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#255

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH BILL GREENER

AT 3:30 P.M. EDT

JUNE 25, 1975

WEDNESDAY

MR. GREENER: The meeting lasted about an hour and ten minutes. The President announced at the beginning the sustaining of the housing veto, welcomed Secretary Hathaway, then announced -- with some quotes that I will give you later -- that this was John Scali's last Cabinet meeting and he was grateful for his service.

He continued his discussion of the regulatory meetings this morning, and Dunlop discussed more on the regulatory matters. He pointed out at that point -- this is a quote from the President -- "I want the people of this country to know that the business of Government is to assist, not interfere with their lives, their businesses, their occupations, their professions or their family life."

From that subject he went on to the crime message. He said, "We did submit a good crime message, and it was well received in the main."

Levi then expanded on the crime message.

He then called on Jim Lynn to discuss the clearance process of the legislative matters, emphasizing that it was a coordinative effort and that it was his desire that the process be followed, but that it be speeded up.

Q What is the clearance? What does he mean by that?

MR. GREENER: OMB takes an enrolled bill that comes down from the Congress and fans it out to the departments for their comments and so forth.

To get back, he was interested in that process being continued, for the comments to come in, but he wanted Jim to talk about speeding that process up so that it got back in ample time for everyone to look at it. Lynn mainly discussed just the process itself.

MORE

#255

Q It is kind of a clogging in the Cabinet?

MR. GREENER: I would not say so, no. He didn't.
(Laughter)

Q Who did?

MR. GREENER: Why, I think no one.

He then announced the transfer of the refugee resettlement program to HEW, and this was because the activity was consistent, as he said, with the simple fact that the resettlement effort is now largely a domestic rather than a foreign affairs effort.

Q That is from State?

MR. GREENER: From State, yes.

He called on Secretary Coleman to give a rundown on the railroad situation. Coleman discussed the fact that it was two basic problems, the Northeast and Midwest, and the country in general, and pointed out that on the second matter he has the Rail Revitalization Act up.

He then said, about John Scali, that this was Scali's last meeting with the Cabinet, and he had "fought some hard, tough battles for some two and a half years. I think he has done a fine job, and his record will be remembered and appreciated by all of us."

Q Did he say what Scali was going to do?

MR. GREENER: He did not, and neither did Ambassador Scali. Scali then talked about the changing conditions and situations in the world and within the UN and said it had been a honor and a pleasure to serve.

Q Bill, can you say whether a decision has been made either by Scali or by the Administration?

MR. GREENER: I spoke to Ambassador Scali after it was over and asked him if he had anything else to add to that, and he said nothing, to just say "that I am still considering."

Q He has been offered something?

MR. GREENER: His offer of whatever.

Q What?

MR. GREENER: He did not say, and I do not know.

Q He has been offered something by the Administration?

MR. GREENER: That is my understanding, yes.

Q By the Administration?

MR. GREENER: Yes.

Q If he did such a good job, why is he being kicked out?

MR. GREENER: I am not sure that he is being kicked out. He is being replaced, Helen.

Q Is there anything else?

MR. GREENER: No, that is all I have on the meeting.

Q What did President Ford tell the Cabinet members about the failure to override the veto?

MR. GREENER: He said that he was pleased and he hoped we could now get some meaningful -- and this is an exact quote -- that he was pleased and "that the main purpose was to get some meaningful legislation that would help both the housing industry and the people.

Q Did he say anything about continuing to use the veto if programs didn't meet his specifications?

MR. GREENER: He didn't discuss it.

Q Did Kissinger say anything?

MR. GREENER: He added to the discussion on regulatory matters just briefly.

Q What did he say?

MR. GREENER: He was just briefly pointing out the need for continued effort.

Q For what?

MR. GREENER: For reform in this area.

Q What did Kissinger say?

Q Do you mean in the State Department?

MR. GREENER: No, he just added an aside.

He asked me did he say anything. He added an aside, and he said he thought this was an important effort.

Q Was there any discussion or amplification or explanation as to what the President was referring to when he said that he wants the people of this country to know that it is the business of Government to assist, not interfere with all of these things, including their family life. What is that a reference to?

MR. GREENER: There was no amplification on it. I will have to check for you.

Q Do you know what that means?

MR. GREENER: I will have to check on that for you, Ted.

Q Why is Kissinger interested in the regulatory agencies?

MR. GREENER: As I said, Sarah, it was simply an aside. They asked, did he say anything, and I said he simply said in the meeting, "I think this is an important effort."

Q Did they discuss the press conference?

MR. GREENER: They did not.

Q Was there any discussion of unemployment?

MR. GREENER: No.

Q What is the President going to say at his press conference? (Laughter)

MR. GREENER: It depends on what questions he gets, Dick.

Q Will he open with a statement?

MR. GREENER: Yes.

Q A statement on what?

MR. GREENER: He is going to make a statement that I think you already have. He is going to start with the opening statement that he has already released on the sustaining of the housing.

Q He has no other announcements, though?

MR. GREENER: No.

Q Do you know why the new setting was picked?

MR. GREENER: Why, just to try something new.

Q Why? Just to have a new look.

MR. GREENER: I think just trying to have one outside, and this was a different place to have it.

Q Was this his decision of where to have it outside, or was it a recommendation from someone on his staff?

MR. GREENER: A recommendation, which he agreed to.

Q Have you enjoyed this briefing?

MR. GREENER: Yes, I always enjoy them.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Bill.

END (AT 3:40 P.M. EDT)