

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

NEWS CONFERENCE

#403

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 10:00 A.M. MST

DECEMBER 29, 1975

MONDAY

(Vail, Colorado)

MR. NESSEN: First of all, let me run through the President's schedule. The first thing is the travel pool that will go with the President to the slopes this morning should meet Dorrance here at 10:25. The President yesterday afternoon spent about an hour to an hour and 15 minutes meeting with Dick Cheney and then General Scowcroft to go over some papers and do some business.

Today, the President will be skiing at about 10:45. He will ski today, I guess, in keeping with the spirit of Time Magazine, with Penny Tweedy, a Vail resident and, as some of you know, the owner of Secretariat and other horses; with Nancy Kindel, Ted Kindel's wife, some original settlers of Vail; Gloria Brown; with Sheika Gramshammer and with Henri Patty.

Q What was the reference to Time Magazine about?

MR. NESSEN: I am told Time Magazine this year picked no Man of the Year but instead picked 12 Women of the Year -- an attempt at light humor, as opposed to heavy humor. (Laughter)

Penny Tweedy is not one of the Women of the Year -- Mrs. Ford is.

Q Did she have any reaction?

MR. NESSEN: Sheila will have something on that.

We have a guest celebrity here today -- Billy Kidd -- a great skier, and I think Billy will be making at least one run with the President today.

Then after skiing, the President will go back to his residence and we will have some time this afternoon to work with Dick Cheney and General Scowcroft.

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After that, the President will attend the Tamale Party being given by CBS and NBC.

Q No, given by Brokaw and Schieffer, as a matter of fact. (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: Then after the Tamale Party, the President will go to a dinner given in his honor and Mrs. Ford's honor by Pepi and Sheika Gramshammer at Sheika's club -- about 100 people, 50 couples, or 52 couples, I guess -- mostly friends from Vail.

We were asked last night, or during the day yesterday, whether the President was sending a letter of condolence to the widow of Sir Patrick Shaw, who was the Australian Ambassador to Washington. He died in Washington on Saturday evening.

The President did send a letter of condolence to the widow and also a letter of condolence to the Prime Minister of Australia.

The only other thing I want to remind you of was the plans for baggage pick-up and transportation and so forth have been posted and you should take a look, if you haven't already, so that you can see when you need to have your bags ready for pick-up.

Q Can we get some times now on the President's departure, arrival and so on?

MR. NESSEN: I believe he leaves here at -- do you have the schedule, John?

MR. CARLSON: 11 o'clock departure.

MR. NESSEN: From the residence?

He leaves the residence at 11:00 and drives to Avon, which is about a 15 minute drive, then goes by helicopter to Grand Junction, which is about an hour flight, and what is the Air Force One take-off time from Grand Junction?

MR. CARLSON: 12:30.

MR. NESSEN: 12:30 take-off from Grand Junction.

Q What time at Andrews?

MR. NESSEN: Into Andrews at 5:50 and into the White House about 6:10.

Q Will he have a chance to ski in the morning?

MR. NESSEN: No, he doesn't plan to.

Q Will you brief tomorrow?

MR. NESSEN: No, there won't be anybody here to brief.

Q Could you tell us anything about his plans for the rest of the week -- particularly I am thinking of New Year's Eve?

MR. NESSEN: The plans for New Year's Eve are not set yet.

Q Are you finished with the announcements?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Is General Scowcroft feeling all right?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, I talked to him this morning. He is going skiing this afternoon with Pepi. Why?

Q I thought he had a cold or something.

MR. NESSEN: No, not that I know of. If he does, it is not enough to keep him off the slopes.

Q Could you give us more details about the dinner tonight with Pepi and Sheika and the 52 couples?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that much about it, Phil, except they indicated some time ago they wanted to give a dinner in honor of the President and Mrs. Ford and they are.

Q You apparently are not aware this is a fund raiser for the President.

MR. NESSEN: It is not a fund raiser for the President.

