

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

NEWS CONFERENCE#306

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 11:30 A.M. EDT

AUGUST 26, 1975

TUESDAY

MR. NESSEN: Let me give you one or two little schedule items that are coming up in the next few days. On Thursday, the President -- I don't have a time of day for you -- but on Thursday, the President is going to be meeting with a group of Governors to discuss with them the impending shortage of natural gas. The Governors come from the following States. First of all, I will give you the States affected by the shortage. They are New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland, Virginia, Iowa, Kentucky, West Virginia, Delaware and California.

Also the Governors of two States which produce natural gas, Texas and Louisiana, will be coming. In addition, the Governor of Vermont, Thomas Salmon, will be coming because he is the head of the Energy Subcommittee of the National Governors' Conference.

Q Isn't this meeting the National Governors' Conference?

MR. NESSEN: No, there is only I think 16. They also may bring along some other Governors who serve on the Energy Subcommittee of the National Governors' Conference.

Q Before you leave that subject --

MR. NESSEN: I am not getting ready to leave it yet.

The President will be making some decisions in the next few weeks on policies and proposals to try to alleviate as much as possible the natural gas shortage for this coming winter. At this meeting, first of all Frank Zarb will give the Governors a State-by-State breakdown on the extent of the shortage that is anticipated.

The President will be making his decisions, as I say, shortly. Before he does that, before he makes the decisions, he wants to hear the Governors' views and the President refers to this as a consultation session to hear the Governors' views before he makes his decisions.

The fact is that the President has not-yet received from the Energy Resources Council any final recommendations. He will probably be getting the final recommendations a day or so after this meeting on Thursday. The recommendations are at the moment being prepared at the staff level.

Q He is calling this what?

MR. NESSEN: A consultation session with the Governors.

MORE

#306

Q The Energy Resources Council is different, of course, from FEA. Who is that?

MR. NESSEN: Rog Morton is the head of it and the FEA belongs -- I guess ERDA, all the agencies that deal with energy, their leader is a member of the Council. It's kind of an energy equivalent of the Economic Policy Board.

That is Thursday.

Q Did you mention the time of day?

MR. NESSEN: I haven't got a time yet.

Q What kind of coverage is this, Ron? Is this going to be an East Room extravaganza like you regularly have?

MR. NESSEN: No, it sounds to me like it will fit in the Cabinet Room. We will have a picture and then we will have someone down to talk to you -- one or more people -- afterwards.

On Saturday, the President is going to be making a trip to Maine and Rhode Island. I guess he is leaving fairly early, too, tentatively leaving the White House at 7:20.

The first event is in Augusta, Maine. The President is going to participate in part of it. Actually, it is an all-day activity sponsored by the Maine AFL-CIO, and it is a benefit. Really, it is kind of a field day in which they are going to have a walkathon and they are going to have a clambake and a barbecue, musical entertainment and so forth. The purpose is to raise money for the Pineland Hospital and Training Center for Retarded Children.

The President will attend and will speak. The entire Maine congressional delegation will also be there. After the President has spoken and departed, Senator Muskie and Senator Hathaway will participate.

Q Where is Pineland being built? Is it Portland? I mean where is it located?

MR. NESSEN: I need to get more details, but it must be in Augusta.

Q It is in Maine? That you are sure of?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q What events will the President participate in, a talkathon?

MR. NESSEN: No, it is a walkathon.

MORE

\* #306

Q Will he participate in anything?

Q Why isn't he staying for Muskie's and Hathaway's speeches?

MR. NESSEN: His only participation will be to speak at the event.

Q What time is that, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: Roughly 10:15 in the morning. This is a tentative schedule.

Q Ron, when you gave these needy States, you didn't give them in alphabetical order. Did you give them in order of need?

MR. NESSEN: I just gave them in the order listed.

Q Ron, haven't there been a couple added? You talked about this before. It seems there are two or three States on the list now that weren't there before.

MR. NESSEN: This is a complete list of States most affected by the natural gas shortage.

