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NEWS CONFERENCE

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AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 11:30 A.M. EST

JANUARY 19, 1977

WEDNESDAY

MR. NESSEN: You have already received, I think, the brief memo in which the President instructed the FEA to go ahead and take the necessary action to propose decontrol of gasoline prices. I understand that the FEA is providing full additional material on that.

Q One question on that: Is that to go into effect March 1 or is it under the ordinary rules of 15 days?

MR. NESSEN: No. It is 15 calendar days, not 15 business days.

Q They said it would be February 3rd, but there has been some indication since that the order was for it not to go in until March 1.

Q Zarb said March 1 last week or so when he briefed us.

MR. NESSEN: Why don't we check it with the FEA, John?

This morning, about half an hour ago, the Deputy Counsel, Ed Schmults, phoned Mrs. Philip Hart, and read her a letter that the President signed this morning. I would like to pass out copies of that letter, if I may, together with three other items related. They are memos from the President to the Secretaries of Army, Air Force and Navy through the Defense Secretary, and to the Commandant of the Coast Guard through the Secretary of Transportation, and to the Attorney General.

Q How many pieces of paper?

MR. NESSEN: Four pieces of paper -- a letter to Mrs. Hart and three memos.

Q Can you just wait while we look at it?

MR. NESSEN: Yes. I am going to.

Q What was that deputy's name, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: Edward Schmults.

Q Deputy White House Counsel?

MR. NESSEN: Deputy Counsel to the President.

Q Phoned Mrs. Hart at what time, you said?

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MR. NESSEN: About 11:00.

Q Was there any reaction from Mrs. Hart to the telephone call?

MR. NESSEN: I frankly was busy getting ready for my briefing and didn't listen in on the phone call. If there are any questions on the subject of the President's action relating to amnesty, Bobbie Kilberg of the Counsel's Office has come to the briefing today and will endeavor to answer whatever questions you may have.

I want you to know I have, I think, a considerable amount of stuff. So we might want to move on at a pretty good pace here.

Q Is this only for those wounded or decorated? For anybody else?

Q Why don't you explain it, Bobbie?

MS. KILBERG: Basically, the President chose to stay with the program he thought was fair and equitable, which was the clemency program he announced in 1974. What he has decided to do today is, within that clemency program, to enable those individuals who had applied to the clemency program and who were either wounded in combat or received a decoration for valor in combat, to have those discharges reviewed by the military Armed Forces and directed those military Armed Forces Secretaries and the Commandant of the Coast Guard to upgrade those discharges to "under honorable conditions" unless there is a compelling reason to the contrary in any case. And upgrade to "under honorable conditions" would be either general or honorable. And that entitles those individuals to veterans' benefits, including medical benefits.

Q Can you say how this is different from the existing ability of servicemen to apply for an upgrading of their discharges?

MS. KILBERG: They can apply. When they normally apply, they would go through what is called the Military Discharge Review Board. What the President has done is he has directed the Military Secretaries and the Commandant of the Coast Guard to upgrade those discharges whether those people applied or not unless there is a compelling reason.

He has said you take a look at each and every one of those cases and you upgrade those discharges unless there is a compelling reason in any case not to do so, even if they did not apply for an upgrade, provided they had applied and walked in to Fort Benjamin Harrison, which is the Defense Department's program, which is people who are undischarged deserters at the time they came in or they had come in to the Presidential Clemency Board and applied, they had applied to the clemency program originally.

There were 5,555, approximately, undischarged deserters who, when the President announced his program, came to Fort Benjamin Harrison and turned themselves in

there. There were approximately 13,589 --

Q Excuse me. Could you go a little more slowly? We can't possibly keep up with you.

MS. KILBERG: There were approximately 5,555 at that time undischarged deserters who came in to participate in the Defense Department's clemency program that went to Fort Benjamin Harrison.

Q Where is that?

MS. KILBERG: I do not know.

MR. NESSEN: Indiana.

MS. KILBERG: There were approximately 13,589 people who had been discharged by the time the President announced his program, and they had gone to the Presidential Clemency Board.

Q Approximately how many? Do you have a ball park idea?

MS. KILBERG: Of wounded?

Q Yes.

MS. KILBERG: Probably within the military, out of the 5,555, approximately 150. We are not sure. We have to do a record search. Probably about 60 to 70 of the 5,555 had decorations for valor in combat. And in the other group, the PCB group, Presidential Clemency Board group, the 13,589, we estimate anywhere from 300 to 400 had been wounded. And the file search is one of the things you see, a memo from the President to the Attorney General, asking him to identify both the wounded and the decorations. We are not certain how many would have been decorated.

