

This Copy For _____

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

#287

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 11:32 A.M. EDT

AUGUST 5, 1975

TUESDAY

MR. NESSEN: I don't have the report yet on the Miki meeting but I hope to get it while we are still here and give it to you.

Let me give you some travel plans for the next couple of weeks to start off with. I think most of you know that on Sunday the President will be leaving for a trip to Vail and other places. I am going to give you some rough times although these may change and, in fact, some of the events actually may change but this, at this moment, looks like the shape of the trip.

The President would leave somewhere around 11 o'clock Sunday morning and would stop first in Fort Smith, Arkansas, where he will dedicate the St. Edward Medical Center.

The second stop on Sunday would be the Vietnam Refugee Center at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas at about 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

Q What time is the Fort Smith thing, about?

MR. NESSEN: About 1 o'clock at Fort Smith.

Q And the other is 2 o'clock?

MR. NESSEN: And the other is 2 o'clock.

Then about 3:30 he will leave Arkansas for Vail. Then the first week in Vail --

Q Do you have an arrival time there?

MR. NESSEN: I don't.

The first week in Vail is pretty much going to be taken up with relaxing and also doing office work. Rumsfeld will be there, there will be some people flying out from Washington to work with him and then the first trip out of Vail will be on the 18th which is a week from next Monday, leaving Vail at about 9 o'clock in the morning and going up to a place called Rifle, Colorado.

MORE

#287

The purpose of going to Rifle, Colorado, is to inspect an oil shale operation that is being run by two companies, one called the Paraho Development Corporation and the other the Colony Development Operation.

The purpose of this is similar to his visits to the geothermal field and the offshore oil rig and Elk Hills which is to get a first hand look at some of these alternate energy processes which he is very much supporting and encouraging.

Q Are they corporations or companies?

MR. NESSEN: Paraho Development Corporation and the Colony Development Operation.

Then leaving -- that must be a short distance away because it only takes a short time to get from Vail to Rifle. After the Rifle visit he will go to Des Moines, Iowa, where he will visit the Iowa State Fair at 4:30 in the afternoon of Monday, August 18

I don't have the details of that visit but I would think it would be a speech.

Q Did you have an arrival time in Des Moines?

MR. NESSEN: 4:30. That evening at 6:30 there will be a reception for Iowa State Republicans followed by a fund raising dinner so that is clearly political in his role as Party leader and as for details of who pays for the trip, because of that aspect of it, I will have to get those details for you later.

Q All the rest is Presidential?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Then leaving Des Moines about 9 o'clock Monday night and getting to Minneapolis where he will stay overnight. The next day, which is Tuesday, the 19th of August, he will have a breakfast with editors, publishers and broadcast executives from states in that area, including Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota and Minnesota.

At 10:30 that morning he will address the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary in Minneapolis.

Q Is that a national convention?

MR. NESSEN: I think it is. That will be 10:30 -- the American Legion Convention in Minneapolis. He will make a speech. That is the 19th on Tuesday.

Q A national convention?

MR. NESSEN: I think it is, yes.

Then, at noon he will speak to a fund raising luncheon of the Minnesota State Republican Organization and I will have to get the details of how that is paid for.

The President will leave Minneapolis --

Q What is the name of the organization?

MR. NESSEN: The Minnesota State Republican Organization, it is called.

At 2 o'clock the President will leave Minneapolis for Peoria. At 3:30 the President will participate, in Pekin, Illinois, in the dedication ceremonies at the Everett McKinley Dirksen Congressional Leadership Research Center.

Q What is it?

MR. NESSEN: I think it is a library but I think it is broader than that.

Q I thought that was dedicated by President Nixon about 19 months ago.

MR. NESSEN: We'll get further details of that stop.

After Pekin it is back to Peoria where he will deliver the closing remarks at a White House Conference.

Q At what time?

MR. NESSEN: Four-thirty Peoria time.

Then after that he will go back to Vail, leaving at about 5:30.

Q What is the White House Conference about?

MR. NESSEN: It is one of a series being held around the country on domestic and economic issues. There will be other White House advisers addressing the Conference. The format will be the same as the previous White House Conferences.

Q What sort of area does that cover? Is that statewide or regional?

MR. NESSEN: They have been regional.

Q Are these the ones headed by Baroody?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Ron, just for clarification, he goes to Peoria, that is where he lands the plane in order to go to Pekin?

MR. NESSEN: That's right. There is no event there. The first event is the Dirksen library then to Peoria for the White House Conference.

