right now concerning this nomination.

MR. HUSHEN: That question never came up.

Q This morning, did the President have any desire to speak to Mr. Gibson while he was in the White House?

MR. HUSHEN: I don't know. I didn't talk to the President.

Q And he has not talked with Mr. Gibson since the nomination was made, since he was out here that day, is that correct?

MR. HUSHEN: I just don't know the answer to that.

Q Mr. Gibson told us on Friday that he enjoys the confidence of the President. Is that the case? Does the President still have confidence?

MR. HUSHEN: I can tell you to go back and check your tape.

Q He does support him. He was asked, do you have the support of the President, and he said, yes I have.

Q Is that a correct statement?

MR. HUSHEN: I again tell you to go back and check your tape.

Q I did check it, Jack, and that is what it says.

MR. HUSHEN: All right.

Q What do you think it said?

Q Jack, in fact, he said it twice.

MR. HUSHEN: All I can say is what I have said on this matter.

Q Jack, if I could go to another subject --

Q Jack, what does that mean about going back and checking the tape? That is just what the tape says. I think that is an absolute verbatim remark there.

MR. HUSHEN: Then let me check the tape.

Q Jack, we don't care what he thinks. What does the President say? Does he have the confidence of the President?

MR. HUSHEN: I am just not prepared to discuss that.

Q We are not asking you to speak as a spokesman for Mr. Gibson, we are asking you to speak as a spokesman for President Ford.

Q Does he have the support of the President?

MR. HUSHEN: I am not going to go any further that Ron went on Friday. It is the status of this nomination, and that is under review.

Q I have got a question that deals with a statement made by the White House by Ron where he said, "The U.S. recognizes that full consideration must be given to the legitimate interests of the Palestinian people if there is to be a just and durable settlement in the Middle East."

Now, since the term "legitimate interest" is the White House' own terminology, what specifically is regarded as the Palestinian legitimate interest?

MR. HUSHEN: Would you mind taking that question over to the State Department?

Q No, it was not made by the State Department, Jack, it was made right there. Now, since it was made by Mr. Nessen, who is lurking back there somewhere, could we get a clarification on what does the White House mean when they say legitimate interests? What are the legitimate interests of the Palestinians? The State Department didn't say that.

MR. HUSHEN: We will have to take that question.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Jack.

END (AT 1:04 P.M. EST)