Q This changes, in effect, approximately 500 people?

MS. KILBERG: 300 -- yes, that is about right.

Q Three hundred?

MS. KILBERG: Probably anywhere from 300 to 400 wounded who had been in the Clemency Board, about 150 wounded who had gone to Fort Benjamin Harrison.

Q I'm sorry. Back up once more, please. About 300 to 400 --

MS. KILBERG: Approximately 300 to 400 individuals who had gone to the Presidential Clemency Board program are probably wounded. Approximately 150 who had gone to Fort Benjamin Harrison were wounded in combat. Approximately 60 to 70 people at Fort Benjamin Harrison had gotten decorations for valor in combat. And we are not sure how many who had gone to the Presidential Clemency Board had gotten decorations for valor in combat.

One of the memos is to the Attorney General and it directs him to, in effect, do a file search and to report to the Military Department Secretaries and the Commandant of the Coast Guard a complete list of those people who were wounded in combat or received decorations for valor.

Q But if a person had not applied to the Clemency Board --

MS. KILBERG: To the clemency program.

Q -- he is excluded from being upgraded under this particular order?

MS. KILBERG: That is right.

Q Therefore, the person who was wounded, who did not apply to the Clemency Board, is at this point unaffected?

MS. KILBERG: That is right, though that person always has the opportunity to ask for a discharge, an upgraded discharge, on his own.

Q What happens to the clemency program when Mr. Ford leaves office? Does it remain or does Mr. Carter have to make an active decision?

MS. KILBERG: No. The people who are participating and are still going through alternative processes, et cetera, continue. I would assume Mr. Carter, if he wishes to change it, must take an affirmative action on his part to alter it. The application date has been closed, but the processing date is still continuing. You still have people in alternate service, you still have some people waiting.

Q You can no longer apply?

MS. KILBERG: No.

Q Using your maximum figures of 150, 400 and 70 --

MS. KILBERG: Some others for decorations.

Q But using the figures you have given us, you are talking about no more than 620?

MS. KILBERG: If that adds up.

Q Beyond that, some others; are we talking about a large number?

MS. KILBERG: No. We would be talking about a small number who had come to the Presidential Clemency Board.

Q Fewer than 100?

MS. KILBERG: For decorations who had been in the Presidential Clemency Board, yes.

Q We are talking about essentially no more than 700 people?

MS. KILBERG: That is right.

Q You always use the phrase "deserters." Does this not also include the Vietnam -- the draft evaders?

MS. KILBERG: No, because the President's clemency program included the draft evaders. But since the evaders had not been in the military, they were not discharged with less than honorable --

Q The 13,000?

MS. KILBERG: Is not included, no. The people, the total range of people who had applied to the clemency program, everybody, was 21,729. The numbers I gave you before did not include 706 unconvicted draft evaders and 1,879 convicted draft offenders or evaders. That is in addition to the 5,555 and 13,589.

Q This does not apply to anybody who did not serve in the military?

MS. KILBERG: No, because what the President is seeking to do is to provide --

MR. NESSEN: Here is what I would like to do. Wait a minute, Fran. I think there will probably be a lot of questions for Bobbie. I have a lot about last night's schedule, today's schedule, tomorrow's schedule. So, therefore, at the end of the briefing, Bobbie will remain here to answer the remaining questions.

Q That is no way to do it. We have to file a story on this.

MR. NESSEN: I know.

Q At least let us get the basic understanding.

Q We have two more questions.

MR. NESSEN: No, you don't; you have 50 more. I am going to go through my stuff, and Bobbie will come back and resume briefing.

Q This affects only people who deserted. Is that right?

MS. KILBERG: That is right.

Q It does not have any impact on people who evaded the draft?

MS. KILBERG: No, because they had not been discharged.

Q In other words, he is taking no action whatsoever in regard to draft evaders?

MS. KILBERG: Is doing nothing more than what he did in this clemency program, yes.

Q Bobbie, no one who did not apply --

MS. KILBERG: Those people who were discharged with less than honorable, deserted, i.e., had not become part of his program, those people have an opportunity -- as this woman said before -- to apply for upgrades on themselves.

Q Will they be governed by these standards?

Q Can people come back in now who didn't apply in the beginning?

MS. KILBERG: If they had been wounded in combat but had not been part of the President's clemency program because they had not deserted, I think that is the question that would have to be decided by the Secretary of Defense.

Q Isn't this a double standard, putting one question to deserters and another standard for people who did not?

MS. KILBERG: No, because the people who deserted obviously had done something of valor in combat, had come back.

Q Talking about people who are wounded or decorated for valor, less than honorable discharges for other reasons than deserting?