Q How come they have been putting a bite on everybody then?

Q What is the \$1,000 per couple to go for then?

MR. NESSEN: There has been a series of communications back and forth between the White House and Sheika about this and I think the pertinent correspondence took place on November 14 when Bill Nicholson, who is the Director of the White House Scheduling Office, wrote Sheika a letter. It says that "the President is appreciative of your dinner invitation for December 29 and will be happy to attend." Then it says, "as usual, his schedule is subject to unforeseen changes," and so forth.

I think the key paragraph is this one. "The President realizes and appreciates your eagerness to aid his 1976 campaign efforts by hosting a fund raising activity while he is in Vail, however, the trip will be a working vacation only. Therefore, the President will not be able to participate in any fund raising activities during his Vail stay."

Q Was that 1976 campaign efforts, plural?

MR. NESSEN: Efforts, plural.

Then there is another paragraph suggesting or saying that Bill has asked a member of the President Ford Committee to get in touch with Sheika to give her the proper guidelines for whatever other activities she might want to get herself involved in, after having been told that the dinner cannot be a fund raiser.

It says that this gentleman will be able to adequately respond to your questions on this subject. So that is the story, that she was told -- I guess a month and a half ago -- that the President could not take part in a fund raiser and the fact is that the dinner is not a fund raiser.

Q Who will get the \$52,000?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know what \$52,000 that is.

Q \$1,000 per couple. The White House is not aware people have been asked to give \$1,000?

MR. NESSEN: I feel somewhat uncomfortable, I must say, speaking for Sheika's activities but I --

Q You are speaking for the President's activities.

MR. NESSEN: I have just given you what Sheika was told clearly by the White House, which is that the President could not take part in a fund raiser.

Q The President wouldn't want to go to a dinner where people were dunned \$1,000 a couple without knowing what the proceeds were for, would he?

MR. NESSEN: Again, I do feel uncomfortable doing this, but I was told -- just a second.

That letter went out and said that somebody from the PFC would be in touch with Sheika and the man's name who was in touch with her was Ed DeBolt. He is a member of the PFC Finance Committee. He did this by telephone. He told her --

Q Can you tell us when he called her?

MR. NESSEN: Right around the same time Nicholson sent her the letter, which would have been sort of mid-November. He told her -- really reinforcing the letter -- that there would be no quid pro quo, meaning that people who wished to contribute to the Ford campaign, that there should be no connection between their desire or willingness to contribute to the Ford campaign and their invitation to the dinner.

I think what is causing perhaps some of the confusion is that Sheika has been raising funds for the President's campaign and she has sent out pledge cards asking people to raise money for the campaign. However, these pledge cards, first of all, some of the people who are attending the dinner did get pledge cards, some of the people who are attending the dinner did not get pledge cards. Pledge cards went to people who are not coming to the dinner.

Q Is that because they have already given that they didn't get pledge cards? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that much detail, Frank. But, as I say -- what was that laugh about?

Q I thought your answer was funny, Ron.

MR. NESSEN: I am trying to pick my way through a lot of information here as I understand it, feeling uncomfortable all the while.

Q Why are you uncomfortable?

MR. NESSEN: I do have information I am trying to pass on. I shouldn't be Sheika's Press Secretary.

Q Is there something wrong?

MR. NESSEN: Not in my view, so I am trying to give you as much background as I can.

Pledge cards were sent out by Sheika because she indicated as long ago as last summer that she wanted to help the President's campaign. She sent out pledge cards. Some people going to the dinner got them, some people going to the dinner did not get them.

The pledge cards were sent directly to the President Ford Committee -- I mean the response to the pledge cards were sent to the President Ford Committee.

Sheika presumably didn't know who had pledged and who had not pledged money to the President Ford Committee.

Q You have read selected paragraphs from a couple of letters. Will you post those so we can see the entire context of those letters?