Q Have all the Governors accepted and will be there?

MR. NESSEN: As far as I know, they have all accepted this invitation.

Q Ron, to follow up the question, Bill Greener briefed us a few weeks ago and gave us a list of ten States. The other four, is this something that has recently developed?

MR. NESSEN: As they looked at the data, they concluded this was a list of States most affected by the shortage.

Q Can you give us any guidance on the subject matter of the speeches?

MR. NESSEN: I can't because I haven't seen them yet.

From Augusta, Maine, he will go to Portland, Maine and, in fact, that is a drive, actually, from Augusta to Portland, which takes one hour and 20 minutes. He will go downtown in Portland to a Holiday Inn, where he will speak to a Republican fund-raising luncheon and reception.

From there he will speak at a luncheon at 2:15 and from there he will go to the airport in Portland and fly to Providence, Rhode Island, where he will drive to Newport, a 45-minute drive, and then when he gets to Newport, he will take part in another Republican fund-raising dinner at a private house. Then he will come home.

The home is the home of a gentleman named John Slocum. I am not sure who he is. I am checking up to find out.

Q Will this be covered in a private home?

MR. NESSEN: It says full press coverage, so it will be covered. I think the private homes up in Newport are big enough to accommodate the press corps.

Q Who is paying for this?

MR. NESSEN: I think the Republican Party.

Q The whole trip?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q You never got your formula worked out?

MR. NESSEN: No, it is being worked out, but it is not ready yet. So, in the meanwhile, the RNC will pay for the whole trip.

Q Then he comes back?

MR. NESSEN: He comes back Saturday night, right.

Q About what time, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: The South Lawn arrival is 11:45.

Q Does he spend the weekend here or at Camp David?

MR. NESSEN: I think there is a small possibility of spending Sunday at Camp David, but it is not decided one way or the other.

Q Can you give us advance guidance on Monday, which is Labor Day?

MR. NESSEN: It is Labor Day. I can't. I haven't heard of anything one way or another.

The only other event I was going to announce in the way of a schedule item was the next White House Regional Conference will be held in Seattle on the 4th of September. I wanted to announce that because I think they will be announcing it out there either today or tomorrow, and I wanted you to know about it.

Q The President will be at that?

MR. NESSEN: Yes. I think there will probably be some other stops other than just the White House Conference in Seattle, but the whole schedule has not been put together yet.

Q You expect him back Friday night, the 5th, do you not?

MR. NESSEN: I have to look at that schedule. I am not sure when he is coming back.

Q Have you announced the September 5 speech in California?

MR. NESSEN: What September 5 speech in California?

Q Isn't he addressing the legislature?

MR. NESSEN: I think that is under consideration, Jim. It has not been confirmed yet.

Q Is this the eighth Regional White House Conference?

MR. NESSEN: Somebody said yesterday it was the seventh, so I guess this is the eighth.

Q When does he veto the --

MR. NESSEN: The bill to extend the oil price controls is supposed to come here tomorrow or Thursday, and I don't have a date when he would veto it.

Q But you do expect it before the 31st?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have a date. It wouldn't necessarily have to be before the 31st.

Q Do you expect the President to make any kind of television announcement or speech at the time he makes his veto?

MR. NESSEN: That hasn't been decided yet, Phil.

Q Do you have any news conferences scheduled in conjunction with any of these trips or here in town, any in the works?

MR. NESSEN: There are none scheduled in Washington, certainly, this week. There is none scheduled during the trip to Maine and Rhode Island. I haven't looked much beyond that.

Q Will there be a Labor Day broadcast or speech?

MR. NESSEN: I think the President will possibly or almost certainly have a Labor Day message. I would think it would be done somewhat the same way as the July 4 message, which is a day or so ahead of time or maybe before the weekend, probably. He would film it and tape it for anybody interested in getting a copy of it.

Q Ron, don't you think these meetings with Republican groups along the way enhance the President's own political prospects as a candidate?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know how to judge that, Ted. I think you would have to talk to the people who he is meeting with. I have sat in on some of them. I haven't heard anything you could interpret as a kind of candidate discussion.

