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

#374

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 12:30 P.M. EST

NOVEMBER 18, 1975

TUESDAY

MR. NESSEN: Well, welcome home.

I don't have anything to announce today other than what we have put out already.

Q Thank you.

Q Is the President going to sign the energy bill and give aid to New York and has he --

MR. NESSEN: Get it all out of the way in one question.

Q What does he think of Nixon's --

MR. NESSEN: Number one, he has not decided whether to sign or veto the energy bill?

Q When will he?

MR. NESSEN: After he sees the bill.

Q When do you expect that?

MR. NESSEN: Thursday or Friday.

Q Is that what he is talking to Zarb about?

MR. NESSEN: That is what he did talk to Zarb about.

Number two, there is no change in his position on New York City from last week.

Number three, I have nothing to announce on the Supreme Court Justice.

Q Well, on New York, though, isn't he moving into talking about it today with his advisers?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, there will be a meeting at 3 o'clock of the Economic Policy Board to discuss New York City.

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Q Do you expect any announcement?

Q Has he met with John Rhodes and Congressman Stanton?

MR. NESSEN: He is now.

Q About New York?

MR. NESSEN: And other things, yes.

Q Excuse me. You seem to be putting out some information in the course of a --

MR. NESSEN: In answer to Helen's very incisive question.

Q Thank you. (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: But I would expect nothing less of a best selling authoress.

Q What is the name of the book?

Q Available at all book stores. (Laughter)

Q Can you back up just a little bit, then? You said there is no change in his position from last week?

MR. NESSEN: November 13.

Q Last week we had some difficulty ascertaining clearly one way or the other whether there had been any change in this position at that point. Can you elaborate at all in your response?

MR. NESSEN: There is just no change since November 13 and you can read the transcript and see what he said then and that is exactly his position.

Q Why is he calling Rhodes and who else?

MR. NESSEN: He didn't call Rhodes. Rhodes and Stanton asked for an opportunity to come in and talk about New York City and other matters.

Q And they are meeting right now?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Why weren't we told about that?

Q Is the November 13 briefing, the one in which the President said something to the effect, well, New York has made substantial progress and so on and so on so the situation is changing? Is that the briefing you are talking about?

MR. NESSEN: Well, I would not want to say you have got accurate quotes.

Q I understand.

MR. NESSEN: You don't, but I think that is the day.
(Laughter)

Q Hey, you are in an elfin mood today.

Q Ron, do you expect to have anything to say this afternoon -- you or anybody on the President's behalf -- after this meeting with Rhodes and Stanton.

MR. NESSEN: I would not expect to.

Q When did it start?

MR. NESSEN: Five, ten minutes ago.

Q How long will it go?

Q Is it just Rhodes and Stanton?

MR. NESSEN: And I think Simon is in there.

Q Is Henry Reuss down there?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Did they ask to see the President?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, they did.

Q Why?

MR. NESSEN: To discuss New York City.

Q How long are they going to meet?

MR. NESSEN: We will check.

Q Could you tell us whoever else is in there?
You seem kind of vague.

MR. NESSEN: Simon is in there. Let's check the participants. Cheney is in there.

Why don't you get the participants list from Terry?

Q Ron, would you expect the President to have anything to say about how he might treat this legislation on New York City before the legislation is voted on?

MR. NESSEN: Which legislation?

Q The House bill.

MR. NESSEN: The Reuss-Rhodes Bill?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: No. Again, there I would say that what we said last week is unchanged.

Q What did you say?

Q You didn't speak to that question last week.

Q Was it the Reuss-Rhodes Bill?

MR. NESSEN: Well, I was asked about legislation last week.

Q When you say unchanged, do you mean the President is adamantly against aid to New York?

MR. NESSEN: Read what we said last week.

Q Ron, last week you said that none of the legislation on the Hill at that time was acceptable. Are you saying that the Reuss-Rhodes compromise is not acceptable today?

MR. NESSEN: Well, I think what we said last week was that the legislation up there had been prepared to meet circumstances which had changed and I think the Reuss-Rhodes Bill would fall into that category since it had been introduced prior to Governor Carey's letter to Secretary Simon.