That was all Tuesday. Now he leaves Peoria for Vail at 5:30.

On Sunday, the 24th of August, he will go to the Libby Dam which is in Montana. He was asked there by Senator Mansfield.

Q What do we do there? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: The Libby Dam, it is a hydroelectric project and he is going to inspect that again in keeping with wanting to personally be briefed and view alternate sources of energy.

Q What is the approximate time?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have very many details on that.

Q Has he never seen a hydroelectric project before?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know but I can check on that for you.

Q You said inspected again, did he inspect it before?

MR. NESSEN: He has inspected the geothermal field and Elk Hills and the offshore oil rig and the oil shale.

Q But not this dam?

MR. NESSEN: Not this dam, no.

Q What is left?

MR. NESSEN: He hasn't gotten into solar or nuclear.

Q Is he going to hit a windmill in Peoria?

MR. NESSEN: It is possible.

Q Has he visited a natural gas field?

MR. NESSEN: All right, moving right along, the serious answer is that he is going to be visiting various sources of energy and I wouldn't be surprised if he went to a natural gas field but I don't have any plans for that.

On Monday, August 25, we leave Vail at 7 o'clock in the morning.

Q Is it overnight in Vail on the 24th?

MR. NESSEN: That is not clear yet.

Scratch that departure time because it is not clear how Sunday and Monday are going to go together or whether we are going back to Vail or what.

On Monday, the 25th, he will be in Chicago one way or another for one event, the Hardware Industry Conference.

Q That is missile manufacturers?

MR. NESSEN: It is not that kind of hardware, though. The Hardware Industry Conference is at McCormack Place at 11 o'clock in the morning.

Q Will there be a speech?

MR. NESSEN: Yes. Then leaving after that to go to Milwaukee where he will deliver the keynote address at another White House Conference on domestic and economic matters at 4 o'clock. Then we will return to Washington.

Q Isn't it a little late for a keynote at the Conference?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know what you mean by that.

Q I thought this Conference was a one day meeting.

MR. NESSEN: Maybe they are saving the keynote for the end.

Q Is he going to speak at the Hardware Industry Conference?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, that will be a speech.

Let me back up to Tuesday, August 19, the breakfast for editors and publishers. I gave you a list of states from which they will come. Scratch out Kansas and Oklahoma and begin with Missouri, Nebraska, etc. The reason for that is it got quite large and there are plans to have some others along the line that will take care of those states.

Q Ron, are you sure the White House Conference in Peoria is regional and also it is Milwaukee? Aren't they more statewide?

MR. NESSEN: I will have to get together with Baroody and find that out. That is all I have on that.

Q Is there anything further on the Chicago appearance?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q What this arranged some time ago?

MR. NESSEN: You know he is getting a lot of invitations and he accepted that one.

There are going to be several things in Vail while we are there. I don't have all the details of them. I told you some of the people from the White House will probably come out and have some meetings with him there. There is also a seminar on energy and I don't have the details on who is staging it or what but the President is going to take part in it. It is in Vail. It is like one of the Aspen Institute things except it is in Vail.

Q When will that be?

MR. NESSEN: Sometime during that trip and I don't have the exact day.

Q Ron, forgive the parochialism, but because of the big ethnic population, especially in Eastern Europe and inasmuch as the President has just returned from Eastern Europe, might his Hardware Industry Conference speech dwell on that and the criticism that has been made of his trip?

MR. NESSEN: The subject of that speech hasn't been selected yet. He could talk about nuts and bolts.

I don't have anything else.

Q Ron, is there going to be a press conference this week?

MR. NESSEN: I doubt it.

Q When are we going to get a briefing or read-out on the Kissinger meeting?

MR. NESSEN: As soon as it is prepared.

Q Can you give us a specific time?

MR. NESSEN: I would say within an hour.

Q Now that Senator Jackson has stolen my idea about bartering wheat for oil, is the White House going to consider it?

MR. NESSEN: I think you asked the President that question yourself, Howard. He gave you an answer which is certainly better than any I can give you.

Q Last night the President was heard to say there were some pluses and minuses to the trip. This was reported over the radio and I think on the UPI wire this morning. Could you tell us what the pluses and minuses were?

MR. NESSEN: I think the President has spoken so often along the way and gave you a kind of progress report, I think I would rather not tackle that today.

Q Ron, would you care to comment on the remark the President was overheard to make ostensibly about the City of New York, "you know how to spend it but you don't know how to raise it?"

MR. NESSEN: I don't think he was overheard to make it. I think he made it in a public speech in Belgrade, didn't he?