MR. NESSEN: This is a personal letter to Sheika from Bill Nicholson and the other was handled in a phone call, which I am attempting to give you the highlights of.

Let me say this about the \$52,000, Phil, and others, as of December 23 -- which was six days ago, I guess -- eleven donations had come in as a result of these pledge cards that Sheika sent out and the 11 donations totaled \$10,000.

Q Are they all going to the party?

MR. NESSEN: No, they are all going to the President Ford Committee.

Q I mean all these people.

MR. NESSEN: I don't know who the eleven are. You will have to get that from the PFC.

Q Do you know how many cards were sent out?

Q Is the President disappointed with the pledges so far? (laughter)

MR. NESSEN: As I said, one of the things done to make sure this was not a fund raising dinner was that Sheika mailed out the cards but the responses went directly to the PFC and the PFC told Sheika they would not tell her who had contributed from her mailing.

Q But they would tell us, you said?

MR. NESSEN: You have to ask them whether they will or not.

Q Ron, would you --

MR. NESSEN: Let me go through everything I have and then see if we can get to the questions.

The fellow in the Legal Counsel's Office to the President Ford Committee has reviewed everything that happened and has concluded this is not a fund raiser under the legal definition.

Q What is not?

Q What is the legal definition?

Q Who is that?

MR. NESSEN: I think it is Bob Visser. One of the lawyers on the President Ford Committee has given the opinion this is not a fund raiser under the legal definition.

Q What is not?

MR. NESSEN: The dinner Sheika is giving is not a fund raiser.

Q Is she charging money to get in?

MR. NESSEN: No. I think I tried to explain that.

Let me finish everything I have and see if any questions remain.

Q What is that guy's name that is giving this opinion?

MR. NESSEN: The last name is Visser, V-I-S-S-E-R.

John has gone to find out what his first name is.

Also, the President Ford Committee is prepared to handle additional queries on this which I cannot answer.

As I told you from Ed Nicholson's letter, the President agreed to attend only on the condition that this is not a fund raiser and the President has also been assured by Mr. Visser that this event is not a fund raiser.

Q Can you tell then, how the guests were selected?

MR. NESSEN: Then I told you about Bill Nicholson's letter --

Q Is it Ed or Bill?

MR. NESSEN: Bill Nicholson.

Q You said Ed.

MR. NESSEN: Bill Nicholson, I'm sorry.

The one thing I am not clear about is this -- you asked about how many pledge cards were sent out. Over a hundred pledge cards were sent out so, as you see, many more were sent out than are attending the dinner. Sheika does not know who sent in contributions and who did not, because they went directly to the PFC.

Also Sheika says the people coming to dinner tonight are all friends of hers and that is why they are invited to the dinner.

Q The President had no input into the guest list?

MR. NESSEN: According to Sheika, all the dinner guests are friends of hers -- some are also friends of the President, some are not.

Sheika, as I said -- there is no question about it that Sheika, since last summer, has told the President and others that she wants to help his campaign and she is helping his campaign, but she says the dinner is not a fund raiser and that she is having it not in her capacity as someone who is working for the President's campaign, but, rather, in her capacity as a friend of the President.

Q Is that a quote from her?

MR. NESSEN: It is just a loose paraphrase. It is in her capacity as a friend of the President that she is having the party and not in her capacity as someone working for his campaign.

The only thing I am not sure of -- Bob Visser is the Counsel for the President Ford Committee. The only thing I am having John check on is at one point there was an idea Sheika should send out a mailgram to all the people coming to the dinner saying "I want you to realize this dinner is not a fund raiser and you are being invited because you are my friend and not because you may or may not have given money." John is checking to see that that mailgram went out.

Q Were the invitations, at least to those who have not previously given, sent at the same time as the pledge card?

MR. NESSEN: No, that was separate.

Q I was told one couple that got an invitation got the request with the invitation.

MR. NESSEN: In the same envelope?

Q With it -- maybe the same mailing.

