

This Copy For _____

NEWS CONFERENCE

#317

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 11:38 A.M. EDT

SEPTEMBER 8, 1975

MONDAY

MR. NESSEN: Let me run over the schedule today since it is quite long, and maybe I can just run through it real fast.

At 11:30, right now, the President is meeting with a group of organizations and associations that have an interest in the military, and the purpose of that is to -- this is 41 different organizations and associations that have an interest in the military and he wants to review with them his belief that the embargo on the military sales to Turkey should be lifted, and to seek their support on this issue.

At 2:00 the President has a meeting with a group of leaders of major American Jewish organizations. Basically, this is to give them a report on the agreement, to thank them for their telegrams, and so forth, and public support that I mentioned to you the other day, and to also ask them to help out in the days ahead as Congress considers this.

If you want to take some photos at the beginning of that meeting, I think we could arrange that.

Q How long will that last?

Q How many are there?

Q Was there a photo of this other thing?

MR. NESSEN: The which?

Q The military?

MR. NESSEN: No, there was not.

Q You mean he wants them to lobby for the American --

MORE

#317

MR. NESSEN: Not lobbying. I think he just asked for their support. They have already given their support.

The meeting with the Jewish leaders, I don't have an exact length of time on it, but I will get that for you.

Q How many organizations?

MR. NESSEN: How many are there? I don't have all the briefing papers here.

Q Will you produce Max Fisher or somebody afterwards?

MR. NESSEN: I will ask, yes. I will check the list of participants for you.

Q Do you have any kind of mail response on that? The Congressmen are saying that it is running about four to one against.

Q Against what?

Q Against the monitoring, American volunteers.

MR. NESSEN: I am not sure how up-to-date this mail count is -- 33 Jewish leaders for a 30-minute meeting in the Cabinet Room.

Q Can we get a copy of that list?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Let's see now. This is as of the 3rd of September, which was what -- it is not very up-to-date and the mail has not been very heavy. At that time there were 19 letters in favor of the agreement and 68 opposed, and one which just had other comments. So that is not very --

Q Could we get here today some type of an up-to-date list?

MR. NESSEN: I have a further one. Well, this is just for a short period. Let me get an updated count for you.

Going on through the rest of the day now, let's see -- that was at 2:00. Then at 3:30 there is going to be the trade delegation, the Council for the Promotion of International Trade from the People's Republic of China, coming in at 3:30, and this is a meeting that will underline the President's belief in the importance of relations with the People's Republic. The delegation is here as guests of a private American organization called the National Council for U.S.-China Trade.

Q These are Chinese representatives?

MR. NESSEN: The delegation from the People's Republic is Chinese. (Laughter) They are here as --

Q Just in case you wondered.

MR. NESSEN: They are here as guests of this private American organization called the National Council for U.S.-China Trade. It is a private organization that facilitates trade between the U.S. and the People's Republic.

This National Council which, as I say, is a private group, visited China in 1973 and so this is a return gesture, and that is at 3:30, and if you want to take a picture of that meeting you can, too.

At 4:00 the President will meet with the group of Congressmen who recently visited the People's Republic to hear a report from them. In case you forgot who they were, they were Congressman Anderson, John Anderson, who was the chairman; Senator Robert Byrd, the vice-chairman; Congressman Slack; Senator Pearson; Senator Thurmond and Congressman Derwinski. They were in China from August 20 to August 29, and they are coming to give the President a report.

At 6:45 the President is having a reception for members of the Republican National Committee and he will speak to them in the East Room, and that will be for full coverage, if you want to do it.

I am happy to announce that starting tonight we have a new, trial system for covering the social receptions. Helen and others wrote to the President about it and he considered it and agreed on a trial basis to try a new system of covering social functions, which will be a four-man pool -- the wire services, a newspapers and a magazine -- no cameras or tape recorders. Notebooks can be used discreetly.

The only thing the President would really like to ask, and is really part of the plan, is that his private conversations when he is having them not be listened in to. As you know, one of the reasons for not having any coverage of the receptions was that he wanted a chance to talk to his guests privately and get their views.