Normally, what he does is talk about the party and the need to work hard for the party in 1976, and the need to recruit candidates for State and local offices. Then he reviews his own policies and he takes questions.

I don't think in any I have attended I have heard a single, what you could call, political question. They ask about issues, political issues and national issues.

Q I saw, quoting the President on one of the last political issues, where he told the party if they all got together "we will be able to win in 1976." He didn't refer to himself.

MR. NESSEN: I think he said "we" in the sense of we Republicans.

Q The point I am getting at is, is it fair and within the spirit of the campaign financing law, which limits the amounts a candidate is allowed to spend for him to be engaged in those activities and not to have them charged off against his own campaign limits, campaign fund or expenses?

MR. NESSEN: Ted, I think you have been in Washington quite a long time and a lot of people in the room have, and you know that incumbent Presidents do have a role as the leader of their party, which is quite separate from their role as candidate.

This is not anything that is happening for the first time in American history. I think also the President has made clear -- and I have not seen anything that would lead me to believe he doesn't mean to abide by his very firm promise to conduct his affairs both as party leader and as candidate for President strictly in accordance with both the spirit and the letter of the law.

Q It is true that this has been done before regularly, traditionally, but what is new is an element of a limitation on expenditures by candidates. Any number of other candidates don't have the party to pick up the tab for their trips.

MR. NESSEN: I would disagree. Each of the various people who seek the nomination of their party and election as President wear several hats. There are Senators and House Members who travel in one of the three capacities that the President travels.

They travel on official business as Senators or House Members or Governors, and that is paid for by the taxpayers. On other occasions, they may be invited by a State party to address a fund-raising dinner or luncheon, and their expenses are paid by either their National Committee or by their party's State Committee. And, on occasion, they travel as a candidate for President, and their Campaign Committee pays for that.

So, the President is by no means unique. He is merely one of the various candidates for President, and he is handling his affairs just as the other candidates are, or the other candidates are doing theirs just as he is.

Q Assuming it is within the letter of the law, is it fair to the other hopefuls?

MR. NESSEN: I don't understand the question.

Q It may be within the letter of the law, assuming that, but is it fair for his being out and getting exposure with the bill picked up by the RNC, and is it fair to the other possibilities?

MR. NESSEN: The RNC itself has spoken on this. You may not be aware of it, but the General Counsel of the RNC sent a letter to the Federal Election Committee on August 15 in which the RNC said, "This is to advise that the Republican National Committee is currently undertaking the draftsmanship of a communication to the FEC, which documents would purport to disclose the history and purpose of the expenditures referred to" -- and so forth -- "offer a rationale for the same and generally acquaint the FEC with the need to recognize the concept that major parties payments for ongoing party expenses in both election and nonelection years are not chargeable to any Federal candidate."

That is rather legalistic language, but what the party is saying is that they will send a letter over shortly, early in September, I believe, explaining that this is natural and normal and they agree with it.

Q Do you know of anyone else whose expenses they are paying for at the moment, or does he have to be an announced candidate for President?

MR. NESSEN: No. As I say, in the case of Republicans only, I would say Senators and House Members or others who are invited by a State party or county party or any other element of the party to make a speech at a political event, their expenses are paid by either the RNC or the State Committee.

MORE



Q Ron, will the National Committee pay for Vice President Rockefeller's expenses?

MR. NESSEN: Oh, yes, he is specifically mentioned in this letter. As a matter of fact, the August 15 letter refers to the President and Vice President in their roles as titular heads of the Party.

Q Ron, can you furnish us a copy of that letter?

MR. NESSEN: The letter is from the General Counsel of the RNC but I can check, or you can check and see if they have any problem with that.

Q Did the FEC raise cain about this or was this volunteered by the RNC?

MR. NESSEN: It was volunteered, it was kind of telling them there would be a further elaboration.

Q Specifically, Rockefeller is going South to visit two States to do some politicking. Is the National Committee picking up the tab?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know, Peter. You could call either his office or the RNC and ask.