MS. KILBERG: I think those cases will have to be decided by the Secretary of Defense and the Commandant of the Coast Guard, Secretary of Transportation. The President had an interest in dealing with those people who had been part of his clemency program. Those people who had come in and applied through the clemency program had shown at least some feeling that they wished to make some form of amends. What he is trying to do for those people is to make available to them upgraded discharges so that they will be entitled to veterans' benefits, including medical. I think that other question has to be directed to the Secretary of Defense.

Q As I understand it -- excuse me; I am late -- about, I think, 175,000 boys who got bad discharges, administrative discharges, for bedwetting and fighting and things like that, those boys who fought in Vietnam, they are not going to be affected, they are not going to be cured?

MS. KILBERG: All these people who are going to be upgraded unless there are compelling reasons to the contrary are people who fought in Vietnam. There are also people who afterwards deserted and who now come within the President's program.

Q The boys I am talking about didn't desert.

MS. KILBERG: I understand.

Q They got bad discharges, can't get any veterans' benefits and jobs.

MS. KILBERG: Those people have an opportunity to come and apply to the Military Discharge Review Boards and ask for an upgrading.

Q They do that anyway? They have that same opportunity whether the President had signed this order or not?

MS. KILBERG: That is right.

Q They do that anyway, but if they don't have money to come to Washington and plead their case --

MR. NESSEN: I think we will finish Bobbie's part.

Q What was your reply to that question, please?

MS. KILBERG: That is not true. There has been a good percentage of those who have been wounded in combat who have come in and asked and applied to have their military discharges upgraded. There has been a good rate of granting in those cases.

MR. NESSEN: At the end of the briefing, Howard, Ed will be here.

Q Ron, we can't write our stories.

MR. NESSEN: I know. We will continue this aspect of the briefing at the end of my other announcements.

The gas deregulation; we have talked about the extension that Bobbie has told you about. I think most of you know that there will be a final batch of pardons today. Those will be handled in the routine way, which means that the Justice Department will announce them.

Q When? Do you know?

MR. NESSEN: I would guess later today. I don't know what the timetable is. You will have to check with them.

Q There is going to be nothing over here?

MR. NESSEN: No. There never is on pardons here.

Q Any Watergate people included in that?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know of any.

Q Are these people pardoned by the Justice Department?

MR. NESSEN: Same routine as always. It comes through the Pardon --

Q Are they pardoned by the President or Justice Department?

MR. NESSEN: Pardon is a Presidential thing.

Q Why don't we get the news here?

MR. NESSEN: We are going to do it in the routine way.

Q I called Justice this morning and talked to the PIO in charge of pardons, and he told me he isn't going to say anything until the White House says something.

MR. NESSEN: I don't think so. That has been squared away. If he did say that --

Q Dennis St. James. I talked to him.

Q As I recall, the routine was to have --

Q In Vail we did get the pardon?

MR. NESSEN: No. They are always handed out by the Justice Department; same way.

Q Nixon was announced in this room.

MR. NESSEN: That is the one exception.

Q Can you tell me how many there will be?

MR. NESSEN: I would if I knew, but I don't. I would anticipate we might have one or two additional pieces of business to announce from here later this afternoon around 3:00 or 3:30.

Q Are you going to brief then?

MR. NESSEN: Just some routine final decisions by the President.

Q Postings?

MR. NESSEN: Yes. We will do it in posting form.

Q How about executive orders, particularly on sex discrimination in regulatory agencies and service clubs?

MR. NESSEN: I never heard of that. That is not one of them.

Let's talk a little bit about some items on the President's schedule, past, present and future. I think some of you know that last night after the President and Mrs. Ford returned from dinner, there was a surprise party by members of the President's staff, the Cabinet and friends of the Fords on the State floor of the White House.

Q How many?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. There were probably 200 people there, I would guess.

Q When did that start?

MR. NESSEN: When they returned from dinner.

Q Approximately what time?

MR. NESSEN: 9:45, I guess.

Q Is that a surprise for the President?

MR. NESSEN: No. It was a surprise for Mrs. Ford.

Q Why?

MR. NESSEN: She didn't know about it ahead of time.

Q Why did they want to have a surprise for her?

MR. NESSEN: The President wanted to surprise his wife with the gathering of their friends before they left the White House.

Q Ron, was anything said by anyone? Did anyone make a little speech?

MR. NESSEN: No. It was just a pure --

Q How long did it last?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know what time the last dancer left.

Q What time did the Fords leave?

MR. NESSEN: I left before they did, so I don't know what time they left.

Q Who played the music, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: There were members of the Marine Band.

Q Was that a voluntary thing on their part? How do you arrange a thing like that?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have any idea.

