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NEWS CONFERENCE

#350

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 10:35 A.M. EDT

OCTOBER 20, 1975

MONDAY

MR. NESSEN: We really have a fairly busy day.

At 11 o'clock there will be a briefing here on food stamps, as you know.

At 11:30, Mrs. Ford will fill in for Mr. Ford at the tree planting ceremony.

Q What time is the second one?

MR. NESSEN: The 11:30 one is the tree planting, with Mrs. Ford filling in for the President, so let's push right along.

First of all, Thym is passing out now the announcement that the President intends to nominate John L. McLucas, currently the Secretary of the Air Force, to be the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

Some of you were not here -- most of you were not here -- earlier when I announced the President's sinus cold. Also, in the meanwhile, I picked up some additional things, so let me talk to you a little bit about that.

Overall, the President is feeling reasonably well, except for sinus congestion, a tendency to cough and a slightly elevated fever.

Q Will you tell us his temperature, please?

MR. NESSEN: It is slightly above 100.

I think most of you know that the President has had a cough for a week or so. During that period, he has been treated symptomatically with cold medicine, cold tablets, a nasal spray and a decongestant.

MORE

#350

The President felt comfortable over the weekend. He felt well enough to go to church, for instance, on Sunday. After church, Dr. Lukash examined him for his congestion and cough and gave him -- or urged him -- to use his nasal spray, which he has been using for about a week.

On Sunday afternoon, the President took a nap. When he got up, before dinner, he felt warm and achy.

Q Just a minute. Didn't he play tennis for an hour and a half?

MR. NESSEN: He did play some tennis on Saturday afternoon.

Q Before or after the nap?

MR. NESSEN: He took the nap after the tennis.

Q How long did he play, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: He played two sets.

Q How long is that, for us "nontennisers"?

MR. NESSEN: It has been so long since I have had a chance to play. Fran Lewine says it was an hour and a half. I would take her word anytime.

Q How long.

MR. NESSEN: An hour and a half.

Q Who did he play with?

MR. NESSEN: He played with Mayor Barrett.

Q Dean Burch and Parma?

MR. NESSEN: The last I heard Burch and Parma did not play. Why don't we check on that?

Q I might say in connection with this that we get awfully inaccurate reports and people don't check for us when we ask these questions.

MR. NESSEN: It is being checked now. The last I heard, Parma and Burch did not play.

Q Is it your thought, then, that he played singles?

MR. NESSEN: That is my impression this morning, but we will check it out.

Q When did he feel warm and achy? After the tennis game?

MR. NESSEN: After the tennis game, he took a nap and when he woke up, he felt warm and achy.

Q The nap was after the tennis game?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Does that mean feverish?

MR. NESSEN: Warm?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: It was described to me as warm, but I think feverish would be all right.

Q Ron, did he see the party of travel editors that was here yesterday?

MR. NESSEN: He did not, as far as I know.

Q Didn't he meet with tourists yesterday after the tennis game?

MR. NESSEN: Bill, how did that ever come out? The last I heard, he was not going to do it.

Q What happened after he felt feverish?

MR. NESSEN: He called Dr. Lukash and asked Dr. Lukash to come around and see him after dinner, so Dr. Lukash did come around to see him after dinner and added to his medication an antibiotic and also discovered that he had this slightly elevated fever.

They did play tennis, Leon Parma, Dean Burch, Barrett and the President.

Whatever happened to that travel writers group?

MR. GREENER: He didn't do that. He just shook hands with some tourists coming up from the tennis court.

MR. NESSEN: The President did not see the travel writers, but did shake hands with a few writers as he was coming up from the tennis court.

Q Warm?

MR. NESSEN: What was that?

Q What do you mean, Ron? Did he go out the gate?

MR. NESSEN: No. Yesterday and Saturday were an open house garden tour here at the White House, and there were some people here to see that.