Q Do you know what the budgetary limit is on the President for traveling in a single year and do you know how deep into that limit President Ford is at this time?

MR. NESSEN: Is there an official limit on Presidential travel?

Q Yes, is there any financial budgetary limit on the total amount of travel the President is restricted to in a single year and do you know how deep into that budget the President is?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know actually, Tom. I will have to check.

Q Can you tell us the total amount the White House has billed the RNC for any of the recent trips? We would like to get a figure of what it is costing and what the RNC is paying. We haven't had a report on any of the past trips.

Q I would like to ask what the President Ford Committee has paid for and do you expect the President Ford Committee to pay for any of these trips, possibly Missouri?

MR. NESSEN: As far as I know, the President Ford Committee has not paid for any of the President's travel so far because none of the trips have been trips as a candidate for President.

At the moment there is no decision on when he will begin traveling as a candidate for President.

Q You mean candidate for nomination or candidate for President?

MR. NESSEN: Candidate for nomination, I am sorry. At the moment there are no plans for such a trip before the end of the year.

Q So what is the Committee doing?

MR. NESSEN: Which Committee?

Q His Committee?

MR. NESSEN: You will have to ask Bo Callaway, I don't know.

Q You mean none of the travel the President undertakes until the beginning of the new year will be --

MR. NESSEN: As a candidate for nomination, that is right.

Q Has the FEC issued an advisory opinion on this and, if not, will you ask them for such an opinion?

MR. NESSEN: There will be submitted to the FEC -- and I can't tell you what the date is -- a proposed formula for apportioning Presidential travel expenses between his official duties as President, his role as leader of the Republican Party and his role as candidate for the nomination and, obviously, the formula would not be undertaken without the approval of the FEC.

Q Ron, the letter you read sounded as though the FEC might have asked them for something and this is a letter saying, "We will get it to you later, folks, but this is what we have in mind."

MR. NESSEN: I think the genesis of this was the FEC -- I gather as a routine matter -- sent a letter to Phil Buchen asking whether President Ford maintained any special office accounts, newsletter accounts, or similar accounts, and Phil wrote back saying that there were none, that the only thing that even vaguely resembled that was the fund that Ray Zook keeps to charter the press plane. And that was explained in some detail.

Then in a more general way Phil said that it is his understanding that, "For a number of years the two national political committees have undertaken certain expenditures in furtherance of Party goals for activities by the President and Vice President as the titular heads of their political Parties. The Republican National Committee has made such expenditures during the present and prior Administrations."

Then he says, "I have therefore" -- this is Phil -- "I have therefore requested the General Counsel of the Republican National Committee to respond to you directly with respect to these expenditures." Then a copy of that went to the General Counsel of the Republican National Committee.

Q Ron, could we have a copy of that letter, that is from a White House official?

MR. NESSEN: I will ask Phil if there is any problem with that. I don't see any problem

Q Could we have that sentence over?

MR. NESSEN: The one about "it is our understanding?"

Q "This is to advise the RNC is currently undertaking" -- that one sentence.

MR. NESSEN: You mean from the other letter?

Q The RNC letter.

MR. NESSEN: "This is to advise that the Republican National Committee is currently undertaking" -- it is a very legalistic sentence -- "currently undertaking the draftsmanship of a communication to the Federal Election Commission, which documents would purport to disclose the history and purpose of the expenditures referred to in Mr. Buchen's correspondence, offer a rationale for the same and generally acquaint the FEC with the need to recognize the concept that major Parties' payments for ongoing Party expenses in both election and non-election years are not chargeable to any Federal candidate."

Q So they are not asking for an opinion, they are telling what they are going to do?

MR. NESSEN: But I am talking about a separate proposal that will go to the FEC suggesting a formula for dividing expenses which would go into effect or be modified, or whatever has to be done with it, only after an FEC ruling.

Q Since the President is a declared candidate, where does he draw the line? I mean when does he ever come out and say I am actually politicking or campaigning for my own candidacy?