Q What time did you leave, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know.

Q When did you leave?

Q He doesn't know. (Laughter)

Q When did they tell you you left?

MR. NESSEN: I am always an early leaver.

Q How early is that?

MR. NESSEN: The President this morning --

Q Seriously, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: I left at 5 after 11, if that is a startling news to anybody.

Q Did the party go on to midnight?

MR. NESSEN: I have no idea. I left at 5 after 11. I will check and find out for you.

Q Were they still there when you left?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q You said second floor; you mean State floor?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

The President this morning presented the National Security Medal to Brent Scowcroft. The National Security Medal is given for a particularly distinguished contribution to the national security. The President also presented the National Intelligence Medal to William G. Hyland. Actually, it is called the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal, and it is for service to the intelligence community. There was a small private ceremony in the Oval Office, attended by --

Q Who is he?

MR. NESSEN: William G. Hyland is Brent Scowcroft's deputy, Deputy National Security Advisor to the President.

Q I realize it is late, but wouldn't it have been nice if we could have pictures of the President's last day in office? And maybe we could start now. This is something -- if you don't want to put it on the nightly news -- that is historic in some ways.

MR. NESSEN: The ceremony was attended by Vice President Rockefeller; Secretary of State Kissinger; Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld; General Brown, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; George Bush, the Director of Central Intelligence; the Deputy Under Secretary of State, Larry Eagleburger; the Director of the White House Military Office, Warren Gulley; and Lieutenant Colonel Robert C. McFarlane, who is an assistant to Brent Scowcroft in the National Security Office.

Earlier in the week the President also awarded the National Security Medal to George Bush.

Q How come we didn't know about that?

MR. NESSEN: It was a private ceremony.

Q Was there anybody in attendance at that?

MR. NESSEN: Two of his children were.

Q When was it?

MR. NESSEN: On Monday.

Q National Security or Intelligence?

Q Are they sworn to secrecy?

MR. NESSEN: No. This was the National Security Medal.

Q Ron, is anything else like this going to go on today?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have my full schedule here in front of me.

Q When you get it, do you think you might consider letting some cameras go in there?

MR. NESSEN: I will look into it.

Q I mean before it happens?

MR. NESSEN: I know. I will look into it.

The President also today will be making some phone calls to foreign leaders. He spoke this morning from 9:55 to 10:10 to General Secretary Brezhnev and as the day goes on he will be speaking by phone to a number of other foreign leaders as his time allows.

Q 9:30 to 10:10?

MR. NESSEN: 9:55 to 10:10.

Q Was he the first of the foreign leaders?

MR. NESSEN: Right. He was.

Q What did they talk about?

MR. NESSEN: All of these calls will be in the nature of personal farewell calls.

Q Can you tell us the list of who he will be speaking to or expects to?

MR. NESSEN: Just a number of world leaders, depending on how much time he has.

Q When he talks about that he doesn't use any special communications like the hot line?

MR. NESSEN: No. It was the phone on his desk.

Q How does that work, when he talks to Brezhnev? Does he have a translator on the other line or something?

MR. NESSEN: Could you ask Brent how the translation works on the phone call?

Q Can you tell us anything about that call?

MR. NESSEN: They are all going to be in the nature of personal farewell calls.

Q Can you give us how many and to whom he will be talking to?

Q He must have said something. Can you give us anything?

MR. NESSEN: They were personal farewell calls. I am not going to be able to tell you any more about them than that and I am not going to be able to tell you. I am not going to give you a list of who else he talked to other

than to say that the number depends on really how much time he has today.

Q This is hardly private. He talks as President of the United States. It may be personal, but not private.

MR. NESSEN: For tonight, the President has invited to dinner here at the White House Vice President and Mrs. Rockefeller and two of their children, Nelson, Jr., who is 12; Mark, who is 9. It will be a private dinner with the Fords and the Rockefellers and the two Rockefeller children. The Rockefellers and their two children will spend the night as guests here at the White House.

Q First time Rockefeller has ever spent the night at the White House? (Laughter.)

Q Do you know?

MR. NESSEN: I am trying to think. I will check it and find out.

Q Did you say who is in the Lincoln bedroom?

MR. NESSEN: They will use some guest bedroom. I don't know which one it will be.

Q Do any of them have historic names?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know which bedrooms they will use. They will use one of the guest bedrooms; several of them.

Q Is the Lincoln bedroom a guest bedroom?

MR. NESSEN: In terms of two people staying in the bedroom?

Q Can you find out?

MR. NESSEN: Yes, where they are sleeping? Okay.

There is a translator for the Brezhnev phone call. He is at the Russian end of the line. He translates Russian to English and English to Russian.