In agreeing to this system, obviously you are free to talk to the guests and mingle and so forth -- the pool is -- but while he is talking or Mrs. Ford is having a private conversation he would not like to have people at his elbow or over his shoulder listening in on the conversation.

I must say that the Rockefeller housewarming party last night was -- I mean, this is just my personal view and it does not reflect the President's thought -- but that was certainly an example of how not to, I hope, cover the social receptions over here. Anyhow, we will give it a try starting tonight and see what happens.

The Benti interview from last week in Sacramento, I guess, starts on the air tonight. He does not go on the air until 6:00 out there, which is 9:00 here, but I think we will just go ahead and put the transcript out for a.m. papers, which is a 6:00 eastern time release.

Let's see. What else?

Q Put a 6:00 p.m. release on?

MR. NESSEN: 6:00 p.m. release in the East, yes.

Q What time will you have it?

MR. NESSEN: I think it is already now, isn't it?

The Benti transcript is ready to go, isn't it?

MR. HUSHEN: It is just being proofread. It has not been run off yet.

MR. NESSEN: All right.

Also, the ABC Nightly News -- I forget what you call it, Tom. Is it the ABC Nightly News?

Q That is close enough.

MR. NESSEN: It is starting a new format tonight with Harry Reasoner as the sole anchorman and Howard K. Smith doing commentaries on, I guess, a new set and new electronic gadgets. Reasoner asked if the President would like to take part in this inaugural program as some other Presidents had done with previous new developments in television news, and the President agreed to do it, so he will be on the program live from the Oval Office for a couple of minutes at about 6:05.

The format of that, I believe, is that Reasoner will be in the studio but will ask the President questions in the Oval Office and the President will respond.

Q Only for a couple of minutes?

MR. NESSEN: Three minutes, I am told.

Q Could you please clarify the reception tonight? You said full coverage. I take it that will be of the President's remarks?

MR. NESSEN: Correct.

Q And then we are hustled out and then the pool takes over?

MR. NESSEN: Then the thing moves to the State Dining Room, and the pool will be in there with him. I tell you, I hope it really works because I think it would be a good thing to do. But, I just want to mention that idea again of not eavesdropping on his conversations.

I don't know if we have announced and confirmed little bits and pieces of this trip coming up this weekend, so maybe I will just go through it so everybody has got the official dope on what is happening.

We are going to leave the White House at about mid-day on Friday and go to St. Louis, Missouri, where he speaks to the National Baptist Convention at 2 p.m. Central Daylight Time.

At 4 o'clock Central Daylight Time, the President will make brief remarks at the closing session of a White House Regional Conference on Domestic and Economic Affairs and then will take questions from the participants in the Conference, who represent a wide range of organizations in St. Louis. That is at 4 o'clock Central Daylight Time.

From there, he goes to Kansas City, Kansas, where he will take part in a fund-raising reception for the Kansas State Republican Organization.

Q What time?

MR. NESSEN: At 6:45 their time.

At 8:45 Central Daylight Time, he will take part in a Missouri State Republican Organization fund-raising dinner in Kansas City, Missouri.

Q The time on that again, please?

MR. NESSEN: 8:45.

We overnight in Kansas City at that hotel with the waterfall in the lobby, the Crown Central Plaza.

Q In other words, he is coming back across the river and spending the night in Kansas City, Missouri?

MR. NESSEN: No, he is ending up in Missouri because 8:45 is the Missouri State Republican Organization fund-raiser.

Q I heard he was coming back across the river.

MR. NESSEN: After the 6:45 Kansas State Republican Organization fund-raiser.

Q Ron, which National Baptist Convention is this? There are two of them, the Progressive National Baptists and just the National Baptists. Is this Dr. Jackson's --

Q Ron, there are some primitive Baptists.

Q Ron, this is very important.

MR. NESSEN: I know that.

Q In Dr. Jackson's outfit, he is a strong backer of conservative causes and Republicans.

MR. NESSEN: I will find out precisely which Baptist group it is.

Q And the topic of his speech?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have the topic yet.