Q Ron, just out of curiosity, do we have to ask all these additional questions to get this information? Had it not been for Fran, we wouldn't have known about Dean Burch and Leon Parma. We would not have known about him seeing tourists. Why do we have to ask questions to get this kind of information?

MR. NESSEN: I am trying to give you as full a report as I can, Phil. I saw the list of activities yesterday, and Parma and Burch were scratched off the list. There is no earthly reason for hiding the fact that he played with Leon Parma and Dean Burch.

Q That is why I cannot figure it out, either.

MR. NESSEN: When I looked at the list, they were scratched off. I am now telling you that he played with them.

Last night, after dinner, Dr. Lukash came up, discovered a slightly elevated fever, added an antibiotic to his medication and told the President to sleep later this morning and that he would be around when the President got up to see how he was then.

The President did sleep until 7:20 this morning, which was about two hours later than usual, and Dr. Lukash did come up and see him when he woke up and found that the fever had persisted and was slightly above 100.

So, at that point this morning, Lukash said, urged, suggested, that he take it easy, stay up in the Residence, limit his appointments to a few staff meetings and to rest. Aside from the slightly elevated fever, all the President's other signs are normal. Dr. Lukash says he generally feels good, except for the nasal congestion and coughing, as I said earlier.

The President has not had a cold for two years, which is the longest period in quite some time that he has gone without a cold.

Q Ron, the President himself said he had a little cold in October 1974.

MR. NESSEN: Well, Lukash said it has been two years since he had his last cold.

Q It was in the paper and written.

Q Do you know if that is a record for a President? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: I have to check the almanac.

Q Is it diagnosed as flu or anything but a cold?

MR. NESSEN: Let me add a little to the question Helen asked about there being any indication that it is more than a sinus cold.

The President has had a history of having a sensitive sinus, or sensitive sinuses. As I understand it, the sinuses can become irritated for a variety of reasons -- pollution, allergy and so forth. The fever does suggest that he has an infection.

Q Has he been told not to smoke?

MR. NESSEN: That is one question I didn't ask, Bill.

Q Has he been told not to swim, especially in the rain?

Q Let's get this infection, first.

Q Are you referring to a sinus infection?

MR. NESSEN: The fever would indicate that there is some infection in the sinuses?

Q Has he been told to cut back on travel?

MR. NESSEN: Dr. Lukash is going to take it a day at a time, as far as his activities go.

The swimming does not appear to Dr. Lukash to have anything to do with the aggravation of his sinus cold.

Other than that, my plan would be to have an update on the President's health at 5 o'clock. I don't have anything further.

Q Has the Secret Service been asked to report?

MR. NESSEN: Not on this.

Q Ron, when did he go swimming last?

MR. NESSEN: Dr. Lukash said he swam twice last week. I don't have the last time he swam, but I do have Dr. Lukash saying it does **not** appear to him that swimming has anything to do with the aggravation of the sinuses.

Q Ron, have you seen the President this morning?

MR. NESSEN: I did not go over there this morning. They were trying to limit the visitors to a few. I probably will this afternoon.

Q Who has seen him?

MR. NESSEN: Rumsfeld and Cheney and I believe a couple of people from the Congressional Office.

Q Is there any way of estimating how fast he should be over this?

MR. NESSEN: No, there isn't. Dr. Lukash was going to take it, as I say, a day at a time.

Q Did you have a schedule of appointments for today?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Has it been released so we will know what he has had to cancel?

MR. NESSEN: The morning staff meetings, aside from Rumsfeld and Cheney, and I believe a meeting with the people from the Congressional Office. All the other staff meetings have been cancelled, and then he had this tree planting at 11:30, which Mrs. Ford is going to fill in for him.

He had an energy-economic meeting this afternoon, which has been postponed, and he had a swearing-in of Dunham, which is going to be done by the Vice President. Is that how that ended up, the Vice President? Also, he was supposed to go out this evening.

Q Where will that be? Here?

MR. NESSEN: We will check on the location of that for you.

Q Ron, go ahead.