Q Is he an American or Russian?

MR. NESSEN: He is a Russian.

Q Victor?

MR. NESSEN: Victor. You all know Victor.

Q Did anybody check up on him? (Laughter.)

MR. NESSEN: I think Victor is well-known here.

Q Where was he when Brezhnev was called?

MR. NESSEN: I think he was probably in the Kremlin. But I don't know.

Q Wasn't he at his resort at the Black Sea?

MR. NESSEN: Was he? That is right.

Q Why not? (Laughter.)

MR. NESSEN: This is like a Garry Trudeau cartoon.

Q I like to assume, too.

MR. NESSEN: Let's find out.

Q This is significant.

MR. NESSEN: I know it is, Dick. I will make every effort to find out where Brezhnev was.

Q Ron, did I hear you say you would not say who else he called?

MR. NESSEN: I am not going to make any additional list available of the other foreign leaders he talks to.

Q Whether or not you listed, isn't there some way we could find out before the end of the day?

Q Idi Amin has already released -- (Laughter.)

MR. NESSEN: No. It is just going to depend on how much time he has, Ted, who he calls.

Q How about telling us after the day is gone because otherwise --

MR. NESSEN: Let me check at the end of the day and see how far along he is.

Q Can I throw this in? Some will feel their noses are out of joint if you announce only Brezhnev and none of our, no leaders of close, friendly countries.

Q Maybe war with Uganda, Ron.

Q People's Republic of China.

MR. NESSEN: All right. Tomorrow morning, I will see what, if anything, further I can tell you about the phone calls to foreign leaders.

Q Did the President call Brezhnev as a friend?

MR. NESSEN: As a personal farewell call. Yes.

Q I mean was it --

MR. NESSEN: As opposed to a what?

Q I mean what were his -- what motivated him to call Brezhnev?

MR. NESSEN: All of these calls are motivated by the desire to say a personal farewell to foreign leaders he has dealt with.

Q Does he express a hope for agreements on arms control?

MR. NESSEN: I didn't listen in on the call. But they are all supposed to be personal farewell calls.

Q Ted's point is well taken, though, if he calls Brezhnev and makes no effort to call the Chinese, it is something of a diplomatic slight? We really do need a full list. You call the Russians and don't call the Chinese --

MR. NESSEN: He is going to make a number of other calls, Walt, as I said, as time allows.

Q Have other departing President's done this? Is this a traditional thing?

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

Tomorrow morning at eight o'clock --

Q To go back to today's meeting with the Senators and Congressmen?

MR. NESSEN: What Senators?

Q The new Republicans?

MR. NESSEN: Yes.

Q How many there were and how long it took and what went on, what did he tell them?

MR. NESSEN: There are 20 new Republican members of the House, all of whom attended. There are also eight new Republican members of the Senate, all of whom attended; three Republican House members and one Republican Senator were not able to attend for a variety of reasons. They were Dornan of California, Evans of Delaware and Leach of Iowa, and Senator Danforth of Missouri were not able to attend. All the others did.

In addition, Ted Stevens was there. Ted is the newly elected assistant Republican leader as well as Chairman of the Senate Republican Campaign Committee previously, and Guy Vander Jagt was there in his capacity as Chairman of the House Republican Campaign Committee, and basically the President just wanted to meet them briefly.

It was an opportunity for him to say that he planned to stay in touch with them after he leaves office and intends to go on speaking for and standing for the goals and philosophy of the Republican Party.

Q Was Baker there?

MR. NESSEN: Senator Baker was not there.

Q Why were we not able to get pictures of that?

MR. NESSEN: It was just decided it would be a private meeting.

Q Why was Baker not there? Did he give any apology or reason?

MR. NESSEN: As you see, Ted Stevens was there.

Q I know. That is not Baker.

MR. NESSEN: No, it isn't.

Q He is the number one man. If he wasn't there, why wasn't he?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know why.

Q Can you find out why because that is rather interesting?

MR. NESSEN: I think so. I will try to find out.

Q How long did the meeting last?

MR. NESSEN: It was scheduled to last 15 minutes.

Q How long did it last?

MR. NESSEN: Can we find out how long the meeting with the Congressional leaders lasted?

Q If you have anyone, would you also find out what they said to him?

MR. NESSEN: I am told that the Rockefellers have stayed here one other time. We are trying to find the date for you.

Tomorrow morning there will be a breakfast in the State Dining Room given by the President as a farewell to his staff and his senior staff and his Cabinet. It will be an informal buffet breakfast at eight o'clock.

Q How many people, about, would that be?

MR. NESSEN: I haven't seen the guest list yet. Couple dozen.