MR. NESSEN: The feeling is it is really a fairly clear-cut issue, that what he has undertaken in the way of political events clearly are for the benefit of the Republican Party and in his role as leader of the Republican Party, and in every case, as far as I know, at the request of either a local, or State, or National Republican Committee, that he is out raising money for the State Committee or for the RNC. None of it goes into his campaign. I think the facts are rather clear on this.

Q Ron, when the President -- are we through with this for a second?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know.

Q When the President said we will go to the Senate and House to get concurrence on any action in the Middle East that may involve United States participation, is he talking about a full vote in the Congress or is he talking about going and consulting with the various Armed Services Committees, the Foreign Relations Committees, and having them endorse the ideas that may be advanced?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know what the specifics are, frankly, Tom, but I got the idea from listening to him yesterday that he was saying they would have to vote up or down. That is what it sounded to me like he was saying.

Q I had the same impression. Will you clarify that for us? Will you check?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, I will.

Q The reason we ask is because Kissinger made it specific it would only be the Committees but the President has spoken of both Houses.

MR. NESSEN: Let me see what procedure they intend to follow.

Q Can we get back to the matter of the President vetoing the oil price controls extension?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q There was a report this morning that when he does that, besides announcing an end of the \$2.00 a barrel import fee, he will also ask Congress to extend both price controls and allocations of propane. Can you comment on that at all or confirm in any way this is the procedure?

MR. NESSEN: Let me just say to this extent that when the President was weighing the decision on whether to veto or sign the bill and, if you recall, we talked here about various proposals to cushion the economic impact.

All right, the economic impact was looked at in two ways. One the overall impact on the national economy, and the step he took to cushion that was removing, if the veto is sustained, the \$2.00 import fee. But he also looked at a number of steps to protect individual industries or segments of the economy or regions, the so-called microeconomic effects from any undue hardship from the decontrol. He hasn't made all those decisions yet. They are still under consideration. But he said publicly himself that he would make sure that the decontrol didn't have any adverse impact on any specific industry or region or economic group.

Q Has he expressed himself about the Mobil Oil opposing decontrol?

MR. NESSEN: The President's view on that is that his energy program is not designed to make the oil companies happy, either individually or collectively. He is interested to hear the views but his energy program is designed to benefit the entire country and, whether it discomforts Mobil Oil is really not one of his major considerations.

Q Ron, is it the President's when the Vice President goes into a State that through the Vice President he sends a message to the Governor? I ask this because the Vice President will be meeting with Governor Wallace in Alabama. Is there any message he will be sending through the Vice President?

MR. NESSEN: I have not heard of any, Cliff.

Q An unrelated question on the Middle East, can you give us a fill as detailed as you can, has the President heard from the Secretary of State today?

MR. NESSEN: Yes. You mean by phone?

Q You tell us.

MR. NESSEN: I am not sure he heard from him by phone, when I talked to him last week he said one of the problems in talking to him by phone was the time difference. He said when Henry had something to talk about it was the middle of the night here and vice versa. But he is getting daily written reports.

Let me say two other things --

Q How do they come, do they come immediately by TWX, by courier, what is the method?

MR. NESSEN: They are cabled back.

Let me say, if I may, two other words about the earlier series of questions on campaign finances and so forth, three other words. I think it is important to remember that the President has pledged publicly when he announced his candidacy that he would live up to the letter and the spirit of the law. As I said, I have not seen anything that would cast any doubt on his determination to keep that promise.

If I could just say two other, really in the nature of personal observations about this period that we are in -- these are really my own views and don't represent any Presidential statement or anything.

I just personally think it is important to remember that the President has a whole range of duties as President and I just personally think it is a mistake to chalk up everything he does both in Washington and on the road as a vote-getting exercise or as a political exercise.

I think you would be surprised to know how little election politics or Republican politics are discussed.

The vast range of things the President does, he views and other people view here as his Presidential duties and I just personally think it is a mistake to write off everything as an exercise in gaining votes.