Q It wasn't a speech, Ron.

MR. NESSEN: It was public remarks.

Q But the pool picked it up.

MR. NESSEN: It was a public statement. He didn't say it surreptitiously. I don't think there is any secret about the President's views about New York's financing. They were very clearly stated that the time New York came down here and asked for the help.

Q Were they told at that time it is Congress' fault, or the next move is up to Congress, the President can't or won't do anything?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I recall. As I recall the conversations, there was no reference made to Congress having a role in it.

Q Did the President tell Mayor Beame that when he talked to him? Did he tell Mayor Beame "the trouble is you don't know how to handle money, you only know how to spend it?"

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that he used those exact words, Ted, but it was certainly clear from the whole conversation that the President felt New York had not managed its financial affairs in a way that would have prevented them from getting into the kind of trouble they are in now.

Q Ron, while the President was out of town it was reported here that the Administration would probably ask Congress for legislative authority to continue allocation for things like propane after the Petroleum Allocation Act expired. Can you give us any guidance on that?

MR. NESSEN: The President is now -- he is not having a meeting today but he will have some meetings this week with Frank and the other advisers on energy and I think will probably continue those in Vail.

Frank said the other day while we were out of the country that the FEA was now planning an orderly transition to the end of controls and I told some people along the way there were steps the President could take to ease the economic impact. What the precise steps will be have not been decided yet. But I am talking about both the overall economic impact and the specific economic impact on various industries.

Q Would removing the \$2.00 import fees be one of those steps?

MR. NESSEN: There is such a large number of steps he could take, or combination of steps, and he has not really sat down and talked about this yet since he has been back, that I wouldn't want to go into this one or that one until he has had a chance to explore them all. There are a lot of them.

Q Ron, when is he going to veto the bill extending the oil controls?

MR. NESSEN: My understanding is Congress has decided not to send the bill here until the 25th of August so there is no way he can veto it until it arrives, Fran.

Q Ron, on the President's trip, if not the President, some of the President's staff showed marked signs of weariness toward the end of the trip. Has there been any discussion about whether to ease the pace of such trips?

MR. NESSEN: I haven't heard any talk, no.

Q Did the President or the Secretary of State have any comments on Laurence Silberman's interesting remark to the Belgrade city fathers about the interesting way that Yugoslavia has in raising funds by overcharging Embassies for purchases? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: I didn't hear any reaction to that. I didn't hear the remark for one thing.

Q Ron, what are you going to do about the Japanese thing? Is there going to be something written, will you speak on it or what?

MR. NESSEN: I can give you something written and perhaps take your questions.

Q Ron, can we go back to the energy bill a minute? For purposes of clarification, there is no doubt, is there, that he will veto that bill?

MR. NESSEN: He was asked that question the other day, Dick, and he answered it. There has been no change since he gave his answer the other day.

Q I thought he said he was almost sure --

MR. NESSEN: Look it up in the transcript. You will see what his latest views are.

Q Ninety-nine and 44/100ths percent.

MR. NESSEN: Yes, something like that. Look it up, you can find it.

Q Ron, regarding the Tito-Ford conversation, and the identity of views, or the lack of identity -- it was somewhat confusing. I know you talked about this already, but could you now on your return from this trip tell us just what was identical in the remarks of Tito and the President and what was not identical?

MR. NESSEN: I think this is really something the Yugoslavs need to address. Let me say this, I am told -- and the reason I don't want to explore it too much is that it is something that the White House should not really do -- but just to point you in the right direction so you can talk to the Yugoslavs about it, my understanding is that there was an imprecise translation, that what Tito said in the Yugoslav or Serbo-Croat or whatever it is, was the President views the situation in the Middle East as very dangerous. In that our views are identical.

The translator, I am told, left out the words "in that."

Now that is what I have heard, that is all I know and it is something for the Yugoslavs to deal with, I think.

Q What about the reaction to the terrorist action in Malaysia?

MR. NESSEN: A plane has come from Japan, as I understand it from the wires. The Malaysian authorities are in touch with the terrorists and I think, because of the extreme delicacy of the situation that I would just not want to say anything more.

Q Ron, with all due respect to you, I would say I have been given short shrift in answer to my question.

MR. NESSEN: Don't feel short shrifted.

Q I asked you about the President's remark about the pluses and minuses of the trip. You said you would rather not tackle it today. I can't think of a better time to tackle it than now while the trip is still fresh.