Q Will he take questions there?

MR. NESSEN: I haven't heard of a plan to take questions from the black Baptists.

Saturday, the President leaves Kansas City -- I don't have a time for departure yet -- and goes to Dallas, Texas, where he will speak to the National Federation of Republican Women at 11 o'clock Dallas time.

At 12:15 Dallas time he will attend a Texas State Republican fund-raising luncheon.

At 1:10 p.m. he will make a speech at the Southern Methodist University.

Q Is that an academic convocation kind of thing?

MR. NESSEN: I will have to get the exact event, Jim. I don't have it here at the moment.

Q Will he get an honorary degree?

MR. NESSEN: I will have to get that.

Q Is this the real Methodists?

MR. NESSEN: It is the Southern Methodists.

Q There is not any such denomination, Ron.

Q That was a black Baptist group?

MR. NESSEN: That is my understanding.

Q It is black?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q St. Louis is the black Baptists?

MR. NESSEN: That is my understanding.

After the Southern Methodist speech, he leaves Dallas and goes to Midland, Texas. I believe that is the home town of Tom DeFrank, isn't it? I think so. But, the trip there has nothing to do with DeFrank. It is for the opening of the Petroleum Museum Library and Hall of Fame. (Laughter)

Q Who is in the Petroleum Hall of Fame?

MR. NESSEN: I am sure we will have a big briefing paper on that before we get there.

At 5:45 Midland time he leaves for Washington and he gets back to the South Lawn at 10 o'clock Saturday evening.

Q What is the arrival time at Midland? Did you give that?

MR. NESSEN: You have to be there before 5 o'clock because that is where the library opens and the museum and the Hall of Fame.

Q So that is when that thing will be, approximately?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Ron, what about the trip on Thursday?

MR. NESSEN: That is the trip to New Hampshire?

Q What time is that?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have it.

Q What are we talking about, then? Are we talking about an up and back to New Hampshire?

MR. NESSEN: We are talking about up and back to New Hampshire and then leave mid-day the next day for Dallas?

Q Are there several stops in New Hampshire? Are we going to go around the State?

MR. NESSEN: I have not seen the exact plans for it, but I believe it is going to be a somewhat lengthy motorcade.

MR. HUSHEN: It starts in Keene, and goes to Portsmouth.

Q It is something like a 100 mile motorcade?

MR. NESSEN: I am told that the letter inviting the President to attend the National Baptist Convention was signed by Dr. J. H. Jackson.

Q That is the national convention. It is black, and six million black.

MR. NESSEN: Okay.

Q Is that all, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. I don't see anything else that I need to announce.

Q We assume that the Republican National Committee is going to pick up the tab for both trips?

MR. NESSEN: No, that is not the right assumption. The Federal Election Commission ruled the other day in response to a series of questions posed to them by George Young, of the Wyman for Senator Committee, that this trip was for the purpose of campaigning for Louis Wyman and, therefore, the key sentence I will read to you:

"While there may be some carryover effect to the Presidential campaigns of both individuals" -- that is President Ford and Ronald Reagan -- "the General Counsel" -- meaning the General Counsel of the Federal Election Commission -- "is of the opinion that these expenses should be attributed solely to the Wyman Senatorial campaign."

That was the opinion written by the General Counsel of the Federal Election Commission, and on Friday the full Commission stated that it has considered the General Counsel's opinion and notes it with approval.

The gentleman who requested the opinion, as I say, is George Young, and his title is Campaign Manager of the Wyman for Senator Committee.

So, that takes care of the Thursday trip.

Q Who pays for it? Wyman?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q What about Friday and Saturday?

Q Do you know the name of that General Counsel of the FEC?

MR. NESSEN: I just happen to, Jim. You ought to be reading these opinions here. They are pretty good stuff. His name is John G. Murphy, Jr, the General Counsel of the Federal Election Commission.

On the Friday and Saturday trip, it has both Presidential elements to it and Republican Party leadership elements to it, and as far as I know, it is going to be paid for under the formula sent over to the FEA, correct?