Q That is not wives, families, it is just people in jobs?

MR. NESSEN: Right.

After that the actual participation, the Inaugural events really will follow the traditional form. At about 10:30 or shortly after 10:30, President-elect Carter and Mrs. Carter will arrive at the North Portico. I am told there are places over there for press coverage, at least pool press coverage of the arrival, and they will be escorted by Senator Howard Cannon and Speaker O'Neill.

President-elect Carter and Mrs. Carter, Senator Cannon and Speaker O'Neill will have coffee with President and Mrs. Ford in the Blue Room. At approximately 10:45 or slightly afterward, they will be joined by Vice President and Mrs. Rockefeller, who have spent the night here, and by Vice President-elect and Mrs. Mondale. Vice President and Mrs. Rockefeller will be escorted by Senator Mark Hatfield and Congressman John Rhodes.

Vice President-elect and Mrs. Mondale will be escorted by Senator Robert Byrd and Representative Jim Wright.

Q Their wives?

MR. NESSEN: The Congressmen. Escort officers will not be accompanied by their wives.

Q Why Hatfield? Any particular reason? He is not in the leadership position?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know how the escort officers were selected.

Q He is the ranking Republican on the Inauguration.

MR. NESSEN: I think that would explain it and Cannon, I think, would probably be in the same.

Q He is the Chairman of the Senate Rules Committee, has charge.

MR. NESSEN: Shortly after 11 o'clock the motorcade will depart from the North Portico and again there will be pool press positions and we are working on pool cars in the motorcade.

In the first car will be President Ford, President-elect Carter, Senator Cannon and Speaker O'Neill.

In the second car will be Mrs. Ford, Mrs. Carter and Senator Hatfield.

Q Are you going to be giving a handout on this?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Who will be in that second car?

MR. NESSEN: Mrs. Ford, Mrs. Carter and Senator Hatfield.

In the third car will be Vice President Rockefeller, Vice President-elect Mondale, Senator Byrd and Congressman Wright.

Q Bobby Byrd, right?

MR. NESSEN: That is right. And in the fourth car will be Mrs. Rockefeller, Mrs. Mondale and Congressman Rhodes. Those are the four official cars.

This motorcade will go to the Hill. There is a brief period, I think, where people are getting seated and so forth. I think all the members of this party will spend a little bit of time in a holding room somewhere before being announced and going out onto the Inaugural platform. The ceremony begins at about 11:30.

After the ceremony, President Ford, Mrs. Ford and Vice President and Mrs. Rockefeller and a couple of members of the Ford staff will board a helicopter on the West grounds of the Capitol. They will fly then to Andrews Air Force Base.

Q The handout Barrett gave yesterday said they will have an aerial tour of the city for one last time.

MR. NESSEN: I think the President has expressed an interest in perhaps circling around the downtown area through the area above the government buildings and on the way out to Andrews.

Q What staff on the helicopter?

MR. NESSEN: It is not completely set yet, but probably Cheney and myself and Barrett and Kennerly, I guess.

Q Are you all going to Palm Springs?

MR. NESSEN: I am not. No.

Q The rest are?

MR. NESSEN: Barrett will.

Q Cheney?

MR. NESSEN: Cheney will not.

Q And the Rockefellers, of course, will not?

MR. NESSEN: Will not.

Q How about Kennerly, will he go?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think so. But I don't know that.

Q Are you expecting plain citizens or Cabinet members?

MR. NESSEN: Not at Andrews, no. It is a closed departure, no one is expected. There will be formal military honors there.

Q That is available for press coverage, though?

MR. NESSEN: If you would like, sure.

Q What time do you figure they are going to get at Andrews?

MR. NESSEN: We calculate around 1:00 p.m.

Q Arrive at Andrews?

MR. NESSEN: Right.

Q Do we arrange with you if we want to cover out there or with the people out at Andrews?

MR. NESSEN: With the people out at Andrews.

Q Is he likely to have any remarks at all at Andrews?

MR. NESSEN: No.

Q Do we really have to check with people out there or are the White House passes good enough?

MR. NESSEN: So far as I know, the normal routine, whatever that is, to cover Andrews.

Q Where will the pool that goes to the Capitol pool out?

MR. NESSEN: They pool out when the motorcade arrives at the Capitol.

Q Ron, will he sign any bills tomorrow before starting all the ceremonial functions?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know of anything left to sign in the morning of any particular importance. I will be here. I will try to come back and forth to the briefing room a number of times to keep you posted on the progress of the morning and if there is anything signed or announced in the morning, I will do it here in the briefing room. I would suggest, I have told some other folks to come around 9:00. I think you would be safe.