MR. NESSEN: He had a plan for this evening to go out to a Masonic event at the Mayflower Hotel, which has been postponed.

Q Ron, we have to depend on you for all the information. I am curious on another matter you mentioned -- Rumsfeld and some Congressional people. I am wondering whether or not this Administration feels it is more important for Congressional people to see the President this morning than for his Press Secretary, who is about to communicate whatever to us?

MR. NESSEN: I could have gone over to see him, Phil. Dr. Lukash felt he wanted to keep the visitors to a minimum this morning and get some more in this afternoon, which I will do, and I had a fairly busy morning getting some other things together.

Q What was this Masonic event?

MR. NESSEN: Let me get the details of that for you.

Q A convention of some sort?

MR. NESSEN: I will get that for you.

Q Could I go back to my previous question? Dr. Lukash is going to take it a day at a time?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Does that suggest that the President might be restricted in his activities for several days at this point?

MR. NESSEN: It is just not possible to tell right now how long it will take him to recover from the cold.

Q Ron, to follow up on Phil's question, did you say you intend to see him before you give us another report at 5 p.m. today?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Do you have anything else now?

Q I have something else on another subject.

MR. NESSEN: Is there anything else on the health question?

Q Another question on this subject which was not asked -- and not in any suspicious or hypercritical way or anything else, but merely because there have been, over the years, many Presidential illnesses, as you know -- and that is, whether you are in a position to assure us -- and, through us, the American people -- flatly that there is nothing else wrong, nothing more serious wrong with the President than what you have described?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, I am in a position to assure you of that.

Q Ron, do you know whether the President got caught in the rain Saturday night when he was playing golf?

MR. NESSEN: No, I don't think he did get caught in the rain when he was playing golf. It stopped by the time he got there.

Q Why is the President communicating with Dr. Kissinger directly by voice contact or scramble phone or whatever they use?

MR. NESSEN: Is he?

Q Has he been in the last 24 hours?

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

Q Is the embargo going to be lifted today?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have anything to announce.

Q When will you announce it?

MR. NESSEN: When it is ready to announce.

Q Three o'clock?

MR. NESSEN: We will let you know if we have anything.

Q The Massachusetts papers have announced on November 7, Friday, President Ford will travel to Springfield to speak at the Bay State Motel and then he will go on to Boston. Is that true, and if it isn't true, how do you account for that kind of story when we are going to tidy up this sort of thing?

MR. NESSEN: Well, we are tidied up here, and we don't have anything to announce on such a trip.

Q What about Friday to Gainesville?

MR. NESSEN: We have not announced any trip to Gainesville for Friday.

Q Have they ever? They are sending out all kinds of material on it and keeping our mailboxes full with the complete history of the University of Florida. They seem quite confident. Will you elaborate on that?

MR. NESSEN: No. We have not announced any trip to Florida.

The event tonight was supposed to be a 20-minute appearance by the President at the Mayflower Hotel, where there was a Masonic event, a dinner, involving the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council of the 33 Degree Masons, Southern Jurisdiction.

Q Is the President a Mason?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Ron, are a couple of questions in order now about party line policy as regards New York? Have you finished with your announcements?

MR. NESSEN: I am not sure whether I have or not. Let me just check.

Q Is Robinson coming back today, and have negotiations been completed with the Soviet Union?

MR. NESSEN: Helen, I just don't have anything to announce on the grain deal right now.

Are we done with health and grain?

Q As far as the negotiations go, are they still going on?

MR. NESSEN: They are continuing, yes.

Q That means that Robinson is not in fact returning today?

MR. NESSEN: He is still there.

Q Ron, you are obviously not saying anything for the record. Can you give us any guidance? Can we expect something off the record?

MR. NESSEN: On travel?

Q On grain?

MR. NESSEN: Phil, I just don't have anything to announce right now.

Q What about on travel? Are you expecting anything longer than a one-day trip, if there is an announcement?