MR. ROTH: We assume.

Q There is a formula now?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q What is your formula of separating out the --

MR. NESSEN: Helen, I really think what you ought to do is get a hold of the letter that went to the FEC spelling out the formula, and it is all there.

Q Well, the letter went from you, didn't it?

MR. NESSEN: No, it went on Friday.

Q Could we get copies of that?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, there is no problem.

Q What is the essence of it?

MR. NESSEN: We can Xerox it.

Q Ron, will Mr. Wyman be paying for Secret Service and all the press men on Thursday?

MR. NESSEN: Phil, have you read the FEC's opinion?

Q No, I have not.

MR. NESSEN: It spells it all out. Basically -- and really you ought to get this and read it -- they will pay the round-trip airfare for the President and those people who are -- actually, we are going somewhat beyond the ruling and really paying for more than they say we need to pay -- I am sorry, we are not paying for the Wyman -- let me back up a minute.

It will be up to the Wyman people whether to pay precisely what the FEC says they should or to go beyond it. In our case, on trips that are made by the President in his role as leader of the Republican Party, either in whole or in part, we will go somewhat beyond the ruling of the FEC, but in the case of the Thursday trip, which will be paid for by Wyman, the FEC said: "Only the equivalent commercial rates" -- meaning commercial air rates -- "will be chargeable against an incumbent President's individual contribution limitations and against the candidate's overall expenditure limit. Expenses for accompanying staff personnel will be charged against the foregoing limitations only if such staff personnel served primarily as advance persons or other campaign staff members and do not provide support services to the Office of the President."

In the future, beginning on the Friday and Saturday trip presumably, the President will go beyond that somewhat narrow ruling and instead will have people who have political functions at all or even any question of a political function paid for by the RNC. That includes Rumsfeld, or Cheney, Hartman, if he goes, a speechwriter, if he goes, Nessen or Greener and anybody else who has anything to do with politics.

The Secret Service specifically mentioned in this ruling, as you will see when we get it, "Additionally, special costs attendant upon Ford's office as President, such as the Secret Service police and medical attention, are not to be included within this amount. Those costs are relatively fixed and are related to Ford's position as President and not to his political function as head of his party."

Q So, the taxpayers will have to pay for additional Secret Service used on the Thursday trip?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know what you mean by "additional," Phil.

Q Obviously, it takes more Secret Service to guard the President when he is out on a trip than it does while he is in the White House. Now, these additional people --

MR. NESSEN: Congress has passed legislation long since requiring that the President be guarded by the Secret Service and that other candidates for the Presidency be guarded by Secret Service, so that is a Congressional mandate that the President be guarded wherever he is.

Q Have you separated out the events on Friday and Saturday to say what is political and what is not?

MR. NESSEN: I think it is easy to tell, but really the expenses you are talking about here are airfare. If you get the formula, you will see what the proposal is for paying airfare. It is the so-called round-trip method, which is somewhat more generous in terms of taking the load off the taxpayers and putting it on the RNC than what some previous Presidents have used.

Q But it is not as much as what President Nixon used? Didn't he pay for the whole thing?

MR. NESSEN: I am not familiar with his paying method.

St. Louis is a nonpolitical stop. The first political stop is Kansas City, and then Kansas City, Missouri, and then Dallas, which is clearly a political event and then Midland, which is not.

So, by this formula -- and check me on this, Barry -- what would be paid would be the first-class airfare -- the prorated share of Air Force One, I am sorry, Washington, Kansas City, Dallas, Washington.

Q Run through that again. I am sorry, I don't quite follow it.

MR. NESSEN: What would be paid in the way of transportation costs are the costs for as many seats on Air Force One as these political people fill up.

Q Excuse me. Are those seats divided by head into the 2,200 figure per hour or whatever it is?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, it comes out to about \$44 an hour per seat on Air Force One, if you figure they have about 50 seats on the plane.

Now those seats that are filled by the President and anybody else who is put in the category of being political, those seats at \$44 an hour would be multiplied by the number of hours it takes to go from Washington to Kansas City to Dallas and back to Washington.