MR. NESSEN: It is possible they got it at the same mailing, not the same envelope.

Q Why can't the President go to a fund raiser here?

MR. NESSEN: It would change the nature of the trip and would change the financing of the trip.

Q That would mean the President Ford Committee would have to pay for the trip?

MR. NESSEN: At least part of it.



Q In theory, I suppose, you couldn't pay for this trip with \$52,000?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know that. It would be some kind of pro rata share of the trip because obviously if it were a fund raiser and he attended it, presumably the Federal Election Commission would not rule the entire trip had to be paid for, but presumably the President Ford Committee would have to pay for some of it.

Q That is the reason you have to be so careful?

MR. NESSEN: That is, I would say, the primary reason.

Q Would you say that some of the people coming to dinner tonight never received or were mailed pledge cards?

MR. NESSEN: I can't say that one way or the other because I don't know who she sent pledge cards to except that it was over 100 people. What I can't say is that some of the people coming didn't contribute and some of the contributors are not coming.

Q Let's clean that up. You said earlier some of the people coming tonight were not mailed pledge cards.

MR. NESSEN: Did I say that?

Q Yes.

Q So that means some of them were.

MR. NESSEN: Let me go back over my notes.

I can say categorically the pledge cards and the invitation to the dinner were in separate envelopes. I can also say categorically that some of the guests did not receive pledge cards.

Q Ron, did the pledge cards make any reference to the dinner?

MR. NESSEN: I have not seen the pledge cards.

Q This letter, the Bill Nicholson letter, and also Ed DeBolt's phone call were all in mid-November?

MR. NESSEN: Right.

Q Since the White House is obviously concerned this not be deemed a fund raiser and have the financing changed, has there been any effort made by anybody in the White House to see that what they wanted in this letter, what they say, is being complied with?

MR. NESSEN: Actually, the series of events and communications and so forth go back, frankly, more than a year, Lou. It was really last December that Sheika wrote a letter to the President indicating that she wanted to help his 1976 campaign.

The communications involving this dinner began in October with letters to a couple of people at the White House from Sheika saying that she wanted to give this dinner and asking if the President would attend. She also wrote to the President in October directly. In late October and early November there were a series of phone conversations with Sheika and people at the White House and in those phone calls Sheika was told again and again that this could not be a fund raiser.

Q Why did she have to be told so many times?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. She was also told in October that there was a question about whether the President was going to come to Vail this year.

Then on November 12, there was a phone conversation with Sheika advising that the President --

Q November 12?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, November 12 -- advising Sheika that the President would like to attend a reception or dinner with her friends but he would not attend a fund raiser.

Q Is this the Visser --

MR. NESSEN: No. Then that was committed to writing two days later by Bill Nicholson. In that same period, Ed DeBolt telephoned her and told her the things I have told you that he told her.

Then there was another letter, then there was the Nicholson letter confirming all that in writing.

Q Ron, can we cut through all this --

Q We have a question pending. What I want to know is what happened after that letter? Did someone check with Sheika? Do you have anything showing she will abide by that? That is quite a while ago -- that has been six weeks.

MR. NESSEN: There has been continuing contact with Sheika and the PFC. Ed DeBolt and Bob Visser have continued to be in touch with her and watch the situation since November 14, Bob. I think that continuing contact, I think it would be fair to say, continued right up until the time the President came out here.

Q So she is paying the tab?

MR. NESSEN: That is my understanding, that's right.

Q I would like to ask two things: one, can you confirm that the people going to the dinner, whether they are contributing to the campaign or not, are paying \$1,000 a couple first?

MR. NESSEN: To eat dinner?

Q Whatever.

MR. NESSEN: I have not heard that. I don't think they are paying anything to go to the dinner, they are guests of Sheika and Pepi.

Q This \$1,000, you know nothing about that?

MR. NESSEN: That's correct.

Q My second question was going to be what happens to the \$52,000?

MR. NESSEN: My understanding is that nobody is being charged to go to the dinner.