MR. NESSEN: Bob, I really want to stick to what we said we were going to do on the travel.

All right. New York City.

Q The President has said he would go to California, and that is on the record.

MR. NESSEN: What?

Q The California trip next week.

MR. NESSEN: Yes, that got on the record before I knew the policy went into effect.

Q May we scrap it?

MR. NESSEN: I have not heard of any plans like that.

Q Have you got dates for next week?

MR. NESSEN: For what?

Q For the California trip.

MR. NESSEN: No, I have not got anything on the details of it.

All right. New York City.

Q Ron, the word "never" and "no cracks or crevices" were used in your briefing Friday in regard to any possibility of Presidential action to prevent a default in New York.

MR. NESSEN: Let me stop you there. First of all, I believe the cracks and crevices remark was used earlier in the week when I was trying to say that a good deal of questions were aimed at looking for a crack or crevice in the President's position and that there was not any.

The "never" expression, I don't know where that came from, but in any case, go ahead.

Q You had said flatly the President will not take any action today, and then the question of today came up, so you dropped today and that left it --

MR. NESSEN: To prevent a default?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: Right.

Q Now, this would seem to rule out the President signing a bill in Congress that would prevent a default in New York City. The Secretary of the Treasury said on television yesterday it would be premature to judge what the President will do with a piece of legislation now.

There seems to be a conflict there. If the President signs a bill, obviously he is taking an action to prevent default in New York.

MR. NESSEN: I think you have got a bunch of things jumbled together there. The President's position and the Secretary's position -- the President has stated the Administration's position, and Bill Simon supports the Administration's position, which is that the President has seen no legislation which convinces him that it is worthwhile signing.

I think there has been some imprecision in what it is that the Congress is talking about, and I think Mayor Beame probably has done nothing to clear up the imprecision.

The proposals that I have seen shouldn't be described as a bail-out for New York City. I think Bill Simon peripherally made this point yesterday, but perhaps not quite strongly enough, since it keeps coming back and says I said Mayor Beame has not done anything to straighten it out.

The legislation that appears to be talked about by the Mayor is legislation to bail out the bondholders and the banks. As for helping the people of New York City, the Federal Government, of course, is doing that, although I have not seen that very widely printed.

The Government is giving \$3.5 billion to New York City ever year, 25 percent of its budget. It is paying 50 percent of New York City's welfare budget. For every dollar that a welfare recipient gets in New York City, the Government pays 50 cents, and the City of New York pays 25 cents.

So far as helping the people of New York City, the Government is doing that. As for helping the bondholders and the banks of New York City, that is what the President has a problem with.

Q My question was not directed as to the conflict over policy so much as to whether or not the door was at all open to the possibility of the President signing legislation on this question.

MR. NESSEN: What legislation? There is not any legislation down here, and it seems to me that Senator Proxmire on Saturday said that one good argument against any kind of legislation is -- and this is Senator Proxmire's quote -- "We need a jarring, emphatic, clear-cut message that we have to live within our means."

If the chairman of the committee is talking that way, I wonder how much chance there is of any legislation passing.

Q Ron, isn't it a dubious argument, though, to suggest that the President is saving the American taxpayers' money, but not guaranteeing loans to New York because the very insolvency of New York City is forcing taxpayers all around the country to pay much higher prices for municipal bonds there.

I think the New York Times figured it was \$3 billion.

MR. NESSEN: I think what we ought to do is to the title of the Wall Street Journal editorial today "New York Myths," and maybe look at some of those myths today, including the one you just mentioned, Walt.

People are using scare tactics in this matter, and I think it might be good to look at some of the myths that are behind the scare tactics. The Wall Street Journal today quotes not an Administration official, not a New York City or State official, but simply a disinterested bond dealer as saying this:

"The market" -- meaning the municipal bond market -- "has mostly discounted default. Any further change in interest rates from default is likely to be minimal."