Q Will the President take the Jetstar to New Hampshire?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know if we have worked that out yet.

We have not.

Q We have only those two stops in New Hampshire you talked about, at this point?

MR. NESSEN: No, they are not stops, Bill, they are motorcade from one to the other.

Q How do you conceive of that?

MR. NESSEN: I think he is going to be out campaigning for Wyman and have Wyman with him, and they will stop in various towns and he will make speeches on Wyman's behalf.

Q Starts in Keene and ends in Portsmouth?

MR. NESSEN: That is what I am told.

Q The taxpayers will also pay for the plane used to haul the President's car to New Hampshire; is that correct?

MR. NESSEN: If the Secret Service feels that for security reasons they want to have the protective car there, the Secret Service would make that judgment on purely security grounds. If they feel it is not needed, then he would ride in some sort of local car.

Q Hotel rooms in Kansas City, Missouri, which is a political stop, therefore will be paid -- the hotel rooms of the political figures --

MR. NESSEN: Will be paid by the Republican National Committee.

Q Do you suppose at the end of a trip like this in the future -- let's say after the Kansas City-Dallas trip, and so on -- you can give us a dollar and cents breakdown of what it costs some time, let's say, the following week?

MR. NESSEN: These bills take about 60 to 90 days to all come in, Walt, and what it means is multiplying out the cost of the plane, hotel rooms, the motorcade vehicles, and so forth.

As I said the other day, the RNC publishes a quarterly report in which they list all of their expenses, so it would be easy enough to get it all added up.

Q Will the President change his style at all, of campaigning?

MR. NESSEN: He has not indicated that he would.

Q As I understand, there was a question put in after the Michigan trip for a breakdown. Did you ever get that?

MR. NESSEN: Phil, this has just been looked into so many times at the request of various people, and it is just impossible to get all those figures together in one place. As I mentioned, the RNC, as required, publishes quarterly its expenses on behalf of the President or any other political expenses.

The Secret Service, we have given you their per diem pay. We are not able to give you the number of agents because they feel that that would compromise the President's security. We have given the per diem for WHCA. You know the cost of the airplane. I just cannot pull the figures together beyond that.

Q Ron, I wonder if I could ask this: What is the President's reaction to reports that the Republican National Convention will probably be in Kansas City? And also, is he happy over the fact that the Democrats are going to New York? What is his reaction?

MR. NESSEN: Well, I have not heard him express any view about New York. His view of the selection of a site for the Republican Convention all along has been that he was going to remain neutral and out of it and let them make the choice.

Q Ron, to go back to this question of cost sharing, where does the President Ford Committee come into the picture? When do they start paying?

MR. NESSEN: When he begins to campaign as a candidate for the nomination.

Q None of these trips that he has been taking recently are considered? For instance, when he goes out to California and puts on a "stop Ronald Reagan campaign" as over the past weekend, that is not considered campaigning for himself?

MR. NESSEN: Jim, you know, we do this number every day.

Q I thought that was doing it a little bit different today.

MR. NESSEN: I don't know quite why Jerry Brown would come to the airport to see the President if Jerry Brown considered it to be a Ford for President trip, or Hubert Humphrey or Wendell Anderson or Mike Mansfield or all the others. Jim, we have been through this business of three hats and so forth, and I don't know that we need to do it again.

You know, I can only assume that -- well, as I have said, the President is not unique in having three separate and distinct roles as an office holder, as a leader of his party and as a candidate, and his campaign gets none of the money from these stops. He is there specifically in the role as a party leader and the money goes either to the RNC or to the State party or, in one case on one trip, to a county party. So the distinction is pretty clear-cut, I think.

Q Would the President then prefer not to have people like the Mayor of Providence pledging publicly to support his candidacy and work for the next 14 months on behalf of him?

MR. NESSEN: I didn't know that that had happened. I didn't go on that trip. But I think if you review the speeches that the President makes on these trips in his role as party leader you will see that he is exceedingly careful to always speak of the Republican Party and its candidates and its prospects, and so forth. I think if you review the speeches you will see that on none of these trips has he ever spoken publicly of his own candidacy.