Q What is the coverage tonight?

MR. NESSEN: The coverage will be a travel pool.

Q Ron, isn't the list of contributors to the PFC eventually to become public property? Don't they, under the law, have to publish who gave what?

MR. NESSEN: That's correct.

Q Then Sheika can find out who gave money?

MR. NESSEN: But the dinner is tonight.

Q She can find out later?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, and not invite them next year, right.

Q Are you aware some people that got the invitations feel they have been pressured by Sheika?

MR. NESSEN: I am not aware of that.

Q Ron, as far as those that attended a reception given by Jim Brown and Dick Bass, was that in any way tied to political fund raising?

MR. NESSEN: No, that is an annual thing. Last year they gave it in the two apartments in the same building. There was such a crush of people that this year it was decided to hold it in one of the public rooms. That had nothing to do with any campaign.

Q Ron, can you acknowledge that some of the people going to the dinner are not contributing?

MR. NESSEN: That is my understanding, that some of the people did not get pledge cards.

Q Are you going?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Ron, can you give us a list of those going to the dinner tonight?

MR. NESSEN: That was not my plan.

Q Did you say Sheika was footing the bill for the entire thing?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q What was Dick's question?

MR. NESSEN: Dick asked whether I was saying Sheika was footing the bill for the dinner. Yes, that is my understanding.

As I say, if you suggest that some of the money contributed by some of the people coming to the dinner is being used to defray the expenses of the dinner, that is not right. The money is being sent directly to the PFC in Washington. Sheika is not seeing the money or getting the money.

Q Ron, this is just a cozy party among friends, but the Ink Spots are going to perform and it is going to be a pretty good show. I would like to officially request at least pool coverage inside.

MR. NESSEN: I don't think so, Phil. I think it falls into the category of all the things he has done. It is 104 people, which is actually smaller than the Brown and Bass reception and smaller than the "Tamale Party" will probably be tonight.

Q The night club has been closed off, there will be a performance --

MR. NESSEN: They may be closed every Monday, I don't know.

Q It will be closed off, the Ink Spots will perform. They have been planning their performance for several weeks. It is a big show.

MR. NESSEN: It is basically a private dinner in honor of the President and Mrs. Ford.

Q Officially we request coverage.

MR. NESSEN: I will officially take it around again and see what we can do.

Q Is this the President's desire that we not be allowed to cover any of these parties?

MR. NESSEN: I wouldn't say the President ever sat down --

Q I don't care if he sat down or not.

MR. NESSEN: -- or stood up or fallen down, for that matter. It certainly conforms with the President's wishes as to how he thinks his vacation ought to be treated in terms of press coverage.

Q Ron, you changed your tactics : along the way. According to the letter you sent to Sheika earlier, this was described as a working vacation. Since you arrived here, the working was dropped and it was strictly a vacation. Why did you change the status?

MR. NESSEN: I thought it was going to be primarily a vacation with some work every day, but it was primarily a vacation, as I have said over the past couple of weeks.

Q On that, you said no decision was made before the President came out here. Now you say the President accepted the invitation on November 12. How do you explain that?

MR. NESSEN: As I say, in early November, late October, Sheika had a number of conversations in which she was told the Vail trip was in question at this time. In Bill Nicholson's letter of the 14th of November she was told, "As usual I will add a note of caution that his schedule is always subject to numerous unforeseen pressures which could preclude his attendance."

We did go through a period where there was some question as to when Congress would complete its work, so the trip was really in some question. I forget when it was precisely decided he was coming but, at the time Sheika was told that there could be unforeseen pressures which would preclude his attendance. That was mid-November.

Q Your answer to Phil's question sounds like you made a request at least for pool coverage before and were turned down. Have you asked for pool coverage of this affair tonight?

