

The original documents are located in Box 299, folder “China Trip - Criticism of Press Office” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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W First Line Report--News and Commentary--Im bob schieffer, cbs news, white house correpondent reporting on the cbs radio network. feuding, fussing and fighting at the white house..that in a minute.

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President Ford once said that palace fueds put him in a bad humor.

That being the case he must be in a foul mood these days. Here are two recent examples of inter-office friction at the white house.

During one leg of the China trip, secretary of state kissinger wandered back to the press section of air force one. Most reporters who travel with the president go aboard chartered commercial planes but a few ride on mr ford's plane. While doing so they represent the entire press corps and file a brief report on activities aboard Air Forde One. That information ~~report~~--called a pool report--is given to other reporters at the next stop.

In this case, Kissinger had chatted informally with the reporters and were including they ~~had~~ his remarks in their pool report. Learning of that ~~Kissinger~~ Kissinger said he had been mixed up on the ground rules and had thought he was talking on deep background---that is takking with the understanding that he would not be quoted by name and his remarks would not be attributed to a government offical.

~~Kissinger said he had realized that he had used an inadvertant and ~~with~~ on second thought ~~the~~ ~~could trigger an international incident.~~~~

Kissinger's remarks had not been all that newsy and after some discussion ~~the~~ the reporters agreed that there probably had been a mix up. They decided to give Kissinger the benefit of the doubt. *and treated the Secretary's remarks as*

CONFIDENTIAL

~~pool report that ~~the~~ they were ~~labelled~~ not for ~~the~~~~

That there is no love lost between Kissinger and White House Press Secretary Ron Nessen is no secret around the white house. But what happened next surprized even ^{VETERAN} white house observers. After ~~the~~ Kissinger left, Nessen

appeared in the press section and berated reporters for going easy on Kissinger. This reporter was not present but a person who heard the conversation said Nessen complained that once a public official says something it can not be withdrawn. He chided reporters for not believing in freedom of the press and observed they would never give him the same break they had given Kissinger.

The second incident also involved Nessen.

At one point during the China Trip, Susan Ford, the president's daughter, suddenly cancelled a luncheon engagement. Reporters suspected the Chinese were about to schedule a meeting between the president and Chairman Mao and that Susan had been told to return home and stand by so she could accompany her father.

Nessen said however that Miss Ford's cancellation had nothing to do with her father. He advised reporters to check with Mrs. Ford's press secretary Sheila Widenfeld for additional details.

Reporters noted Mrs. Widenfeld was out of pocket. Nessen was overheard to grumble ~~to~~ to an aide that Mrs. Widenfeld was always out of pocket. Then he turned to a group of reporters and advised them to track down Mrs. Widenfeld. "The taxpayers are paying her to give you information," he said. "If you can't find her you should complain and complain loudly."

As it turned out reporters got their answer before Mrs. Widenfeld could be located. As suspected--and despite Nessen's ~~call~~ ^{earlier declaration to the contrary}--the call had concerned the president. Susan had been called back to accompany her father to see Mao. And she did just that. Although friction between Nessen and some of the other white house staff seems to be on the upswing, the press secretary ~~K...~~ has been telling friends lately that he expects to be white house press secretary as long as Gerald Ford remains president.

The way things are shaping up, it could turn out to be a lonely post. more →



William Greener, the deputy press secretary and a man who ~~was~~ ^{IS} widely respected by newsmen who cover the white house ~~is leaving~~ ^{WILL SOON depart.}

He has been named an assistant secretary of defense and ~~if~~ if confirmed by the senate will become the pentagon's chief spokesman.

At least three ~~new~~ ^{OTHER} top aides ~~on Kessen's staff~~ ^(IN THE PRESS OFFICE) are looking for employment elsewhere.

And as one press office ~~employee~~ ^(the) employe put it ~~there~~ other day: "The fact is that everybody on Kessen's staff is looking for another job---some are just looking more actively than others."

Nessen, himself, was unavailable for comment.

Aides say he has decided to take a long vacation. ~~xxxxxxxx~~
~~xxxxxxxx~~ Now, this message.

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First Line Report---I'm Bob Schieffer, cbs news.



P. F-1

Honolulu Advertiser 7 DEC 1975

Ford's China visit: 'worth
the time and money spent'



News & Comment

The President's Daily News Summary

Leading The News...

FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1975

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NEWSADMINISTRATION

Ford Reports Promise Of Tax Cut Veto: President Ford met with GOP congressional leaders Wednesday and reiterated his promise to veto any tax cut bill unless a ceiling on spending is attached to it.

Republicans promised him general support on a veto but House Minority Leader John Rhodes (R-Ariz) said he thinks it is doubtful a veto can be sustained, ABC reported.

Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa) spoke to reporters after the meeting. Scott said (on NBC film): "It is essential that the country be aware that the President's major concern, and in fact, I think the major issue for the country is whether or not Congress is of a mind, not only to reduce spending, but to be willing to act affirmatively to commit itself to a given spending reduction."

Scott said (on CBS film): "There is a general feeling that the majority party doesn't want to be pinned down to a spending ceiling because it runs counter to their philosophy and that is where the problem is. How can you compromise with people who won't compromise?"

"Just a few days ago, President Ford said he was confident that he had enough votes to sustain his veto on any tax bill which fails to put a ceiling on spending. But GOP leaders are afraid he may be overconfident, a lot of Congressmen including some Republicans may decide it's political suicide to vote against a tax cut for any reason," John Cochran (NBC) reported.

"White House sources said privately Wednesday night that the Republicans simply do not have the votes to sustain a presidential veto. One reason may be that the Democrats seemed in such an compromising mood today," Bob Schieffer (CBS) reported. AP;UPI;Networks (12/10/75)

Rockefeller: A New Man: Just a month after Nelson Rockefeller's withdrawal from the President's '76 campaign ticket, Rockefeller is "a new man...happier, a little cockier, more frank, less tense," according to Connie Chung (CBS).

Asked why he would not rule out the possibility of running for President, Rockefeller said (on CBS film): "Because I might be President in 1976....How can I say? Sitting here as Vice President, why should I have taken that post if I wasn't ready, God forbid? In some circumstances it happens. That's the point of having a vice president. So how can I rule myself out from taking that responsibility?"

"Throughout his vice presidency, Rockefeller has maintained



a public silence to differences he had with the Ford Administration," Chung reported. "Now things are different. Two weeks ago, at the GOP Governors Conference in Wichita, Kansas, he spoke out against proposed energy legislation...a bill Ford aides were encouraging the President to sign. He won't be Vice President in '76. But he's not selling himself short. His friends say he will still be controversial. Don't count him out," Chung warned. CBS Morning News (12/10/75)

Rocky: Americans Fed Up With Bureaucracy: At a meeting of the Regional Council of Domestic Affairs, in Los Angeles, Vice President Rockefeller said Tuesday, "Quite frankly, the American people are fed up with government bureaucracy and red tape. It was one message we've gotten...and that's it." Rockefeller will report to the President on these hearings within the next few weeks, Herb Kaplow (ABC) reported. ABC Good Morn America (12/10/75)

Nessen Under Fire, Bob Schieffer (CBS): President Ford once said that palace feuds put him in a bad humor. That being the case, he must be in a foul mood these days. Here are two recent examples of inner-office friction at the White House.

During one leg of the China trip, Secretary Kissinger wandered back to the press section of Air Force One and chatted informally with reporters. Learning that they were including his remarks in their pool report, however, Kissinger said he had been mixed up on the ground rules, and thought that he was talking on deep background. Kissinger's remarks had not been all that newsy, and after some discussion the reporters agreed that there probably had been a mix up. They decided to give Kissinger the benefit of the doubt, and treated his remarks as confidential.

That there is no love lost between Kissinger and Ron Nessen is no secret around the White House. But what happened next surprised even veteran White House observers. After Kissinger left, Nessen appeared in the press section and berated reporters for going easy on Kissinger. Nessen complained that once a public official says something, it cannot be withdrawn. He chided reporters for not believing in freedom of the press, and observed that they would never give him the same break they had given Kissinger.

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to accompany her father to see Mao, and she did just that.