MR. NESSEN: I think there is no need to tackle it because of the President's numerous occasions along the way to express his opinions on each stop. I mean it is hard to look at a five stop trip that dealt with both Eastern and Western countries, and with an agreement between 35 countries and sum it up in a sentence or two. The President had the opportunity at every stop to tell you what he thought had been accomplished at that particular stop. I think, if you review the record, you will see how he felt about each of his stops and also about his bilateral meetings in Helsinki.

Q Ron, there is a good deal of outrage in New York over the President's remark. Could I ask you briefly, has there been any discussion between you and the President since he made those remarks about the appropriateness of discussing New York City's financial affairs in the Communist capitol?

MR. NESSEN: No, I haven't talked with him specifically about that. If it represented some new change in the President's view, okay, but it doesn't.

Q What motivated him at that particular time to say it again now in an international forum?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think it was an international forum. It was a visit to a City Hall. I was out trying to deal with some other things. I forget what the issue was, I guess the Malaysian thing.

Q Was he trying to find a comparison there that the city fathers of Belgrade know how to run a city but the city fathers in New York don't?

MR. NESSEN: I was at something of a disadvantage because, as I say, I was out trying to find out about the Malaysian terrorist attack and was not in there for the little meeting and his remarks, so I don't know what the context was.

Q Maybe New York will overcharge the embassies to make up some money.

MR. NESSEN: That's a thought.

Q What is the status of selection of a new Secretary of Interior?

MR. NESSEN: There isn't anything to announce today, Fran.

Q Do you have a number of candidates in the works?

MR. NESSEN: When we have someone to nominate, we will.

Q Is there any possibility of nominating a Democrat to that post?

MR. NESSEN: I just don't know.

Q Did the President have enough time to prepare for the Miki meeting?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q If so, when?

MR. NESSEN: He did some preparation before he left on this trip and he spent a little time at various stops along the way with Secretary Kissinger preparing for it.

Q Could I pursue Jim's question and ask you if you would ask the President what motivated the President to talk about New York City while he was overseas?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Ron, to go back to the Tito thing, can we assume, apart from the words "in that," the views of the President and the President of Yugoslavia are quite not identical? Did the President take up the issue of the Middle East and explain the U.S. position which would be certainly not identical to Yugoslavia's?

MR. NESSEN: We went through this at great length yesterday and there is a transcript you can read which I am sure will answer most of your questions, because most of these were asked yesterday.

Q What you said yesterday would still stand today apart from there?

MR. NESSEN: Not apart from, what I said yesterday stands, period.

MORE

#287

Let me read you a little report on the Miki meeting then we can break.

The meeting lasted for 80 minutes, having begun at 10 o'clock. The people who were present there, of course, were the President and the Prime Minister, also the Japanese Ambassador in Washington, Ambassador Miyazawa. Maybe the best way to do it would be to post this. It is a written statement.

Let me run through it and we will post it with the participants.

As you know, the Prime Minister is making his first official visit to the United States since he became Prime Minister. And both the President and the Prime Minister have looked forward to this because it does continue a series of meetings that have been held periodically between the leaders of the United States and Japan.

This first meeting gave the President an opportunity to reaffirm the importance the United States attaches to the close friendship with Japan. Both leaders hailed the solidarity and the essential contribution to peace of the United States-Japan alliance.

They reviewed the global situation, including the President's just-completed trip to Europe, as well as security in Asia, recent developments in detente and arms limitations negotiations.

The President assured the Prime Minister that the Indochina setback had not altered the United States' intention to continue to play a major role in the maintenance of peace and stability in Asia. The President stressed that the United States would stand by its allies and friends in Asia and elsewhere.

As you know, the President has a dinner tonight, a working dinner for Prime Minister Miki and they will continue their conversations at the dinner. They have another meeting tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

There are some items that were not discussed today that will be on the agenda for tomorrow and at the dinner tonight.

Q There was no discussion of the terrorist activity?

MR. NESSEN: The Prime Minister expressed regret about the violence and lawlessness involved in the terrorist attack in Kuala Lumpur. He expressed regret that the terrorists were Japanese and he told the President that his government is doing everything possible to resolve the issue.

I will get this posted along with the participants.

Q Is Secretary Kissinger taking part?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Do you have anything further on the meeting?

MR. NESSEN: That really is all I have.

Q Do you know -- will we be able to find out any more specifics?

MR. NESSEN: There is still the dinner and the further meeting tomorrow, Tom, and I think for any more elaborate report we should wait for the further meeting.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

(AT 12:00 NOON EDT)

#287