MR. NESSEN: No, because I know generally how the President wanted the vacation to be covered and it is a vacation. Those of you who were here last Christmas and in the summer, you know he goes to these private parties because it is sort of the tradition out here in Vail and he just felt he would like to have a little time each evening with his friends to talk and not make it a news event.

Q Some questions have arisen about --

MR. NESSEN: All these parties, except for a very few, the situation has been that he is a guest of people in their homes or in restaurants.

Q They don't have any objection to coverage.

MR. NESSEN: Whenever he has gone out to a public restaurant we have always had the pool inside during the dinner.

Q Am I right in taking from what you replied to Phil, that some questions have been raised that, as far as you know, have not been raised about other events, and you are going to make a request for pool coverage?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q In view of the fact some of these people receiving these invitations felt they were being pressured to give \$1,000 to the President's campaign and, by your own admission, you feel some discomfort --

MR. NESSEN: Let me say this, my discomfort comes not from trying to explain this -- as you can see I have done some research on this in anticipation of questions -- my discomfort comes from, in effect, being a spokesman for Sheika. I don't have discomfort explaining this. I think the record I pieced together indicates it is not a fund raiser.

Q The record you pieced together leads me to ask this, are you as spokesman for the President and is the President himself completely convinced of the propriety of this evening's affair?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, he wouldn't go otherwise, as she was told. She was told in so many words that he wouldn't go otherwise.

Q Would he like, or would you like to make a statement that nobody going tonight expects to make a contribution to the President?

MR. NESSEN: I would certainly say nobody going tonight is going because they gave \$1,000 and nobody who is not going tonight was not invited because they didn't give \$1,000, or give anything, whatever it was.

Q Wouldn't you agree it is somewhat difficult for Sheika to separate herself from a party giver tonight and the fund raiser, apparently, in Vail for the election committee:

MR. NESSEN: I would say that is a fact. You have a woman who is a friend of the President and has been a friend for some time and has had him as her guest for a number of times and the same person you have as a fund raiser for the President. What I have tried to do today is to show through the record of letters, phone calls, and so forth, that a great deal of care was taken by the White House and the President Ford Committee to make sure the line was drawn.

Q What did the pledge cards say?

MR. NESSEN: I didn't see the pledge cards, Dick. As I say, the President Ford Committee knows that some of these questions is going to be raised and is prepared to answer additional questions which I don't have the information on.

Q Two questions, Ron. One, how did he pick his skiing partners today? Why the orientation toward women and did he do any work at all this morning?

MR. NESSEN: He did some work alone this morning. He didn't see any staff people other than Bob Barrett.

I think, Helen, you know each year when he skies, he saves a day to ski with some of the women he knows here who are good skiers.

Q Did they ski with him because he was President or because Billy Kidd was here?

MR. NESSEN: Billy Kidd was a late arrival, but I am sure it will make the skiing more interesting.

Q Did you say Sheika is skiing with him?

MR. NESSEN: Yes. But that is not a fund raising ski run, Bob.

Q Will the 27 bills that he still has with him be taken back now? Is he going to sign any more bills here?

MR. NESSEN: It is possible he will sign some more here. Dick will work with him this afternoon and we plan a 5 o'clock posting so it is possible, I say possible and not as a promise. There could be an announcement of bill signings and we could give something to the pool on the plane tomorrow, if he signs some.

Q Is there any plan for a news conference next week back in Washington?

MR. NESSEN: It is possible.

Q Will we be able to get pictures of Billy Kidd skiing with the President?

MR. NESSEN: You want pictures of Billy Kidd skiing with the President?

Q Yes.

MR. NESSEN: When they come in at the bottom, perhaps, but I wouldn't think there would be any chance for anything on the slopes.

Q Is the United States Government providing any additional aid or military equipment to the Government of Angola other than -- I have forgotten the dollar figure -- the amount left in the pipeline and authorized by Congress for that purpose?