Now, what happened to the interest rates on municipal bonds last week? To listen to the scare tactics, you would think they soared. The fact of the matter is that interest rates on municipal bonds went down sharply last week. It was the second week in a row that municipal bond interest rates went down sharply.

Even at the peak of the interest rates several weeks ago on municipal bonds, the bond market was handling absorbing, \$200 million a week in new municipal bond issues, so any idea that the uncertainty over New York has paralyzed or destroyed the municipal bond market is wrong.

I don't know how many of you read the publication called the Daily Bond Buyer, (Laughter) but if you did -- well, it is not a laughing matter.

Q Are you saying that there will be no default in New York?

MR. NESSEN: Let me make a few of my points, Helen.

Q \$200 million was what?

MR. NESSEN: \$200 million a week in new municipal bond issues were handled at the peak of the municipal bond interest rates.

Q What is the name of that publication?

MR. NESSEN: The Daily Bond Buyer, and this particular list that I want to refer to is the new municipal bond issues that will be sold this week, which ought to counter any argument that New York City's problem has paralyzed or destroyed the municipal bond market.

Beginning today, the 20th, Arvada, Colorado, is selling \$3.6 million worth of bonds. The Calhoun County Building Authority of Michigan is selling \$2 million 730 thousand in bonds. The Cherry Creek School District No. 5 in Colorado, \$600 million worth of bonds.

It is not amusing, because we do --

Q They have sold these?

MR. NESSEN: These are scheduled to be sold this week. In other words, bond sellers have not given up the idea of being able to sell their bonds.

Q They have in Oregon. They voted a freeze on municipal bonds.

MR. NESSEN: Let me move on to that point.

Q Ron, was not this figure you read \$600,000 instead of \$600 million?

MR. NESSEN: I am sorry, \$6 million.

The point is that we do talk about things here, and I wanted to try to correct what the Wall Street Journal calls the myths.

Let's talk about the interest rates and the fact that some community in Oregon decided that it was not going to go to the market, even though this long list here of places -- Rock Island, Illinois; the Port of Hood River Toll Bridge in Oregon; the North Slope Borough of Alaska; the Longport Township High School District 205 in Illinois, and so forth and so on -- are selling their bonds this week.

The municipal bond market is performing in a completely orderly way, and the interest rates on municipal bonds have dropped sharply two weeks in a row.

What has happened to municipal interest rates? Municipal interest rates on investment grade municipal bonds have not increased proportionately more than the interest rates on Federal borrowing or corporate borrowing.

The interest rates on municipal bonds have the same ratio to the other forms of big borrowing that they have always had, which means that it must be other factors that are affecting interest rates, and there are a lot of other factors, including the need to finance a very large Federal deficit.

MORE

Q Is your point that the problems in New York are not having any influence on -- any adverse influence -- on bond sales around the country, and that it is not causing the taxpayer to pay more for bond issues than would otherwise have been the case?

MR. NESSEN: I think Bill Simon put it quite well on television yesterday, and that is that, yes, municipal bonds are being scrutinized more carefully by the people who buy municipal bonds for a living or as an investment, and that is very good that people are scrutinizing their potential investments better.

Now the cities and other issuers of bonds who are not managing their financial affairs well are being discovered and are paying slightly higher interest. On the other hand, the communities and other issuers of municipal bonds who are now being looked at more carefully and are being discovered to be running their affairs properly and well are going to enjoy the benefits of that by better interest rates. That is what Bill said yesterday and that is the feeling of the Administration.

Q You used the phrase "scare tactics" three times last week. The Vice President of the United States said it would be a catastrophe if New York City defaulted. Would you classify that as a scare tactic?

MR. NESSEN: I think what I was referring to are some of the people who raised the spectre of what is happening or will happen to the municipal bond market, what they thought they saw happening to the money markets on Friday when in fact the money markets on Friday performed in a very orderly way -- the stockmarket was down five points, which is a minor drop.