Q When is he going to veto the oil decontrol bill? Is that tomorrow?

MR. NESSEN: Tomorrow.

Q Will he go on television to make a speech explaining that to the people?

MR. NESSEN: It is not 100 percent sure, but I would say the probability is no.

Q Were you in this meeting with the bipartisan Congressional leaders?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Can you give us some type of readout?

MR. NESSEN: Well, it was really more of a review of where we stand than anything else; that the President is going to veto that tomorrow; that he is confident that by the time Wednesday rolls around and it is time for the Senate to vote on sustaining that the votes will be there to sustain, and he reiterated -- well, it will never get to the House if the Senate sustains.

Beyond that, the President reiterated that he has always been in favor of phased decontrol and hopes that it will be possible to work out something that would get a 39-month phased decontrol program.

Q Could I change the subject?

MR. NESSEN: There was also some discussion of natural gas.

Q Did he work out any sort of arrangement with the Democrats where he would propose a new 39-month plan for them?

MR. NESSEN: The exact machinery was not worked out at this meeting, Carroll.

Q Ron, may I change the subject? Is this exhausted?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know.

Does anybody else want to talk about oil?

Q I would like to know if you heard anything about this. Did the President agree to the 45-day extension after the veto is sustained in the Senate? There was some discussion on Saturday.

MR. NESSEN: Only along the same lines that he has talked before, if he gets a reasonable assurance that Congress will then pass the 39-month phased decontrol.

Q Is he still sticking to 39 months? There was a suggestion from the two Republican Senators this morning that he might be flexible on that.

MR. NESSEN: There was never a discussion of anything beyond 39 months.

Q Ron, can you give us some guidance on how those seven Republicans were chosen? Obviously they are not committed either way; is that right?

MR. NESSEN: Well, these are Republicans who have an interest in this subject and I don't frankly know where they stand in terms of their voting. I didn't look that up.

Q There was sort of a sentence fragment there. You say "if he gets reasonable assurance that he will get the 39-month phased decontrol." Would you finish it and say if he gets those reasonable assurances he will buy a 45-day extension?

MR. NESSEN: That is what he said before and he still sticks to that.

Q Is the President keeping up with the situation in Boston today?

MR. NESSEN: Well, he is, of course, being kept informed by the Justice Department of any information that needs to be brought to his attention.

Q Has he talked to anybody up there himself?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I am aware of.

Q Have there been any requests for any kind of Federal assistance up there? Have they asked for Federal marshalls like last year?

MR. NESSEN: Well, there have been no requests for Federal troops and, in fact, the reports this morning are that the situation is quiet and that there have been no episodes of violence.

I think you know already, probably, that there is some Federal presence in Boston. Assistant Attorney General Stan Pottinger is there as coordinator and chief civilian representative of the Attorney General, and he is coordinating the efforts of 14 Community Relation Service personnel, about 50 FBI agents, 6 attorneys from the Civil Rights Division and about 100 Deputy U.S. Marshals.

Q Could you go over those figures once more?

MR. NESSEN: 14 Community Relation Service people, about 50 FBI agents, 6 attorneys from the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department and about 100 Deputy U.S. Marshals.

Q Ron, you spoke last week of the President trying to reach 29 Congressmen to keep them informed of the Sinai agreement prior to its signing in Jerusalem and Cairo.

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

MORE

#317

Q You also indicated that the President was unable to reach some of them because he did not want to speak to them over international telephone lines?

MR. NESSEN: Correct.

Q Has that situation ever been corrected? Has the President considered his own telephone safe from intrusion? Why is the President reluctant to use the international telephone to discuss the conditions of the country?

MR. NESSEN: Don't you think that is pretty obvious, Saul? It is not just telephone, it is cable or wireless transmission and so forth.

At the point when he was trying to contact these people it was the 12th, 13th and 14th of August. It was back before Henry had even gone to the Middle East to try to work out the conclusion of the agreement. There were some very sensitive proposals that had not yet been presented and discussed by the two sides, and the President wanted to avoid any possibility of these being overheard.