Although friction between Nessen and some of the White House staff seems to be on the upswing these days, the press secretary has been telling friends lately he expects to be White House Press Secretary as long as Gerald Ford remains President. The way things are shaping up, it could turn out to be a lonely post. William Greener who is widely respected by White House newsmen, will soon depart to become the Pentagon's chief spokesman. At least three other top aides in the Press Office are looking for employment elsewhere. As one press office employ e put it the other day, the fact is everybody on Nessen's staff is looking for another job, some are just looking more actively than others. Nessen himself was unavailable for comment. Aides say he has decided to take a long vacation. -- CBS Morning News (12/10/75)

CONGRESS

Dems Remain Against Spending Ceiling: Senate Democrats said Wednesday they will remain solid in their opposition to President Ford's demand for a spending ceiling to be attached to the tax cut bill. At a working lunch, the Democrats unanimously said they would support a simple six month extension of a tax cut. "To do otherwise, they said, would be to torpedo the new congressional budget process which calls for a budget ceiling to be voted not now, but next May," Sam Donaldson (ABC) reported. The Senate Finance Committee later reported out a simple tax extension bill by a vote of 14-4.

Sen. Edmund Muskie (D-Me) said (on ABC film): "I hope the President listens because the road upon which he has embarked is the road which brought President Nixon and the Congress in direct confrontation over the power of the purse. We want no repetition of this. We have an orderly process, Mr. President, let's honor it." Muskie said (on CBS film): "We simply will not agree to let the President completely torpedo this new budget process which has been welcomed by people all across this country for its display of fiscal responsibility on the part of Congress."

Sen. Russell Long (D-La) said (on ABC film): "If we cannot override and he wants to call us back, then I think that we ought to pass precisely the same measure and send it back to him just as we sent it to him the time before, and just to be sure that it was exactly the same thing we sent before I suggest we use the Xerox machine." -- AP;UPI;Networks (12/10/75)

Muskie Supports Congress In Tax Cut Plan: Chairman of the Sen. Budget Committee, Ed Muskie, said that President Ford is acting irresponsibly by trying to upset Congress' tax cut plan.

In an interview Wednesday on Good Morning America, Muskie said without the tax cut, unemployment could be worsened by



500,000 jobs. "This is the reason that Congress is insisting on a continuation of the tax cut." Muskie denied that the Democrats are playing heavy politics at the citizens' expense. -- ABC Good Morning America (12/10/75)

Commerce Committee Confirms Richardson: The Senate Commerce Committee Wednesday approved the nomination of Elliot Richardson to become Secretary of Commerce. The full Senate is expected to confirm Richardson late this week or next. -- AP;UPI;ABC (12/10/75)

INTELLIGENCE

Contempt Charges To Be Dropped On HAK: Contempt of Congress charges will be dropped against Secretary Kissinger, Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee Otis Pike said Wednesday.

The decision came after the White House briefed a Committee delegation on State Department requests for covert operations abroad. The Committee accepted the briefing in lieu of documents that Kissinger refused to turn over. -- AP;UPI;Networks (12/10/75)

Pike: Executive Withheld Evidence Of Possible Soviet SALT Violations: House Intelligence Committee Chairman Otis Pike said in an interview Wednesday that he has no doubt that intelligence regarding possible SALT violations was withheld from both Congress and key people in the executive branch, but that no "hard evidence" was covered up.

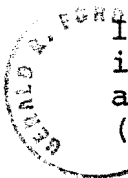
Pike said the information was withheld from Hugh Alexis Johnson, then our chief negotiator in Geneva. The committee chairman said he thinks the information was withheld "to try to get the Russian views on what the Russians were doing before this was disseminated," but that Johnson should have had the information. CBS Morning News (12/10/75)

Kelly: King Harrassers Should Be "Brought To Account": FBI Director Clarence Kelly said Wednesday those FBI policy-makers responsible for the harrassment of the late Martin Luther King should be "brought to account."

"Kelly urged Congress to enact guidelines that would govern the FBI, but he and the committee are still far apart on how strict those guidelines should be," Fred Graham reported. -- AP; UPI;CBS (12/10/75)

DEFENSE

Israel To Get F-15s: The Pentagon Wednesday announced that Israel will receive the F-15, the newest US jet fighter. Israel is the first country to receive the F-15. The exact number of the aircraft to be sold to Israel was not disclosed. -- AP;UPI;Networks (12/10/75)



ECONOMY

Retail Prices Up: Retail sales were up about 1 percent in November, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday. Prices were higher but the actual volume of goods sold was up only one half of one percent or less. -- AP;UPI;ABC (12/10/75)

ELECTION '76

Harris Says Employment Must Be Restored: The cure to our nation's economic ills lies in restoring full employment to the economy, Democratic presidential contender Fred Harris believes.