The interest rates for the day on municipal bonds were up slightly but for the week down sharply, and for two weeks in a row, in fact, down sharply, so some of the idea that this is going -- well, like the \$3 billion story in the New York Times yesterday and others who are --

Q The answer is yes, then?

MR. NESSEN: No, I am not suggesting it was a scare tactic because the Times was quoting various people and not doing this on its own.

Q So your answer is yes?

Q On Rockefeller, the answer is yes?

MR. NESSEN: That he is part of the scare tactics?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: No, the answer is no.

We have our food stamp briefing ready to go any minute now.

Q Ron, you discount the impact in the fall when you say the President has difficulty with bailing out investors. Are you leaving out the possibility that the Government would step in, come to the city's rescue if it cannot pay salaries or provide services?

MR. NESSEN: This is another one of the myths, I think, that somehow default would mean New York City would come to a grinding halt. New York City has money to pay for its services and, in fact, not only has enough money to pay for its services but has enough money to pay its services and its long-term bond holders.

It is the \$3 billion or \$4 billion in short-term paper that has to be turned over, which is the problem and, once again, I would simply like to mention that New York City has not taken the steps toward fiscal responsibility to convince the State of New York to come to its help -- barely convinced the Teachers Union that it had taken enough steps to justify using its pension fund.

You asked me last week what did I mean when I said that the city and State had the means to handle their own problem and avert default. Bill Simon mentioned two possibilities on television yesterday, neither of which has been used.

One is a temporary and declining State sales tax which would make up this short-term cash flow problem so they could turn the notes over. The other one would be to use State pension funds, not to buy anything but simply as collateral for loans.

I mean, after all, the aim of the exercise, whatever means is adopted, is to restore the confidence of the people who lend the money, and the quicker New York tidies up its affairs and with the help of the State convinces the investors and the banks that its paper is good, the problem will be over and that is why there is no need for default but, if there is a default, the feeling here is that the city has the money to pay for its services, has even the money to pay its long-term bond holders. It is simply a problem of getting through this period between now and when they have a balanced budget and to pay off the short-term paper that it turns over.

Q Could I ask one last quick question on this? On Tuesday of last week the President described the differences between himself and Rockefeller on this issue as minimal. The Vice President has since used the same words. But also since then the Vice President's language has gotten a lot stronger. Would you still describe their differences as minimal?

MR. NESSEN: I would because they both agree, as I said last week, that New York City and New York State need to take the steps to get their budget in balance, which is only 6 percent. There is only a 6 percent difference between what they spend and what they take in in revenue.

They need to close the gap. The city needs to convince the State first of all that it has a plan to get there and it has not been able to do that yet and, having done that, having had that plan endorsed by the State, the President believes that the confidence of the investors will be restored and that there will be no need for Federal help.

It is at that very last step that Vice President Rockefeller disagrees but up until that last step they are in perfect agreement.

Q Ron, a minor take-off. In your release on Mr. McLucas, does he have a pilots license? Is he a licensed pilot?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that, but we will check for you.

Q Ron, are you going to be available to answer questions about the food stamp proposal at that briefing?

MR. NESSEN: Earl Butz and Jim Lynn are both coming here to answer your questions.

Q Are we going to have a couple minutes before this starts?

MR. NESSEN: Do you want to take five minutes to file?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: We are putting out now the President's message to Congress on the food stamp reform, a fact sheet, a copy of the legislation, and a section-by-section analysis of the legislation.

Why don't we take five minutes to file the earlier material.

All right, let's take eight minutes and we will have the briefing starting here at 11:15.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END (AT 11:07 A.M. EDT)

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 5:05 P.M. EDT

OCTOBER 20, 1975

MONDAY

MR. NESSEN: The President rested and slept most of the day in his study and in bed in the bedroom. He took a lot of fluids, consisting of water and juice. He did have lunch at a table in the Family Dining Room. At about 1 o'clock he had his usual lunch of cottage cheese and tea.

In the late morning, his temperature dropped to 99. In the afternoon, it rose again to a little above 100.