The other thing is -- again this is only a personal observation by me -- I think most people are convinced that there are great political advantages to being President of the United States. I think to simply say that and to ignore what is really the other side of the coin, which is there are terrible political liabilities to being President of the United States, no other candidate for the office has to live with the consequences of his actions. The President is required to make decisions day-in and day-out and then live with the consequences.

So if one blows up in his face, he has a political liability on his hands that no other candidate, non-incumbent candidate, has to live with.

Those are just my own personal feelings.

Q Could I get you back to Mobil Oil? You said the President views his energy program as not to please the oil companies. Are there any other companies besides Mobil that has opposed the President's energy policy?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know, I haven't tracked on each individual company.

Q You included all oil companies, and I just wondered if there were more than Mobil involved in opposing this particular action?

MR. NESSEN: The point I was making is it is irrelevant what the oil companies think, in the President's views. He believes his energy program best serves the national interest and whether one or more oil companies disagree with it is not a factor in his decisions--.

Q He does not care what the oil companies think, is that what you are saying?

MR. NESSEN: That is correct.

Q Ron, back on the track record of incumbents, you would say that the assets of being President do outweigh the liabilities? Sure, everybody is accountable, and a candidate going out on the road is accountable for everything he says, like "\$1,000 for every" --

MR. NESSEN: I really would leave that to your judgment, but I really wanted to point out there are only --

Q If the President wants to resign and run as a free candidate, you know --

MR. NESSEN: No, I am just saying there are liabilities.

Q It is true of Members of Congress, too. They have to vote on very important bills that come up that may be opposite to what the thinking is in their district, so therefore they are liable.

I have another question. Interior Secretary Hathaway resigned over a month ago. How soon will the President appoint Acting Secretary Kent Frizzell to the post so he can be confirmed and make some of the many important decisions that concern our natural resources?

MR. NESSEN: The President has not as yet announced who his choice of Interior Secretary is, and I don't have any timetable to give you on when he will.

Q How about the chairman of the Federal Power Commission?

MR. NESSEN Is that vacant?

Q Yes, for some months now.

MR. NESSEN: I don't have any announcement there either.

Q Before leaving the subject of money, while the President was on the road, the Social Security Administration admitted a series of errors which amounted to overspending \$403 million on the federalized welfare program.

Do you know if the President is aware of that or has expressed any concern over that?

MR. NESSEN: He is certainly aware of it. I have not asked what steps he has taken, but I will.

Q Going back to the Interior Secretary, the President must be aware in his energy program how important it is to get the moratorium on coal leasing, to remove that. There are so many decisions right around energy and why does he delay it?

MR. NESSEN: I wouldn't call it a delay. He does want to pick the best qualified man for the job and, even after having considered a number of people and settled on one, it takes a certain amount of time to do the necessary clearances.

Q Has he settled on one?

MR. NESSEN: I am not aware that he has settled on a single individual yet.

Q How many is he considering?

MR. NESSEN: I have no idea what the number is.

Q He said in the Midwest about a week ago that there are very few. What is a few? Two? Three? Four?

MR. NESSEN: I have no idea.

Q Is Governor Ray of Iowa one of them?

MR. NESSEN: Governor Ray of Iowa. I thought he said he was one of those under consideration. I thought he said that at the State fair, wherever it was.

Q Is Governor Evans another?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think we ought to get in a guessing game who is under consideration and who is not.

Q Did I understand you to say the President will not travel as a candidate for the nomination until the first of the year?

MR. NESSEN: There has been no decision made on that, but there are no plans to, right now.



Q Does that mean if he goes to New Hampshire to speak for Mr. Wyman's campaign, Mr. Wyman's committee will have to pay for the trip?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know, but whatever is the legal and proper way to do it is the way it will be done.

Q Ron, concerning all those risks and liabilities involved in being an incumbent, why is it the President is so confident he doesn't have to campaign for himself before next year?

MR. NESSEN: Jim, you have been around for awhile. I don't know when campaigns traditionally start, but I don't think they start this far ahead of time.