MR. NESSEN: There were some monies and equipment, as you say, left in the pipeline -- well, I would rather not use the pipeline, I would rather say there was money and equipment that had been previously authorized. I know that that is all that is being sent. I am told the State Department can elaborate and give more details. As far as I know, that is all that is being sent, that was previously appropriated.

Q Has the President discussed the Angola situation with General Scowcroft or are there any other major foreign policies being discussed here?



MR. NESSEN: What they do normally, as when they are in Washington, is to go over the major foreign policy items of that day. I would certainly think Angola would be something they have talked about since they have been here.

Q Ron, does the President agree with Time Magazine that no man deserves being named Man of the Year?

MR. NESSEN: I didn't talk to him about that, Phil. That is something I think I would rather hear his views on before I try to answer it.

Q What has he done here on the State of the Union or the budget?

MR. NESSEN: The State of the Union he brought out -- as you know, he has been having a long series of meetings going back at least a month in which ideas for the State of the Union were discussed and he brought out a book with him in which many of these items, or all of these items that had been discussed were listed and he has been looking through that, reading that book, studying it, and, in his own mind, at least, getting his thoughts together as to which of those he wants to include in the State of the Union and how to do it.

Q No drafting underway yet?

MR. NESSEN: I think probably Bob Hartmann is doing some work on that while he is taking his Christmas vacation.

Q What about the budget? Has he worked on that here?

MR. NESSEN: He has not worked on the budget because the particular phase of the budget involving appeals was completed before he left Washington and he will get back to that and go on to the next phase when he --

Q When does that go to Congress?

MR. NESSEN: The budget would go to Congress on the 20th of January.

Q The day after the State of the Union?

MR. NESSEN: That is correct.

Q The budget is substantially complete, isn't it?

MR. NESSEN: I think he still has a couple of decisions to make on that.

Q Has he conducted any official business with Rumsfeld?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Ron, following the Saturday pledge question, does the President place any special military or diplomatic significance on Army Secretary Hoffmann's trip to Korea next month?

MR. NESSEN: Nick, I haven't had time to sit down and talk to him about that.

Q Did you talk to Rumsfeld about it?

MR. NESSEN: No, I didn't.

Q Did you get more information about Rumsfeld the other day? Is he re-paying the Government?

MR. NESSEN: I talked to Don and Don said he would handle the expenses of this trip in whatever the proper manner is. That involves, I think, some IRS rulings that may not have been finalized yet. They have been working on this problem for a long time. But whatever their ruling is and whatever the proper manner is to handle expenses for him and his family, he will do it.

Q Is the President going to Richard Welch's funeral at Arlington National Cemetery on Friday?

MR. NESSEN: I have not heard any plans for him to go, Walt.

Q Ron, the other day we asked what he would be doing when he went back to Washington. You mentioned the budget and the State of the Union and there was a third thing. What was that?

MR. NESSEN: The legislative proposals.

Q Which will be separate --

MR. NESSEN: The State of the Union will be a more general overview of where the country is and what the President's goals and visions are for where he wants to lead the country over the next five years and then the specific legislative proposals will go up in separate bills over the next month after the State of the Union.

Q Will it be his personal platform?

MR. NESSEN: It is his vision for the country and goals for the country in the future.

Q Is he going to put it in a five-year context?

MR. NESSEN: At least a five-year context and on down the road after that.

Q Ron, what you are saying is it will be more philosophical than specific?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, that's right.

Q On the financing, the President is paying for the house he is renting, he is paying a certain amount every day from his own personal pocket?

MR. NESSEN: He told me the other day he wrote Dick Bass a check Saturday. He wrote him a check and gave it to him.

Q Saturday?

MR. NESSEN: Saturday, yes.

Q For how much?

MR. NESSEN: Multiply the number of days by \$120 and you will get it.

Q Would it be possible for you to produce that cancelled check?

MR. NESSEN: Oh, Phil. How about the uncanceled check?

Q How about the expenses for the family? Did he pay for those personally?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

We will have a posting at 5:00.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

(AT 10:50 A.M. MST)