Q How little above, could you tell us that?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have the exact figure, but it was above 100.

Q But it was less than 101?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have the exact temperature.

Q Is there a possibility that if it had gone up to 101 you would have told us slightly more than 100 this morning? Now you say more than 100. Does that mean it could be --

MR. NESSEN: Slightly above 100 is above 100.

Q I understand that, but now you are saying more than 100. More than 100 can be almost anything.

Q Was it 101?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have the exact temperature to give you.

Q Can you get it?

MR. NESSEN: All the President's other signs -- pulse, heartbeat, respiration and so forth -- are normal. The President continued taking the same medication, which consists of antibiotics, aspirin and decongestants.

Dr. William Lukash, the President's physician, feels that rest is the most helpful part of the treatment. Considering that the President still has an elevated fever, I believe his schedule for tomorrow is likely to resemble today's.

The President's symptoms are sinus congestion, occasional coughing and the elevated fever.

The President saw during the day, in his study, Don Rumsfeld, Dick Cheney, Jack Marsh and myself. He talked by telephone with Vice President Rockefeller and with Secretary of the Treasury Simon. He also signed some documents.

When I saw the President, he was in his study. He was wearing a white bathrobe with blue tennis rackets as the symbol on the robe. He had on tan pajamas with brown piping, tan slippers and green socks.

The President said, "I feel much better. I will be feeling better in the morning." He said he had slept a lot of the day. He said, "I have not slept this much in my life."

He said he hoped to watch a little of the football game on television tonight, but did expect to go to bed early.

I want to tell you that, although we had not officially announced the trip, the President had intended to go to South Carolina and Florida on Friday for a series of events. He had hoped very much to be able to go and he is sorry that he will not be able to go. It is not good, as you probably know, to fly just after a sinus infection, so the President will not be making that trip on Friday.

Q Can you tell us what those events were? I at least had heard about the one in Gainesville, Florida.

MR. NESSEN: In South Carolina, he was going to have a meeting with editors or publishers from South Carolina, and also attend the South Carolina State Fair.

Q Where is that, exactly?

MR. NESSEN: I will have to get the details.

Q Columbus?

MR. NESSEN: I didn't bring out with me the tentative schedule for that trip.

Q Was that a one-day trip?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, he was going to go back and get back relatively early in the evening.

Q And then to Gainesville?

MR. NESSEN: And then to Gainesville, Florida.

Q Was the Vice President concerned about the President's health, Ron, when he telephoned?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know what the subject of the phone call from the Vice President was.

Q Ron, can you tell us if the President will be going to Florida nonetheless at the end of this month to be there for a couple of days with President Sadat?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have anything to announce on another trip to Florida.

Q When you say that he is going to follow the same schedule, do you mean he is going to stay in the family quarters tomorrow?

MR. NESSEN: He will certainly have a reduced schedule, and I would expect him to spend at least part of the day, if not all day, in the family quarters.

Q Ron, I am sorry if this has been asked, but is this the same cold he had at the news conference, when he went swimming after?

MR. NESSEN: If you are talking about at the last news conference --

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: -- it is. It started off as a kind of an irritation in the sinuses, which I said this morning could have come from pollution or allergy or any number of reasons, but the same sort of sinus irritation has been around since then, and now it has turned into a little more congestion and a cold and infection.

Q Ron, I tuned in late. I was downstairs. Is it true that this is nothing more than you described it, that the President has nothing more serious than what you are describing? Will you assure us that?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Ron, you talked of congestion. Are you saying it is in his sinuses?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, that is right.

Q Are you speaking of chest congestion?

MR. NESSEN: No, absolutely not. Sinus congestion.

Q There have been no chest X-rays?

MR. NESSEN: Dr. Lukash has listened to his chest, as you would expect him to, and they are completely clear.

Q Does he have a nurse with him?

