

This Copy For _____

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

#593

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 10:22 A.M. EDT

OCTOBER 14, 1976

THURSDAY

MR. NESSEN: I want to tell you this: The President will have a news conference tonight at 7:30 and he is requesting that the networks, radio and television, broadcast his news conference live.

Q Why is he doing that?

MR. NESSEN: Because he wants to.

Q Does he have something that is a major announcement to make?

MR. NESSEN: He will have some things to say tonight, yes.

Q Of major concern?

MR. NESSEN: He is requesting that the networks broadcast his news conference live.

Q It has not been made available, but he is asking the networks --

MR. NESSEN: He is requesting that his news conference be carried live.

Q You are not answering whether he has major announcements to make.

MR. NESSEN: He feels what he has to say and his answers to anticipated questions are important matters.

Q Will he have an opening statement?

MR. NESSEN: Probably.

Q Does it have to do with the election, the campaign, or other matters?

MR. NESSEN: That is all I have.

Q Where will it be?

MR. NESSEN: In 450 of the EOB.

MORE

#593

Q You realize at this point in the campaign, with the equal time provisions --

MR. NESSEN: News conferences are exempt from the equal time provisions.

Q On balance with news conferences, you realize there is some question as to what he wants to say?

MR. NESSEN: That is all I have to say.

Q Can you tell us if the President has any comment on the Special Prosecutor's Watergate announcement?

MR. NESSEN: The President was notified about 9 o'clock last night in a letter from Mr. Ruff to Phil Buchen -- which I think you have seen copies of -- so the President was told about it last night. I think for more details of his reaction, that will come at the news conference tonight.

Q In view of the news conference, will you brief?

MR. NESSEN: No, I am not going to have a briefing.

Q When did the President decide to have this news conference?

MR. NESSEN: Last night.

Q After he got that word?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q Have you called the three networks and asked them --

MR. NESSEN: No, but I am going to call them right after we finish here.

Q You are notifying the press before you notify the networks?

MR. NESSEN: I was going to call them and then make this announcement, but John said everybody was gathered here so why didn't I do this first and then call the networks.

Q You are sure he will have an opening statement?

MR. NESSEN: I feel sure he will have an opening statement.

Q You say he decided to have a news conference after he got this letter at about 9:00, but in fact some White House aides told us last night before then that he was going to have it.

Q Didn't he tell the New York editors he was going to have it?

MR. NESSEN: It was certainly under consideration but the final decision to go ahead with it was made after he got the letter.

Q Will the press conference mention the Ruff announcement?

MR. NESSEN: I assume there will be a lot of questions about --

Q What about his opening statement? Will it deal with this matter today?

MR. NESSEN: This and other matters, yes.

Q As a matter of information, can you tell us the last time the President had a similar press conference?

MR. NESSEN: I will check the records.

Q What will he be doing today? Anything that is not on the schedule?

MR. NESSEN: Nothing much, no.

Q Will he be talking with his political advisers?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I know of. I haven't seen anything like that on the schedule.

Q Ron, is that why the Freedom dinner was postponed?

MR. NESSEN: Not postponed, but delayed a half-hour.

Q Can we go back to the earlier question? In view of the fact you seem to be telling us he will have an opening statement and that he feels that what he has to say is important, can you give us any guidance on whether or not he is going to have any announcements?

MR. NESSEN: I think you have to wait, Dick.

Q Was any consideration given to buying campaign time on the networks if they decline? (Laughter)

Q With Treasury funds? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: I don't know, Phil.

Q Has he already asked for the time?

MR. NESSEN: I am going to call right now.

THE PRESS: Thank you.