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NEWS CONFERENCE

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 11:35 A.M. EST

NOVEMBER 23, 1976

TUESDAY

MR. NESSEN: You have our schedule for today.

The President is sending a telegram to President Giscard of France expressing deep sympathy on the death of Andre Malraux. I think we are having that typed and it will be ready to distribute after the briefing, so I won't read you the telegram. The telegram has either just gone out or will shortly.

Yesterday when we were talking about the weekend at Camp David I indicated that I would let you know later what members of the family will be spending the weekend there. They are as follows:

In addition to the President and Mrs. Ford, Susan Ford will be there, and Steve and Mike and Gayle. In addition, Gayle Ford's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Brumbaugh, of Catonsville, Maryland, will spend the weekend there, along with some friends of Mike and Gayle, whose names I have not been able to get yet.

In addition, the President's three brothers and their wives, Dick Ford and Jim Ford of Grand Rapids, and Tom Ford of Lansing, will spend the weekend at Camp David. That pretty well gives you an idea of who will be there.

Those are all the announcements I have to make. I think possibly we will not have a briefing tomorrow or for the rest of the week.

Q What time is the President leaving tomorrow for Camp David?

MR. NESSEN: Late afternoon, I think. I do not have a definite time yet.

Q When is he coming back?

MR. NESSEN: Sunday afternoon or evening.

Q What can you tell us about gas price deregulation?

MR. NESSEN: Only this: that yesterday, I guess, the FEA filed in the Federal Register a notification that it was going to receive public opinions for 30 days and also hold a series of hearings around the country to receive public views on the proposal to deregulate the price of gasoline.

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After the 30-day period, the FEA will then make a decision what to recommend to the President, and he, in turn, will make a decision on what to recommend to Congress.

Just to put this in some context, this is being done under a procedure that Congress approved. Over the past few months the FEA has recommended, and Congress has not interfered with the deregulation of all petroleum products with the exception of gasoline, propane and aviation fuel.

All other forms of petroleum have been deregulated, and under the law, if Congress does not take action, then the deregulation takes effect. That has been done.

So the product now under consideration is gasoline. But the decision to actually make the proposal and wait to see if Congress acts has not been taken and will not be until after this 30-day period of hearings.

Q Is the President any closer to a decision as to what he is going to do on January 20th?

MR. NESSEN: No, he is not. You know the house in Alexandria is going up for sale. The asking price has not yet been decided. Other than that, in terms of what he will do with his time and where the Fords will spend their time, those decisions have not been made. As I have said before, they do have a condominium in Vail where I expect they will spend some of their time and they have over the years, almost every year, spent time in Palm Springs and it is certainly likely that they will continue to spend time in Palm Springs every year.

But I can only caution you that a lot of people who think they know what the Fords are going to do -- who are going to be and are, in fact, saying things publicly -- I can only tell you that those decisions have not been made. I expect that the decisions are going to come later rather than earlier.

Q Do you have any coverage plans on Camp David?

MR. NESSEN: Tom, unless the President goes to church on Sunday -- and I don't have that yet or on Thanksgiving Day -- we will not have any coverage at Camp David.

Q Do you envision church on Thanksgiving Day?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have it one way or the other. I have not heard he is.

Q Was the gasoline deregulation taken up with Governor Carter, to your knowledge?

MR. NESSEN: Yesterday?

Q Yes.

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

Q Would there be some sort of notification at this end giving us time to get up to Camp David if there were plans to go to church?

MR. NESSEN: Absolutely. I will determine that before they leave tomorrow.

Q Again on Sunday?

MR. NESSEN: We will give you ample notice if they go to church on Sunday. It sounds like you have the Camp David duty, Bob. (Laughter)

Q Why would you think that?

MR. NESSEN: Jim can give you some good suggestions of places to stay up there.

Q What time to leave?

MR. NESSEN: Restaurants, how long it takes to get up there, so you can be at the gate promptly. (Laughter)

Q Is the President leaving for Vail on the 18th?

MR. NESSEN: Or 19th.

Q And returning?

MR. NESSEN: The 2nd or 3rd.

Q Are any more meetings with Mr. Carter contemplated?

MR. NESSEN: Nothing is planned now, by the President, I mean, other transition meetings.

Q Can you tell us anything about the meeting between Secretary Kissinger and the President this morning?

MR. NESSEN: No. It was a routine meeting. They meet several times a week. It was one of those.

Q What is he taking up in the budget now?

MR. NESSEN: Today's meeting, which is going on now, will deal with the budget items for the Treasury, Justice and GSA.

Q Does he expect to get finished with all the budget matters before he goes to Vail? What will be left over at that time?

MR. NESSEN: Let me look at my timetable here.

According to the original Jim Lynn timetable -- and it is on track -- he will finish this process of making tentative decisions on line items by the end of November. Then between then and the time he goes to Vail will be the appeal process. Then while he is in Vail the message and various statements and so forth will be drafted for his approval. But he does expect to be finished with his decisions and his decisions on appeals by the time he goes away.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END

(AT 11:43 A.M. EST)