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

#379

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 12:15 P.M. EST

NOVEMBER 22, 1975

SATURDAY

MR. NESSEN: Let me give you a few details of the President's day today and then put a lid on.

He is at a luncheon now in the Residence with mostly staff primarily to talk about State of the Union and legislative proposals and he will be back in the office this afternoon and plans to work all afternoon up until about 6:00 or 7:00 in the office.

I think Bill, based on some earlier information, may have indicated that he was going to watch the football game, but that has been scrubbed now because of meetings in the office this afternoon.

He may catch a snatch or so of the game in between meetings but he is not going to be able to watch the game.

As you know, he had a two-hour budget meeting this morning, he will have a two-hour budget meeting tomorrow afternoon, Sunday afternoon, beginning at 1:00.

Q I am sorry. Could you go back over that?

MR. NESSEN: Budget meeting at 1:00 Sunday afternoon lasting about two hours.

Also, delivered to him this morning were two rather thick books of briefing papers on China and he will be working on those over the weekend, too -- beginning to work his way through those.

Q Are those from the State Department?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

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Then, looking ahead just a little bit, aside from the budget meeting tomorrow afternoon, on Monday he has, among other things, the swearing-in of the new FAA Administrator and Monday evening there will be a dinner honoring the Federal Judiciary. This is an annual event -- traditional dinner at the White House.

The invitees include the Justices of the Supreme Court, the Chairmen and ranking Republicans of the Senate and House Judiciary Committees, the Chief Justices, Chief Judges of the various Circuit Courts and other members of the Federal bench, the Chairman of the Conference of State Chief Justices. From the Justice Department, the Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General and Solicitor General, and from the White House, Buchen, Marsh, Ed Schmults and Ken Lazarus and Dick Parsons.

It begins at 8 o'clock.

Q About how many Judges all together is that?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have a total number of give you.

Q Over, like, 40? In that neighborhood, a couple dozen?

MR. NESSEN: I just don't have the list.

Q Is that going to be open, Ron, for any kind of coverage?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think so.

Q Ron, will there be pool coverage?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, a pool coverage of the arrivals and toasts.

Q Will he have decided on who is going to be the new Justice?

MR. NESSEN: I just don't have a timetable.

Q Who is the FAA Administrator being sworn in?

MR. NESSEN: John L. McLucas. That is at 11:30 on Monday.

Q What time is he going to meet with Moynihan?

MR. NESSEN: Moynihan will be in on Monday and I don't have a time for you on that.

Q Did the President ask him to come?

MR. NESSEN: Well, I don't know exactly how the meeting was set up but, yes, the President did ask him to come in.

Q When did he ask him to come in? Yesterday?

MR. NESSEN: The President has not talked to him directly but the word was passed to Pat to come Monday.

Q Was it because of the publicity yesterday?

MR. NESSEN: Pat indicated that he wanted to talk to the President and the President indicated he wanted to talk to Pat.

Q That was done yesterday?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, the meeting was arranged.

Q Is Moynihan going to stay on?

MR. NESSEN: The President certainly wants him to and the Secretary of State certainly wants him to.

Q Ron, what is the status of the New York review? I was never quite clear on whether the President is going to make another statement or is simply going to keep in under review.

MR. NESSEN: I think it depends on what the review shows, Bob.

Q In other words, he has not committed himself to making any kind of public statement or taking any kind of public action. He simply is saying "I am going to review it for a week?"

MR. NESSEN: "I am going to review it early next week" is what he said and I feel that the rest of it was to determine what, if any, Federal legislation was needed.

Q But he has not committed himself to making a public statement after his review?

MR. NESSEN: No.

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Q But to a decision?

MR. NESSEN: To review it, to determine whether any is needed.

Q What about energy, do you have anything on that?

MR. NESSEN: No, the bill has not gotten anywhere. I don't know whether the completed conference report is here in writing or not. Of course, no Presidential action is required until the Senate and House approve the conference.

Q Would you expect that the President might make his feelings of the bill known before they take final action?

MR. NESSEN: I just don't know one way or the other on that one.

So why don't we put a lid on for the day.

Q Ron, excuse me. You said you don't have a timetable for the Supreme Court nomination.

MR. NESSEN: No, I don't have a timetable.

Q Does that mean, in effect, that it is certainly possible that he would not make his choice known before going to China?

MR. NESSEN: I just don't have a timetable, Dick.

Q Why isn't he going to the Kennedy Center with Mrs. Ford tonight? He is just going to stay home and play poker with the boys?

MR. NESSEN: What is the event?

Q Kennedy Center with Dobrynin and Kissinger.

Q Does it have anything to do with international diplomacy, not going to a Soviet concert a week before he goes to China?

MR. NESSEN: No, it does not have any foreign policy implications.

Q Does the President's decision to hold this budget meeting tomorrow afternoon represent a snub to the football game? (Laughter)

Q What is he working on when he comes back this afternoon? You said he is going to be in the office until 6:00 or 7:00.

MR. NESSEN: He has a couple of staff people working on those two books on China.

Q Do you know what the subject of tomorrow's budget session is? Yesterday we were told it was defense.

MR. NESSEN: Today was State Department aid and Export-Import Bank.

I have to check. I have not seen the briefing paper.

MR. GREENER: I will go look.

Q Ron, has the President had any discussions with anybody on the Supreme Court nomination at this point?

MR. NESSEN: He has talked to Levi about it.

Q When he was in to see him on busing or apart from that?

MR. NESSEN: No, he talked to him aside from that. Buchen is really the contact with Levi.

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Q Has Levi's name been submitted?

MR. NESSEN: I am not going to comment on any particular names.

Q In other words, the President essentially is waiting to see what selections come to him?

MR. NESSEN: No, Levi is part of the process. The President has some ideas of his own and I think some other people have given him some ideas.

Q You say you have no timetable.

MR. NESSEN: Right.

Q I can appreciate that but I am just wondering how much time the President himself is devoting to this question at this point or are we really at a stage where there are a whole lot of considerations that have to be made at a lesser level before he can really begin to evaluate different individuals?

MR. NESSEN: Well, I don't know if I can give you the exact number of minutes a day he spends on it but he is spending time on it by himself.

Q Was the first list that was given to the ABA Committee compiled by Levi or was it compiled by the President?

MR. NESSEN: Compiled by Levi.

Q And the second list was compiled by the White House and the President, or I mean was there a difference in the way the two lists were compiled?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know how the second list was put together.

Q It would not be before he goes to China though that he makes his decision?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have any timetable on it.

Q Is there a possibility of church tomorrow?

MR. NESSEN: He usually decides in the afternoon to get the word around.

Q Does this mean then that we have a lid through the weekend?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Except for church.

MR. NESSEN: Unless there is church.

Did you find out?

MR. GREENER: Didn't have the paper.

Q Who else is going to China -- Mrs. Ford,
Jack, Susan?

MR. NESSEN: Susan.

Q Is Jack going?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I know of.

Q Mrs. Ford is going.

MR. NESSEN: At the moment it is shaping up
that way.

Q But it is not actually finalized?

MR. NESSEN: The whole list of people has not
been finalized yet; that is what we have been working on for
the past couple of days.

Okay. That is the lid.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END (AT 12:24 P.M. EST)