Q Can we go back to that 9 a.m. breakfast?

MR. NESSEN: Let me finish today.

Q Is it alright if we follow the President back?

MR. NESSEN: It is alright with me.

Q Are you saying the pool is out at the Capitol?

MR. NESSEN: The only thing I can find out is when the motorcade arrives at the Capitol the travel motorcade pool as far as I am concerned ends and we are trying to find out what arrangements there are on the Hill.

MR. ROBERTS: They will probably have an area reserved for the travel pool.

Q Is that the same place the other reporters are? Otherwise, how can they pool to them? Maybe they are 300 yards away.

MR. ROBERTS: It will be close to the press area.

MR. NESSEN: Then at the arrival, as I say, at Andrews it will be closed. No one is expected to come out there. There will be formal military honors and the President and Mrs. Ford will board Air Force One and will fly to Monterey, California.

Q Do they land actually in Monterey or somewhere else?

MR. NESSEN: I think they land in Monterey.

Q What is the temperature in Monterey? (Laughter)

MR. NESSEN: Monterey Commercial Airport.

Q Will it be Air Force One?

Q 26,000?

MR. NESSEN: It is 26,000.

Q I understand that.

Q That is the backup plane, the one Lyndon was sworn in on.

Q Would that have a designation?

MR. NESSEN: Any plane the President is on is Air Force One.

Q Except he is not President at that point. It ceases to be Air Force One.

MR. NESSEN: That is correct. I don't know what

you call it. You call it the Presidential Jet, I guess.

Q The historic 26,000 that Lyndon was sworn in one.

Q Can you go back to that breakfast for one second?

Who exactly did you say was invited?

MR. NESSEN: Senior staff and Members of the Cabinet.

Q Ron, can you tell us how many members of the staff will be staying on temporarily?

MR. NESSEN: I think Bob Barrett took care of that yesterday. He gave out a list, printed list, as a matter of fact, of the top folks. I think we still have some copies around here. Then I think he listed 24, maybe 26, or something like that.

Q Is there a transcript of that briefing yesterday?

MR. NESSEN: As far as I know there is. Yes. I know one was made.

Q Do you have any idea how many White House people, people who work in the White House, will stay in the White House after 12 o'clock tomorrow?

MR. NESSEN: I don't know. I haven't checked that. I know personally a couple. But it is not an exhaustive list.

Q Do you know how many still don't have jobs?

MR. NESSEN: I don't, Tom. (Laughter)

Q Do you know if that is a long list; a serious question?

MR. NESSEN: I don't have any idea how many do and how many don't.

Q Have you got a job, Ron?

MR. NESSEN: You were at the Press Club. You heard what I said.

Q I heard what you said. But I didn't think that was an announcement.

MR. NESSEN: It was.

Q What did you say?

MR. NESSEN: I said I was going to write and speak for a while.

Q What is your greatest accomplishment, Ron, besides giving up smoking since you took this job?

MR. NESSEN: I think surviving.

Do you want Bobbie back to clean up your questions on amnesty?

Q We want to ask you some questions.

Q What did Schmults say?

Q Give me what you can. Excuse me, Bobbie. One more question on the President generally. What can you tell us about his mood, his frame of mind, his attitude, what he said, what he is saying this morning; anything? This is his last full day.

MR. NESSEN: I think those of you who have seen him or talked to him lately know he is looking forward with enthusiasm to the new challenges that he is about to undertake.

Q Why haven't we been able to get any pictures of him so far?

MR. NESSEN: I don't think there is any particular reason, Fran, His schedule is awfully busy these days. I said I would look at the schedule.

Q The President has lived here 30 months and has built up some personal artifacts and also has clothing and things. How is that physically handled? When is it actually packed up?

MR. NESSEN: I think most of it is gone already, I guess last Saturday most of it was moved.

Q In a van that was visible?

MR. NESSEN: In a van. Yes.

Q Does he have a last bag that he packs tomorrow morning?

MR. NESSEN: I think he will have a last bag to take away his remaining stuff.

Q Is he going to carry a suit over his shoulder, Ron? (Laughter)

Q Serious question: There is as I understand it a press pool going on Air Force One. Is that going to have normal pool function responsibilities such that if there is a radio tape I can have somebody at the other end to pick up that radio tape? Will there be a printed pool report at the other end?

MR. NESSEN: Larry Speakes as the transition spokesman, I think, can begin to function here.

Q There is going to be a news story and the President as I understand it is going to come back and talk.

MR. SPEAKES: The network has agreed to pool the film tape.

Q Amongst themselves. What about radio?

MR. SPEAKES: We have made no arrangements with that. I will make an effort.