Q Who?

MR. NESSEN: Anybody.

Q Did he have some fear that maybe the NSA might be monitoring the phone? (Laughter)

Q Ron, security personnel in the White House and elsewhere in the Government have always informed reporters who queried them on this subject that the President's lines were secured through scrambling devices and so forth, and although those assurances have usually, I think, dealt with domestic calls, it certainly carries the implication that this family equipment worked on international calls as well.

Are you now saying to us that this scrambling equipment is not secure on international calls?

MR. NESSEN: No, but you have got to have a scrambler at the other end, Jim, and if you are in a hotel in Belgrade or a hotel in Peking or a hotel anywhere else, there is no scrambler phone on the other. You are talking over the hotel switchboard.

Q It would reach the point where the Administration now feels that no communication line is secure? Is that about the state of the art now?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q We do have some security.

MR. NESSEN: As far as I know, we do.

Q Ron, in reference to all the people coming in today to talk about China, has the President decided on the dates for a trip to Peking?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Ron, there is a report that the Church Committee investigating the CIA wants to explore some mysterious new area of investigation and is not getting the cooperation from either the CIA or the White House. Do you have any details at all on that?

MR. NESSEN: The first I have ever heard of it, Tom. Usually these things come in two-week cycles. About every two weeks there is one of these charges that the White House isn't cooperating and then a day or so later it turns out that they have given everything the committee asked for, plus some more, so I guess it is time for another one.

Q Ron, in terms of being up to date, I think everybody has had a proliferation of stories on security and the general thesis has been, from the Secret Service, it is under review and you contemplate no changes. Can you bring us up to date? Is that where it stands?

MR. NESSEN: From the President's point of view, Helen, as he said the other day in Sacramento, he plans to continue getting out and meeting people and so forth. What the Secret Service plans to do or not do you really need to get from the Secret Service.

Q Ron, is the President aware of the statements that Miss Fromme and Miss Good made in an interview with an Associated Press reporter in July in which they directly mentioned the President's name in connection with such expressions as "bloody houses" and so forth and so on?

Is the President aware of that statement, first of all, and is he aware of the fact that the U.S. Attorney in Sacramento says the Secret Service never became aware of that statement despite the fact that it was moved on the Associated Press wire all over this country and printed in many, many newspaper? Is he aware of that second fact and, if so, what is his feeling about the adequacy of the surveillance and the protection that was given in Sacramento?

MR. NESSEN: He has read stories written about the episode, and I guess that was included in some of the stories so he knows that. He praised the Secret Service the other day and has since. As for the Secret Service procedures, you need to ask the Secret Service.

Q Has the White House -- or is it going to -- made any inquiries of the Secret Service -- the President, after all, is the boss of the Secret Service, as he is anybody in the Executive Branch -- as to why it was that surveillance was not placed on Miss Fromme before and during his visit to Sacramento?

A great deal has now come out as to the statements that this woman and others made which were statements directly linking the President with their plans for violence. Are you just going to let that lie now and not going to ask the Secret Service how come?

MR. NESSEN: I have not heard of any plans at the White House to do anything or to ask for anything, Jim. You will have to ask the Secret Service what it is planning itself to do, if anything.

Q That was not my question. My question was what the White House was going to do about it, and you say that the White House is not going to do anything about it. The White House is satisfied that the Secret Service adequately performed its surveillance and function?

MR. NESSEN: As far as I know, at this moment there are no plans at the White House.

Q Are there any plans that you know of for the Secret Service to report to anyone else?

MR. NESSEN: You need to check Treasury, which runs the Secret Service.

Q Ron, a lengthy motorcade usually suggests more crowd-mingling than any other kind of schedule. Is there anything special for New Hampshire, any change involving the schedule for New Hampshire?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I am aware of, no.

Q Ron, is the President going anywhere on that China trip other than China?

MR. NESSEN: There is just nothing arranged on that yet.