Q It was altered yesterday so would you tell us as of today whether it is acceptable or not?

MR. NESSEN: I think the alteration had to do with the change in the dollar figure rather than in the basic concept of the bill.

Q The basic concept is, therefore, unacceptable?

MR. NESSEN: Well, you know, it is exactly where it was last week.

Q Ron, in this regard are you specifically denying the lead story in this morning's Times?

MR. NESSEN: I am just telling you our position.

Q I don't know what the position was.

MR. NESSEN: The position today is what it was on November 13.

Q Why don't you outline that?

MR. NESSEN: Why don't we get a bunch of transcripts and pass it out, it is all in there.

Q It was interpreted as a softening of the President's attitude on November 13, that there was a little give there, is that true?

MR. NESSEN: The position has not changed since November 13 until today.

Q Could you not give us a little synopsis of it?

MR. NESSEN: You remember that world famous briefing, don't you?

Q Why don't you re-read a couple paragraphs of it?

Q It is all a blur, Ron.

MR. NESSEN: What?

Q I said it is all a blur--November 13.

MR. NESSEN: Yes, that was a busy day, wasn't it.

At the meeting which began at 12:20 today and is scheduled to last for 30 minutes are Congressmen Rhodes and Stanton, Secretary Simon, Alan Greenspan, Dick Cheney, Jack Marsh and Max Friedersdorf.

Well, among the other things said on the 13th of November was -- you know, that was the briefing in which we talked about, at long last, New York City and State are solving their own financial problems, trying to, or saying they are going to. "This is what the President has been urging and the President feels that the action, or promised action, is a result of his own firm position against the Federal bail out. Simon has asked Carey to send him the full details of the plan and asked the participants to indicate their commitment and"--

Q Has Simon gotten that yet?

MR. NESSEN: He has gotten the plan. I am not sure he has gotten the written commitment yet.

Q Do you know whether the Governor or the mayor would be in here to see the President for a verbal commitment?

MR. NESSEN: There is no plan that I know of to do that.

Q Do you know whether the President has spoken to either one of them?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I know of.

Q Is the President going to tip his hand today to Rhodes as to whether he would support the legislation?

MR. NESSEN: What, the Rhodes-Reuss legislation? I don't know, since I am not in the meeting.

Q Does the President plan to make a statement within the next 48 hours on his current feelings about New York City?

MR. NESSEN: I am giving you his feelings as of about 30 minutes ago, which is, there is no change.

Q Does he plan to personally make any statement on television?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I know of. He didn't talk to me about it.

Q Ron, there is a meeting going on now with major people from the Hill. There will be a review later this afternoon. Does it look like we are moving towards something?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know what you mean by "moving towards something." After all, what is happening now is that New York City and New York State are promising or saying they are going to take some action to solve their own problem. That is what the President has been urging for six months. It is not something that really requires or needs a White House decision or statement or announcement at this time. They say they are going to do something, to solve their own problems.

Q And they are saying that they will do something with the expectation that there will be some form of Federal assistance once they do it?

MR. NESSEN: Again, it is as it was on November 13.

Q Why is he meeting, if he is still unconcerned?

MR. NESSEN: Because to keep track of what is happening in New York City and New York State's own efforts to --

Q He is meeting with Hill people. He is not meeting with people --

MR. NESSEN: They asked for the meeting.

Q Why?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. You need to ask them.

Q Do you mean to give the impression, Ron, that the President has arrived at a position on this that is more or less set and that he is not concerned at all with all of this agitation in recent days and the concern of Rhodes? You are giving the impression that he is locked in and he does not have --

MR. NESSEN: No, the impression I mean to give is that his position today is exactly the way it was on November 13, but that obviously he is keeping up with the situation and seeing if New York City and State actually take the action that they have talked about taking.

Q Are you likely to have anything after the 3 p.m. meeting this afternoon?

MR. NESSEN: I doubt it. Again, because the action is not here, the action should be in New York City and State.

Q There is a lot of action here if the only two major meetings he is having today are on New York.

MR. NESSEN: You know there is never any action at these meetings, Helen.

That is a joke.