Q Does the President have any special message for Mr. Meany today? Is he going to urge him to get the longshoremen to lift the boycott?

MR. NESSEN: Part of what the two will discuss this afternoon will depend on what transpires at an earlier meeting that is going on I guess now between Mr. Meany and Secretary Dunlop and Paul Hall and Tom Gleason of the Maritime and Seafarer's Unions, and Bill Seidman, Jim Lynn, and Paul MacAvoy, who is with the Council of Economic Advisers.

That is taking place at the Labor Department now and so partly what Meany and the President discuss depends a little bit on what is accomplished at the meeting going on now.

Let me say, incidentally, about this afternoon's meeting between the President and President Meany that as a courtesy, the President normally asks his guests whether they have any objection to a press photo and there has not been this opportunity to talk to President Meany yet.

I have no reason to believe he wouldn't be agreeable, but it is a courtesy, and the President has not had a chance to ask him yet, so that is a possibility.

Q Do you think there is a chance Mr. Meany will come over here and the two Presidents will be able to come out and announce some sort of settlement on this?

MR. NESSEN: I have no way of knowing because it depends partly on what happens at the present meeting.

Q Will you ask Mr. Meany to come to this podium and brief?

MR. NESSEN: I certainly will.

Q Going back to energy and Interior, is there any White House mail from the environmentalists as to their choice of a candidate? The Sierra Club has recommended Governors Evans and McCall. Are you receiving mail?

MR. NESSEN: I just haven't looked at it. I have no way of knowing one way or another on that.

Q Can I call and find out? Who would know?

MR. NESSEN: We will check the mail room and find out.

Q Ron, since you are going to ask President Meany if he will come out to this microphone, will you also ask the President if he will come out and make some statement after the meeting?

MR. NESSEN: I will.

Q Was the President consulted on the decision to send Federal marshals into Boston and does he agree with the decision?

MR. NESSEN: Have Federal marshals been sent to Boston?

Q They will be at the opening of school.

MR. NESSEN: I hadn't seen that.

Q That is what they say at the Justice Department. You don't know about it?

MR. NESSEN: I saw a memo last week indicating the Justice Department would be sending a community relations team headed by Stan Pottinger, I guess. I forget what it said about marshals, but anyhow, whatever the decision was at Justice, the President was informed of it.

Q Does the President have any comment on the Civil Rights Commission report on the Boston school case?

MR. NESSEN: The President's view is that his record is very clear and very firm that he has always spoken out firmly for obedience to the law and obedience to the decisions of the court. He has done this repeatedly. He did it specifically at the time school opened last year and he, in fact, recorded a special television message, I guess, to be broadcast on Boston television stations.

Q But that followed the earlier statement at the press conference, which created a furor.

MR. NESSEN: In looking at the transcript of that press conference, he was clear that he expected the people on all sides to obey the law and avoid violence and to carry out the orders of the court, and he intends to do the same, firmly intend to do the same.

Q Didn't he regret the decision of the judge in Boston in that press conference?

MR. NESSEN: Peter, I don't think there is any secret about the President's personal views as to the usefulness of busing. He made it clear, I guess as recently as, what was it, Peoria. Those are his personal views and he does not believe that forced busing to accomplish racial integration, or racial balance, is, first of all, the best way to assure quality education and, secondly, he believes that it doesn't work to even accomplish the goal of integration.

So, he thinks there are many better ways, but that is his personal view on busing. He has always indicated firmly that he will carry out the laws, he will enforce the laws, he will enforce the court orders and that people should not resort to violence.

Q Ron, yesterday in the TV interview the President said very substantial headway in cutting inflation has been made, getting the annual rate down today to between 6 and 7 percent. What is that based on?

MR. NESSEN: I think he elaborated on that a bit in the later White House Conference to a similar question where he said over the first calendar six months of 1976 the rate was between 6 and 7 percent.

John, is that right?

MR. CARLSON: Five months prior to the last CPI the rate had increased to .5 percent average per month.