In a CBS News Campaign Profile Wednesday, Harris was described by Walter Cronkite as "the most radical Presidential candidate occupying a position on the Democratic Party's far left."

To combat inflation, Harris says there must be "enforcement of the anti-trust laws to bring down the prices naturally through some competition."

On busing, Harris said, "If it's ordered it's the law and any politician who says otherwise is saying something that can't be and is liable to get a lot of little kids hurt. And furthermore, forced segregation is rightly outlawed."

Harris believes that people are fed up with power and elitism. "What we are talking about is fundamental maldistribution of income and power in this country." -- CBS (12/10/75)



COMMENTFOREIGN POLICY

Lame Duck Or Peking? Martin Nolan, excerpted, Boston Globe: The question is not what happened in China. The question might better be: How did he still find time to toast his own English muffins?. That sad query comes from a middle-echelon Ford Administration official who did not accompany his leader to China. He didn't want to, either; like others, he has become discouraged with what has happened to the promise of newness, the refreshing breeze that blew over the White House in August, 1974.

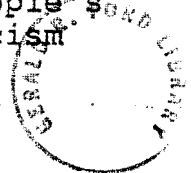
"The President and his political types have apparently decided that he can't slog through the primaries the way Reagan can, so they say he should become 'more Presidential,' without saying how. Foreign travel is a natural stalling tactic, and so is all the bluster with Congress. I think it goes against the President's personal grain and his own philosophy, but the political miscalculations become presidential miscalculations and therefore backfire politically."

For Gerald Ford, the rushing sands of credibility slipping through his fingers must feel sickeningly swift and scary. He took office with the full confidence and highest faith of the 200 million people who felt betrayed by his predecessor. Yet that faith and confidence are dwindling faster than the strength of the landslide mandates given Richard Nixon in 1972 and Lyndon Johnson in 1964.

And for much the same reason. He quickly hung the "politics as usual" sign on the clubhouse door by dispatching Jerry terHorst (remember him?) to announce his intentions to run for office, just days after he was awarded the job in a uniquely delicate procedure. He might have waited a while, but no, his political counselors warned against being a "lame duck," a symbol of historic impotence that bears little relevance to the current impotence of the entire political process. A lame duck acting on honest impulses might have been stronger than the Peking duck winging homeward to uncertainty. -- (12/10/75)

Security Council Is No Help, editorial, excerpted, Philadelphia Inquirer: The veto cast by US Ambassador Moynihan of the UN Security Council resolution "strongly" condemning Israel for last week's air raids on Palestinian targets in Lebanon was consistent with the principle which Mr. Moynihan has eloquently proclaimed -- there shall be no double standard of judgment.

The resolution was, in its own way, as obscene as the General Assembly's vote last month branding Zionism, the Jewish people's historic desire for a homeland of their own, "a form of racism and racial discrimination."



The resolution would have put the Security Council on record as "deploring" Israel's alleged violation of previous, and similarly one-sided, UN resolutions. It did not deplore or even so much as mention the fact that the PLO has never accepted the two basic Security Council resolutions of 1967 and 1973 calling for negotiations on the basis of the political independence of all states, including Israel.

When Ambassador Moynihan introduced amendments condemning "all acts of violence," urging "all concerned to refrain from any further acts of violence," and calling upon "all parties to refrain from any action which might endanger negotiations aimed at achieving a just and lasting peace in the Mideast," the majority brusquely rejected them.

In the circumstances, it is difficult to see how the Security Council can accomplish anything useful when it debates Mideast issues next month. It can hardly provide solutions to the problem when, obviously biased as it is, with eight of its members not even recognizing the Israeli government, it becomes itself part of the problem. (12/9/75)

NEW YORK CRISIS

Privileged Bailouts, editorial, condensed, NY Post: Ford Administration reactions to pleas for financial help tend to vary, according to what might be termed a relative sense of values. While New York is being sternly warned that Big Brother is watching, other applicants are being patted indulgently on the head and promised many billions in spending money by a beaming Uncle Sam.

The city, for instance, will be under a rigorous form of trusteeship when the federal loan guarantee plan clears Congress. There will be strict monitoring and stiff deadlines to meet. The terms are harsh but they are unavoidable if a shattered municipal credit is to be reestablished.