Q If he is so interested in keeping abreast of what is going on, then why isn't he meeting with the Governor or the mayor? I think the Governor is in town today.

MR. NESSEN: There has not been any request for one that I know of.

Q Why isn't he requesting it? He is interested in keeping track of this.

MR. NESSEN: He has these monitors that have been monitoring the situation and we are monitoring the situation.

Q Do you know whether the monitors have plans to see Governor Carey or Mayor Beame?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that.

Q What is the meeting at 3:00?

MR. NESSEN: The Economic Policy Board.

Q Would it be possible to have Rhodes and Stanton come out here after the meeting?

MR. NESSEN: I can ask them.

Q Ron, what was the President's reaction to the cover stories in both Time and Newsweek, the subject being A Man From a Western State? What was his reaction? Has he seen them?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that he has seen them yet.

Q He has not seen either Time or Newsweek?

MR. NESSEN: I say I don't know whether he has or not.

Q Ron, is Zarb urging the President to sign the energy bill?

MR. NESSEN: No, what Frank did this morning was to simply run through with the President how much of the bill has been written down on paper so far and discussed that, and the fact that the process will continue and the President telling Frank to continue to participate and watch the drafting process so that as it comes out on paper, it is in line with what was verbally agreed to by the conferees.

Q That indicates that he would sign it, does it not, if in fact --

MR. NESSEN: It does not indicate it to me.

Q It doesn't?

MR. NESSEN: No, it certainly doesn't.

Q If he is so concerned, why so interested in the line by line, word for word?

MR. NESSEN: In getting a bill that accurately represents what the conferees agreed to verbally and then read it and decide whether to sign it or veto it.

Q Is that a function of the Administration if the Administration has not given some sort of tacit approval to what the conferees did?

MR. NESSEN: I can tell you for sure, having just emerged a few minutes ago from that meeting, that the President has not made up his mind, is not tilting in any direction. He has simply not made up his mind one way or the other.

Q Ron, is it unusual for the President to have one of his men monitor a Congressional bill that comes out of a conference?

MR. NESSEN: Oh, no. I think Frank took part in the negotiations and in the agreements, as you all know, and he will continue to take part in it.

Q So he knows what the agreement was, the President knows?

MR. NESSEN: He knows what the verbal agreement was, and the President's decision will depend on the actual legal language of the bill.

Q Ron, did Zarb get clearance from the President for the verbal agreement that he made, that FEA made with the conferees?

MR. NESSEN: Frank was operating as the Administrator of the FEA, but the President has not committed to either sign or veto the bill until he has had a chance to read it.

Q Ron, if the written agreement tallies with the verbal agreement, would the President then sign the bill?

MR. NESSEN: He has not decided, Bill.

Q When is this supposed to happen? When does the President expect to have this before him and make the decision?

MR. NESSEN: He expects to have the written bill before him on Thursday or Friday. Now, whether he will make the decision at that time, because after all that will only be the agreed upon conference report. That still needs to be approved by the Senate and House before coming here in the form of a bill for signature or veto, and I believe Congress goes off on a vacation -- what is it, Friday?

Q Thursday.

MR. NESSEN: Thursday.

Q If the President signs this bill, won't this represent a significant about face for him on the issue of decontrol?

MR. NESSEN: Since he has not decided whether to sign or veto, I just think it is premature.

Q Let me phrase it this way. Is he considering a serious about face on decontrol because if he signs, it is 180 degrees from what he has been preaching all over the country.

MR. NESSEN: You were in Paris, and you know how he analyzed the bill there based on his understanding of it at that point, saying it had good points and bad points. It is a close call. I mean, let's face it, this is one of the closest calls on any piece of legislation that he has had, and it would be incorrect -- and I am telling you this on the basis of the very freshest information right out of the Oval Office, he has not made a choice, and it is a close one.

Q Ron, was Frank Zarb in effect winging it up there on his own and not necessarily trying to get the approval of the President as he was negotiating this with the lawmakers?

MR. NESSEN: Certainly, he was negotiating in an effort to get the best energy bill he could, but you know he was not coming back here for instructions every day on the language of the bill. It was always going to be finally up to the President to decide whether what did emerge was good enough to be signed.