Q Prior to the last two months?

MR. CARLSON: Prior to last month.

MR. NESSEN: Prior to the 1.2 figure for July. The first five months, January through June --

Q CPI was --

MR. NESSEN: 1.2.

MR. CARLSON: It was 1.8 the month before.

MR. NESSEN: The average for the first five months of the year was .05 percent a month, or an annual average of 6.

Q Ron, you said you were not aware marshals were going to be sent to Boston. Was the President aware?

MR. NESSEN: Yes. As I said, I saw the memo last week. It referred to marshals. I don't recall exactly what the specifics were, but he has seen that.

Q Ron, this afternoon can we count on something out of that Meany meeting?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q What do you anticipate, a half hour, about four o'clock?

MR. NESSEN: It is scheduled for an hour.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 12:15 P.M. EDT)

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 5:37 P.M. EDT

AUGUST 26, 1975

TUESDAY

MR. NESSEN: Does anybody want to hear the statement read? Is that the general idea?

Q Yes.

Q This is the statement, the people who attended and the paragraph at the end?

MR. NESSEN: Correct.

Q No further comment?

MR. NESSEN: This is what the participants agreed they wanted to say about the meeting:

The meeting explored the matters of grain exports, living costs, and maritime issues. This was a preliminary meeting. No decisions were made. There will be further meetings between Administration officials and Mr. Meany and his associates. The President will participate in the future meetings as appropriate.

Q Ron, what would make this appropriate?

MR. NESSEN: Phil, the participants at the meeting agreed this is what they would like to say, and I can't go beyond the statement.

Q Is the Administration encouraged after this?

MR. NESSEN: Phil, as I say, the participants agreed that this is what they wanted to say.

Q Ron, the President of the AFL-CIO said something more than this outside. He said that the boycott is still in effect and that is not in this statement.

MR. NESSEN: That is not something the White House would say.

MORE

#307

Q Is the President bothered that it ended with the boycott still on?

MR. NESSEN: Phil, I think, since the participants agreed that this is how they wanted to describe the meeting, I should stick with it.

Q Do you know how long the temporary injunction lasts?

MR. NESSEN: I don't, Carroll.

Q What did they say in there?

MR. NESSEN: I didn't attend, Helen.

Q Ron, would you characterize this as a deadlock?

MR. NESSEN: No, I wouldn't.

Q How would you characterize it?

MR. NESSEN: I wouldn't characterize it.

Q Will they have anything to add to this?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. This is what they would like to say.

MORE

Q Ron, were the labor people told anything about the negotiations with the Russians on ships and rates?

MR. NESSEN: I didn't attend the meeting so I am somewhat at a disadvantage.

Q Could we get somebody who did to help us?

MR. NESSEN: As I say, Fran, this is what the participants agreed they would like to say.

Q I assume this is on the general tone of "cool it," like the President said last week?

MR. NESSEN: Phil, I just don't want to go beyond what the participants feel they would like to say.

Q Is there another meeting scheduled?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have the date and time of another meeting.

Q Was the President disappointed?

MR. NESSEN: I am just not going beyond what the participants agreed to say.

Q Will you be able to get the date and time of the meeting this afternoon?

MR. NESSEN: Why don't you call John Dunlop's office and see if there has been another meeting scheduled.

Do you want to hear this one more time for those who missed it?

Q Yes.

Q Did you talk to Mr. Dunlop?

MR. NESSEN: I asked John and he helped put the statement together and felt that is all he wants to say.

Q Did you ask Meany to come into the briefing room?

MR. NESSEN: Meany decided he did not want to come into the briefing room.

The meeting explored the matters of grain exports, living costs, and maritime issues. This was a preliminary meeting. No decisions were made. There will be further meetings between Administration officials and Mr. Meany and his associates. The President will participate in the future meetings as appropriate.

We will check with John Dunlop and find out if there is another meeting scheduled.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END

(AT 5:42 P.M. EDT)

(Mr. Hushen subsequently reported that no further meeting was set at this time.)