Q Ron, do you have any comment on the report in the Star a couple days ago that David Kennerly is in trouble over here because he apparently -- and I am paraphrasing -- has been chasing after Susan? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: I think that is probably, first of all, an incorrect paraphrase, and secondly, I don't have any comment on the correct paraphrase.

Q Ron, did the President discuss this morning with Senator Weicker the Senator's views that the Warren Commission hearing or investigation into the death of President Kennedy should be reopened?

MR. NESSEN: No, as far as I know, it didn't come up.

Q Ron, has the Press Office or the White House abandoned its longstanding rule that the President is never quoted directly except in case there is a transcript or the quotation is okayed?

MR. NESSEN: Are you thinking of the events at the Rockefeller house last night?

Q No.

MR. NESSEN: Just thinking in general?

Q No, I think it is in another event.

MR. NESSEN: I have to look into that. I didn't even know there was such a tradition.

Q It has been longstanding going back to FDR.

MR. NESSEN: I would say it has effectively been abandoned.

MORE

Q Could I check two things? One is a clarification point.

That Reverend Jackson that you referred to, is that the same Jesse Jackson from Chicago?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Secondly, from my impression of what you have said about the New Hampshire trip, is that the President is going to maintain the same basic style that he has been following. Is that correct? In other words, that we can assume that the President will be going as close to crowds as he normally does, shaking hands with as many people as he can reach over a relatively short period of time? There will be no changes in that?

MR. NESSEN: Well, that is your characterization of what he does and I will leave that up to you.

Q How about you characterizing it.

MR. NESSEN: I would say as far as I know he plans no changes in his methods of travel.

Q Why not?

MR. NESSEN: I think he told you that the other day in the lobby in Sacramento.

Q In other words, he does not feel that the risks that may be inherent in that basic style are severe enough to force him to make any changes; is that right?

MR. NESSEN: All I would like to say is that he does not contemplate any changes in his method of travel.

Q Ron, does "method of travel" include walking half a block, or is there a difference possibly between method of travel and meeting the public?

MR. NESSEN: Well, I am not attempting to make any distinction. I am just saying that I don't anticipate any changes in the way he gets around.

Q Can you say whether he has looked into the question or had any meetings here or discussed it with the chief of the Secret Service as to whether there is a different approach that should be taken?

MR. NESSEN: No, not that I am aware of. He has not had any such meetings that I know of.

Q Has anyone in the White House met with anyone in the Secret Service or talked with them by telephone to discuss this whole question?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I know of.

Q Since the event in Sacramento?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I know of.

Q Isn't that unusual?

Q On the bussing, is he aware that people have been arrested in connection with this?

MR. NESSEN: He is being kept informed, Phil, of the events up there that the Justice Department feels should be brought to his attention.

Q Does Pottinger call him or do those calls come from the Justice Department?

MR. NESSEN: Jack?

MR. HUSHEN: They go through the Deputy Attorney General to the counsel's office.

MR. NESSEN: Oh, that is right, yes.

Q Ron, what do they do? Just call him every so often or is it just whenever they think it is when they have something they think it is necessary for him to know?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Ron, without belaboring this, do you mean that neither the President nor any of his aides have sat down to discuss what occurred Friday in Sacramento to the point of trying to review whether or not they should not curtail the operation?

MR. NESSEN: I am not aware of any such meeting, Dick.

Q And the President has not been assured by Secretary Simon or anyone in Treasury that there will be a report on this?

MR. NESSEN: I have not heard of any, but I can check.

Q Was there a study of this thing to check out all the angles on what this girl was connected with?

MR. NESSEN: No, not that I am aware of.

Q Ron, on the scrambling business you mentioned, of course, that you can't do it in the hotel overseas, but would it not be possible for the President to go to Air Force One and communicate on this?

MR. NESSEN: The problem is not at this end of the line.

Q No, I mean it is over there. Can't he do it when he is over there, go to Air Force One and get the communication?

MR. NESSEN: He was here and they were there and that is the problem.

Q I see.

Q Does the Embassy have systems like this?

MR. NESSEN: I think some certainly have secured means of communication.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 12:25 P.M. EDT)