Q Ron, Zarb said Friday night that he thinks this is the best energy bill that it is possible for the Administration to get out of Congress. Does that not indicate that the President would therefore sign it?

MR. NESSEN: Look, I came out of the Oval Office 15 or 20 minutes ago after a discussion of this subject. I talked about it with the President over the weekend. I can tell you on the basis of the most up-to-the-minute information I can get he has not decided. I know that for a fact.

Q You are waffling again. (Laughter)

Q What is bothering him, and why is it taking him so long to make up his mind?

Q I would like to know the answer.

MR. NESSEN: He would like to see the bill before he decides whether to sign it or not. That is simple enough. That is true of any bill.

Q Well, he knows the key elements in it.

MR. NESSEN: This is not a bill where you know the key elements of it.

Q Is he worried that the Congressmen, when they actually put it all down on paper, might change something that was agreed to verbally in the committee?

MR. NESSEN: As I said the other night, I don't know if you were here after the meeting with the conferees, that the conferees have varying memories of the precise language that they agreed upon.

Q Did Zarb express any opinion that this agreement is going to come unglued in the writing down of it? I mean, was he concerned that the people had enough different impressions of what was agreed to that the actual final version you get written down is going to not seem like what was agreed to?

MR. NESSEN: No, he didn't say that.

Q Ron, can we go back to New York for just a minute? You said a moment ago I think that you didn't think that the situation required a statement from the White House at this point, New York is taking its action.

But there are numerous reports that Members of Congress and people in New York and Albany are all kind of waiting to see what the President's position is. Now you were asked if he was going to make any statement or a speech on this. Are you also saying that as far as you know that the President is not going to convey his position on these bills privately to these people?

MR. NESSEN: His position is what it was last November 13.

Q Well, obviously, there is some confusion on just what that position is.

MR. NESSEN: Well, get the transcript and read it.

Q If you cannot elaborate on that --

MR. NESSEN: There is nothing to elaborate on. I mean, there simply has been no change.

Q But yet when we asked you on November 13 if there had been any change, you said the situation had changed and strongly left the impression, at least, that the President's position had changed to fit the new circumstances.

MR. NESSEN: Well, from November 13 until today there has been no change.

Q Well, can you then answer my second question which was are you equally saying that not only is the President not going to make a public statement, but that he is not privately communicating to the people involved what his position is regarding this legislation?

MR. NESSEN: As far as I know, there are no plans to, and I don't know what legislation it is you mean.

Q Well, for example, I believe Senator Javits is reported to have said this morning at a news conference that he had been told that the plan for Federally guaranteed loans on the order of, I think, \$2-1/2 billion was acceptable to the White House and that he had been advised that the President would make his position known within 48 hours. Perhaps that is what Tom Brokaw was referring to, but, in any case, are you denying that?

MR. NESSEN: Look, all I am saying is that his position is exactly what it was on the 13th. I don't know of any plans to convey any change or anything different to anybody involved in this, I am not sure what legislation it is you are talking about. Right now it is New York City and New York State which have said they are going to do something and they presumably are going to go about doing it.

Q Ron, will you see us after the 3 o'clock meeting with the Economic Policy Board?

MR. NESSEN: I can if you would like.

Q Ron, have the President's economic advisers, his New York City monitors, encouraged him to accept the \$2-1/2 billion proposal that they are said to agree among themselves on?

MR. NESSEN: Again, that is unchanged from last week, too, Jim, in that there is no -- at this point there is no Federal role that I know of.

Q Well, forgive me but I didn't know that that \$2-1/2 billion proposal existed last week.

MR. NESSEN: Well, we talked in general terms of this so-called seasonal need.

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: And there was a question of would the money come from the Federal Government and so forth, and I told you his views about it didn't have to come from the Federal Government and so forth. All of that has not changed.

Q You determined, Ron, didn't you, whether indeed it had to come or whether it could come from other sources? Has he made such a determination?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think he said he had to determine that, no.

Q Well, yes, you did. You said the President would have to decide whether it could be brought in from elsewhere or whether the Federal Government indeed was the only place it could come from. Do you know if his people have helped him make such a determination?