MR. NESSEN: There is a nurse who is spending most of her day on the floor. (Laughter) That doesn't sound quite right, does it? (Laughter)

There is a nurse who is spending most of the day in the upper hallway of the Residence. (Laughter) Why does that sound so funny?

Q Why don't you say there is a nurse in attendance?

MR. NESSEN: There is a nurse outside the room in the hallway.

Q And the doctor?

MR. NESSEN: He visits periodically. When I went over to see him, the doctor was just about leaving.

Q Since the President has not had so much sleep in so long, does that mean he was overtired and probably susceptible to a cold?

MR. NESSEN: Dr. Lukash says not.

Q What about the pipes? Has he been told not to smoke?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that he has been told to. He doesn't feel much like smoking his pipe today.

Q Does this illness, which forced cancellation of the South Carolina and Florida trip, pose a threat to the President's return trip to California next week?

MR. NESSEN: I have not heard any change of plans on the California trip.

Q Is there any word on how soon he might recover if he didn't have this cold?

MR. NESSEN: No, as I said, Dr. Lukash said he is going to take it day by day. At the moment, the main thing is to get his temperature down.

Q Will Lukash see him tonight?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Ron, it is kind of unusual not to have an accurate temperature count. They can usually do that by tenths of a degree.

MR. NESSEN: Dr. Lukash feels that he has described the area of the temperature accurately, and he is reluctant to give a precise temperature?

Q Why?

MR. NESSEN: That is Dr. Lukash's method of discussing his patients.

Q Well, our method is to try to find out what the temperature is.

MR. NESSEN: Right.

Q So, why can't we?

Q Ron, do you expect Dr. Lukash to sleep overnight?

MR. NESSEN: Do you mean sleep overnight at the White House?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. I don't know about that.

Q What was his schedule tomorrow had it been normal?

MR. NESSEN: I will have to dig it out for you.

Q Has he cancelled it?

MR. NESSEN: While Jack is getting that, I can clean up two leftover questions from this morning.

How is the President communicating with Secretary Kissinger while he is in China? So far by cable.

Is the new designee for the FAA Administrator's job a licensed pilot? He is not a licensed pilot.

Q Ron, has the White House yet received a report from the Secret Service on the accident in Hartford?

MR. NESSEN: I will have to check. I have not kept up with that. I will, though.

Q Does the President still expect Soviet Communist Party Leader Brezhnev to come to Washington this year?

MR. NESSEN: He is still hopeful.

Q How can he be hopeful when Kissinger said he is not coming? I mean, is there a difference in point of view here?

MR. NESSEN: Television cameras do wonders for the briefing, don't they?

Q Why? You would have gotten this question anyway. We have been saving it all day for you. Secretary Kissinger told reporters traveling with him to China that there would be no summit this year in Washington.

MR. NESSEN: I wanted to read the Secretary's remarks, Helen.

Q Will you?

MR. NESSEN: I will.

We are going to wait and get tomorrow's schedule, aren't we?

Q Did Dr. Lukash say anything about having heard of the President, with his infection, having played two sets of tennis? Does he think that had any connection with the cold?

MR. NESSEN: He didn't comment on it.

Q Ron, excuse me. Those of us in the basement were figuring we did not have advance notice that you were going to come out. Did you make a statement on the President's health when you came out, and if so, would you repeat it, because a bunch of us missed it.

MR. NESSEN: The main events tomorrow would have been a breakfast with Republican -- not a breakfast, but a morning meeting with Republican Congressional leaders, the usual morning staff meetings, a meeting with the National Association of Homebuilders officials who are, I believe, meeting in Washington, and a reception for University presidents who are meeting in Washington.

In view of the fact that his temperature is still elevated, I would not expect him to keep any of those appointments tomorrow.

Q So, he has cancelled all travel for this week?

MR. NESSEN: He has cancelled the one day of travel he had scheduled for this week.

Q So that there is no travel? There is no out-of-town travel?

MR. NESSEN: No.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 5:17 P.M. EDT)