Q Is it your plan there be no radio engineer aboard that flight?

MR. SPEAKES: That is right.

Q Ron, the Senators paid tribute to President Ford yesterday for two hours. Did he thank anybody? What did he say or do?

MR. NESSEN: I haven't followed all of his phone calls. So I don't really know what he said to individual Senators. I saw some Senators on his phone list today. But I don't know whether that related to that or some other matter.

Q Can you tell us who they were?

MR. NESSEN: No, because I only glanced at the phone list. I didn't make a list.

Q Has there been any surge of mail or telegrams, or telephone calls to the President?

MR. NESSEN: I haven't seen a mail list in the past week or so. I will check for you.

Q Is it true that some members of the family, Susan, one of the sons, are very reluctant to leave and were pouting around about it and fussing?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I saw.

Q Anything like that?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I know of.

Q What members of the family are still here?

MR. NESSEN: The President and Mrs. Ford. Susan is at school in Kansas, Jack is leaving today for -- where? -- somewhere and Steve is back in school at California Poly and Mike is at his home in Massachusetts.

Q Getting back to my original question, may we assume that any of the material which the former President does on Air Force One tomorrow is pool material or are these all exclusive properties of the three networks?

MR. SPEAKES: We will work it out. I will talk to them.

Q Can you give us some sort of a guarantee that the sound Phil Jones gets with his tape recorder is pool or are you telling us that is no longer pool?

MR. SPEAKES: Let me talk to your colleagues that will be making the trip and see if I can persuade them to give you some sound.

Q I saw an item the other day that President-elect Carter is going to walk across from Blair House. Is that still true or are they coming from there by limousine?

MR. NESSEN: I think you will have to ask Jody. I don't know.

Q Where will the motorcade depart that goes to the Hill?

MR. NESSEN: North Portico.

Q Would you explain all of these challenges that the President feels?

MR. NESSEN: He is going to be doing some teaching as Bob told you yesterday, some lecturing. He looks forward to that. He looks forward to his writing. He looks forward to some relaxation. He looks forward to continuing to speak out and represent his philosophy. All of those are challenges of the future.

Q Can you say what else he is doing today besides making phone calls? You have meetings with the staff. Any indication of what he is doing actually today, the last day?

MR. NESSEN: I didn't bring my schedule. Let me see a schedule.

Q Can we ask one question of Ed Schmults?

MR. NESSEN: I think Ed left. But Bobbie I think got the answer you wanted.

The meeting with the Republican new Members lasted 20 minutes. The decontrol goes into effect March 1st. The Rockefeller family stayed here once previously. We are looking for the date for you.

Q What time is the dinner tonight?

MR. NESSEN: Dinner with the Rockefellers? I don't know.

Q For our stuff tomorrow, can we get a list of the people that the President telephoned or received phone calls from today, at the end of this day?

MR. NESSEN: I will look over the list and see what we can do.

Q What about Baker? Did you find out?

MR. NESSEN: No. I didn't find out why Senator Baker wasn't there, whether he was supposed to be there.

Q Will he make a little farewell speech tomorrow morning at breakfast? Do you know? Is he planning to say anything?

MR. NESSEN: I would expect him to, Ted. I would. I think he didn't have another opportunity to do so. So I anticipate that he will.

Q Will that be available?

MR. NESSEN: It will be available in the sense that I will come here and tell you about it. Right.

Q Did the President give these people any presents; the staff?

MR. NESSEN: Any presents? No. I think it is against the law to give a present.

Q A pen or something, a staff picture?

Q Is he joking about leaving, is he jovial, aside from being enthusiastic about these wonderful new challenges? Is he going from room to room?

MR. NESSEN: I said that because I was asked and I don't know what brings up the sarcasm. That is frankly the way he feels. It is what he said to people recently when he is asked the question that he has done most of his work. He has completed these last few items and he is truly, truly looking forward to leaving here tomorrow and taking on a new set of challenges.

That is the expression he uses. So I tried to relay to you accurately what his feeling is.

Q Did the Ford White House people go off the payroll as of tomorrow? Is that the last day on the payroll?

MR. NESSEN: That is right. You get paid a full day even though you work a half day.

Q Let's get this.

MS. KILBERG: Ed is sorry he had to leave. He did call Mrs. Hart at approximately 11 a.m.

Q Where was she?

MS. KILBERG: I believe she was in Washington. I am sorry. I don't know.

He read her the two-page letter. She said simply thank you for reading it to me. She said that she would have to think about it before she had any comments. That was basically the end of the conversation. It was a pleasant conversation.

I would suggest you would have to directly contact her to get her reaction.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

(AT 12:22 P.M. EST)