MR. NESSEN: No. It is not up for a decision.

Q Ron, did the President meet with the Attorney General this morning?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Was that about the subpoenas or the Supreme Court nominee or both?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know what the subject was actually.

Q Why wasn't it on the schedule?

MR. NESSEN: It was another sort of last minute drop-in.

Q Last minute drop-in? Then why weren't we told exactly when it happened?

MR. NESSEN: I am telling you now.

Q How long did he spend with him?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think it was very long. I will have to check.

Q And you don't know what the subject was?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know what the subject was.

Q Is it because you don't want us to try to see him?

MR. NESSEN: No, I don't have any problem with your seeing him. You know that.

Q Can you find out what the topic was?

MR. NESSEN: I can ask.

Q Ron, on a day like this when you come out and say you have no announcements, does that mean we have to ask you about everybody we hear has gone into the Oval Office before you will tell us about last minute additions to his schedule?

MR. NESSEN: No. I very often tell you about that.

Q Who else has been in?

MR. NESSEN: Various staff people.

Q Has the President narrowed his list of candidates for a replacement for Justice Douglas?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know how many were on the original list, or, if there was a list, who was on it.

Q Can you be helpful in this regard? Are we any closer to getting a nominee? Can you give us any sort of time frame, please, as to when the President will make this decision?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Ron, to get back to the New York City situation, what you are saying is the President's position will remain unchanged until New York takes action itself and then there will be a review?

MR. NESSEN: Again, Tom, it is what we said last week. The President will watch what the city and State do, and that is precisely what he is doing -- he is watching what the city and State do -- and that is why I say there is no change.

Q With an eye towards ultimately what?

MR. NESSEN: With an eye toward ultimately finding out what they do.

Q Let's take it one step further, please. If New York City and the State make progress which the President considers sufficient toward putting the city's fiscal house back in order, will the President then be included to accept legislation similar to Reuss-Rhodes? Is he leaning favorably at this time toward some sort of loan guarantee?

MR. NESSEN: He is not leaning anywhere. He is exactly where he was last week, watching to see what they do.

Q Specifically, his position will remain unchanged as long as we are in the state of flux?

MR. NESSEN: He is watching what New York City and State do, and I guess as long as they keep doing something, he will keep watching them do it.

Q Why is he so concerned about what they are doing when he is not really concerned about giving them Federal aid? I mean, I don't understand constant monitoring for something he does not have any hand in. He thinks it is their problem, and he said that many times.

So, the question is, why is he so deeply concerned as to going to two major meetings today?

MR. NESSEN: I think, Helen, you know he has been keeping up with the New York City situation for six months.

Q We gather that he is going to make an announcement today or tomorrow.

MR. NESSEN: I don't know where you gather that from.

Q Ron, has he talked with anyone this morning other than Zarb on the energy bill?

MR. NESSEN: There were a number of other people in the Zarb meeting.

Q Who were they?

MR. NESSEN: Cheney was there, Marsh, Friedersdorf, Nessen and Hartmann.

Q Did he talk to anyone outside of the Administration?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I know of. Did you have some indication that he did?

Q No.

Q Yes, I had some indication he was going to talk to some people from the oil industry.

MR. NESSEN: I hadn't heard that.

Q You know he has not?

MR. NESSEN: As far as I know, he has not.

Q He has no plans?

MR. NESSEN: As far as I know.

Q Would it be inaccurate to conclude that the New York City situation within the White House is coming to a head and that a decision will be forthcoming within the next 48 hours? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q That is inaccurate?

MR. NESSEN: Right, but it was a good try.

Q When was the Economic Policy Board meeting set up, and will it deal with subjects other than New York City?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think so. It was set up after Cheney's meeting with the President, which would have been about 11:15, I guess.

Q Is the President going to stay in the country and in the city until the China trip?

MR. NESSEN: As far as I know.

Q Does the President plan to hold a press conference or make a TV address on the result of the economic conference in Paris?

MR. NESSEN: No, I think his views on that were made known at the end of the meeting in the City Hall at Rambouillet.

I don't know of any plans for a press conference.

Q On the energy bill, is it fair to say that the President is waiting to see the version as adopted by the conferees or passed by the Congress?

MR. NESSEN: The first thing he wants to see is the bill as it comes out of conference, and then at that point there is no Presidential decision required because there is nothing to sign or veto at that point.

Q Is that what you are talking about on Thursday or Friday?

MR. NESSEN: Thursday or Friday he will get the Conference Committee report in writing. Now, what their legislative scheduling is and how it fits in with the vacation, I don't know whether they will put it off until after their holiday or try to pass it before going home.

Q Before we quit, can I just go back to New York for one more minute. When you were talking about the Reuss bill and the Reuss-Rhodes compromise and saying that -- I think you said that this bill would fall into the category.

MR. NESSEN: I think all the bills that are up there, as we said last week, I described --

Q You said at that point they were irrelevant.

MR. NESSEN: No, I quoted myself from last week as saying that the bills up there that the President has said were irrelevant because they were drafted at one time and the circumstances are different at this time.

Q So, you are saying that this bill falls into that category of being --

MR. NESSEN: It was up there beforehand, or at least the basic bill with different numbers in it was up there and the concept.

Q Secondly, I think on the 13th, when we asked you about the President's opposition to Federal guaranteed loans, I think you said that it was premature at that point to respond and that you really had not discussed that at any length with anybody.

Can you respond to that today?

MR. NESSEN: No. Whatever I said then, it is exactly the same. I don't know whether that is what I said then, but whatever I said then is the same.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END (AT 12:55 P.M. EST)

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 5:33 P.M. EST

NOVEMBER 18, 1975

TUESDAY

MR. NESSEN: The President will make a statement at some time tomorrow on New York City.

Q That is less than 48 hours.

Q What kind of a statement? Do you mean on his position on Federal aid to New York City?

MR. NESSEN: A statement on New York City.

Q How will he make the statement? On television?

MR. NESSEN: A statement.

Q Is he asking for television?

MR. NESSEN: The time, the place, the format, the content has not been decided.

Q Some of us will probably want to carry it live.

Q When did he decide to make the statement?

MR. NESSEN: When he was in with the Republican members of the New York State Legislature (delegation).

Q You mean he didn't decide to make it when he was meeting with John Rhodes because Rhodes came out and told us he would have a statement.

MR. NESSEN: If he did, he didn't tell me about it, and my indication is that he did not.

Q Has he changed his position on aid to New York?

MR. NESSEN: His position at this hour is precisely what it was on November 13.

Q Has the President made a decision?

MR. NESSEN: On what?

Q On a new course of action.

MR. NESSEN: I just said that his position at this moment is precisely what it was on November 13.

Q Then why the statement tomorrow?

MR. NESSEN: He wants to make a statement.

Q If it has not changed, why does he want to say something?

MR. NESSEN: Why don't you wait and see what is in the statement?

Q Has he decided that he will make some kind of alteration tomorrow, however?

MR. NESSEN: He will make a statement tomorrow.

Q Why are you being so obtuse?

MR. NESSEN: I could not be more clear.

Q Tell us what has gone on in the meeting.

MR. NESSEN: Let's have some real red meat here.

Q How about a real readout on the meeting?

MR. NESSEN: People are filing. Go get the people who are filing, Bill.

Q What are they filing?

MR. NESSEN: The members of the New York delegation, the President has been getting kind of secondhand and third-hand various comments and thoughts that these members have, so he said to Max Friedersdorf this morning, "Let's get some of them in here," and then he decided later to get all the members of the New York delegation, Republicans, into the White House and listen to their comments and recommendations and thoughts firsthand.

That is precisely what the meeting consisted of, was going around the table and hearing from each member of the Congressional delegation, Republicans from New York State, what they thought of the situation.

Q Would you characterize their recommendations?

MR. NESSEN: I think probably some of you spoke to them outside, and you know that their recommendations and comments range across the spectrum.

Q From what to what?

MR. NESSEN: I will let them speak for themselves, Phil.

Q There were more than New York people. I saw John Rhodes.

MR. NESSEN: John Rhodes was the only other one, as House Republican Leader.

Q Are you going to put on a lid after this for the night?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Senator Javits said something about a short-term cash flow solution having been presented to the President.

MR. NESSEN: No, Senator Javits mentioned a story in the New York Times this morning and that was how that matter came up.

Q How did the President respond to that?

MR. NESSEN: He made no commitment to anything today other than to make a statement.

Q Could you explain, does the President need time to write out a statement, to get it written, or why tomorrow instead of tonight?

Q Is he still making up his mind?

MR. NESSEN: Why not?

Q Is he still making up his mind?

MR. NESSEN: In the sense that his position at this minute is precisely what it was on November 13, there is nothing to make up his mind on.

Q Ron, do you anticipate additional meetings with economic advisers or others before tomorrow's statement?

MR. NESSEN: I would think so, yes.

Q Will they be from outside the immediate White House family? Would they be Mayor Beame, for example?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Governor Carey?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Does he anticipate meeting with the Republican leaders of the New York Legislature?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Or talk to them?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Radio is getting up against the six o'clock deadline.

MR. NESSEN: It is 22 of.

Q In response to the initial question, are you saying that at this point you cannot tell us whether or not the President is going to change his position in any way in his statement tomorrow?

MR. NESSEN: As of this hour, his position is exactly what it was on November 13.

Q Why does he want to make the statement?

MR. NESSEN: Why don't you wait and see?

Q Ron, when you say a statement, might it be a speech?

MR. NESSEN: Not necessarily. It might be issued through me or in written form or various ways, a letter to somebody. It could be anything. It has not been decided.

Q Could you clarify something about that November 13? It is my impression, and I may be wrong, that the President is not going to do anything until the legislature acts up there. Am I wrong in that assumption?

MR. NESSEN: You are 100 percent right.

Q Ron, has the President received the commitments that he wanted from those involved in the Carey plan?

MR. NESSEN: He has seen what Governor Carey has proposed.

Q But he was waiting for written commitments, I believe, according to either you or the President or Simon.

MR. NESSEN: I am not sure whether he has received them or not.

Q Ron, is he going to write to anybody that you know of?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I know of.

Q You say it could be a letter.

MR. NESSEN: You know, the form of whatever he is going to say tomorrow has not been decided.

Q Did the President instruct Rhodes to ask Rodino to get the Judiciary Committee moving on the bankruptcy legislation that the President proposed some months ago?

MR. NESSEN: The President does want the bankruptcy bill passed. I am told that the Senate Judiciary passed it this afternoon, and some Member there indicated that the House would also be moving on it.

Q So just to clarify, there are two conditions for the President: The Judiciary Committee has to move the bankruptcy bill out on to the floor, and the New York State Legislature has to do something, is that correct?

MR. NESSEN: Conditions for what?

Q You said over here that he was 100 percent correct in interpreting the November 13 position as requiring action by the New York Legislature.

MR. NESSEN: That has been his position for six or nine months, I guess, that it is something for New York City and New York State to do, to take whatever action they decide on to avoid default. That is not new on November 13 or in the Press Club or whenever this first came up in April or May, I guess.

That has not changed from the first day, as he restated in the Press Club, and as I restated it here on the 13th. It is for the city and the State to take what action they decide on to avoid default.

Q Have the President's legislative advisers told him that he really should make another statement in order to help movement in Congress?

MR. NESSEN: Of what?

Q Of his position? Have they told him that the Congress wants another statement from him before it will act?

MR. NESSEN: No, they have not.

Q Do we take it then, Ron, that the statement tomorrow is merely underlining his position once again?

MR. NESSEN: Why don't we wait and see what he says tomorrow?

Q Did he discuss with Rhodes the statement the other day that he would not oppose the co-guarantor agreement with the State Legislature?

MR. NESSEN: Rhodes indicated that that was not precisely what his position was.

Q Ron, Rhodes came out earlier this afternoon and said he was authorized to say that the President would veto that House Banking Committee bill in the amount of \$3 billion. Could you shed any light on that? Was that a correct statement of the President's position?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END (AT 5:40 P.M. EST)