Has Washington exerted any comparable vigilance before paying large sums to foreign grain purchasers in shipping subsidies? An official Agriculture Department inquiry is focusing on reports of a bid-rigging scheme that may have cost Washington heavily in the payment of unwarranted subsidies.

The financial risks involved in these proposals are obviously far greater than any assumed by Washington under the New York assistance plan. Yet there is little evidence of comparable federal control, either in place or planned for the future. The loss potential is appreciably more threatening. The prospects invite closer attention in Congress. There is nothing appealing about the possibility, however remote, of a Washington default. (12/8/75)



Ford's Bottom Line May Be Hurt By His Hard City Line, Jerome Cahill, the NY Daily News: President Ford's decision to extend some financial aid to NYC was prefaced with such a torrent of White House propaganda against the city that the assistance may be insufficient to head off a slump in what previously has been one of the economy's most buoyant sectors.

Government and private economists concede that spending by state and local governments is the most recent area of concern. Some are worried that cutbacks in this sector may contribute an unexpected drag on the economic upturn that is currently under way, albeit without much vigor.

The White House admits that state and local spending may be off. But so far, the administration is sticking to its guns that the recovery will continue on its modest upward path next year, while unemployment slowly recedes and prices moderate their dizzying pace of the past few years.

Maybe it's stretching things to put all of the blame on Ford and the political grandstanding that preceded his about-face on city aid, but it is arguable that the White House didn't help calm the situation any, and might have even made it worse. Some fairly orthodox business interests were worried, in private, that the White House was going too far in its anti-New York campaign prior to the turn-about.

Whoever's to blame, the facts speak for themselves. To quote the Chase economists once again: "Thanks primarily to New York's problems, state and local spending is now getting a much closer and frequently colder eye from investors, voters and the governments involved. In the November elections, voters rejected more than 90% of the state and local bond issues that were up for approval."

It could well be that other sectors of the economy will take up the stock. But it is a cinch that the recovery would be a lot stronger (and Ford's election prospects a lot brighter) if the state and local sector were carrying its usual load.
(12/9/75)

ECONOMY

Tax-Cut Quarrel, editorial, excerpted, C.S. Monitor: President Ford is mistaken if he believes, as his advisers do, that a sudden increase in federal taxes after the first of the year would not have any "material effect on the economy." For this reason, we urge him to approve legislation extending this year's tax cuts into 1976.



In sum, the US economy is by no means out of the woods and failure to extend the 1975 tax cut would seriously dampen the recovery.

The President says he will let taxes rise if Congress refuses to set a \$395 billion federal spending limit for the coming fiscal year (1977). This is an unrealistic proviso, however, that may make good political sense, but undercuts congressional budgetary procedures that have seen vast improvement this year.

Instead of piecemeal budget writing, Congress now sets overall spending limits and works to hold down federal expenditures within those limits. The mood of the country indicates the desire to curb "big government." Thus legislators are under just as much pressure as Mr. Ford to economize.

President Ford may have painted himself into a corner on the tax cut-spending cut issue, but he could save face by ordering temporary continuation of this year's tax withholding rates. Then Congress and the White House could negotiate a spending ceiling once Mr. Ford has made public his 1977 budget. If the President doesn't do at least this much, the US economy will suffer. (12/9/75)

ADMINISTRATION

Pressure Mounts To Dump Kissinger, Smith Hempstone, Phil. Inquirer: As a consequence of the recent defenestration of Secretary Schlesinger, Secretary Kissinger became incomparably the most intellectually distinguished member of the Ford administration. Yet all men have their price, and it is unclear just how far into an election year the President will be able to afford the luxury of having Kissinger in his cabinet.

The time was when the peripatetic Super-K was an unadulterated adornment to an otherwise lackluster administration. He had ended American involvement in the Vietnam war, engineered the opening to China, embarked upon a policy of detente with the USSR and laid the groundwork for a Mideast peace settlement.

But each of these demarches has, with the passage of time, become as tarnished as a dime-store wedding ring. Beyond these failures of policy (although partially because of them), Kissinger is in deep trouble with Congress and some elements of the press. He is sniped at for his role in the overthrow of Chilean President Salvadore Allende, the wiretapping of newsmen and government officials, and his refusal to turn over subpoenaed State Department documents to the Pike committee.

Kissinger has been deprived of his White House office, his automatic daily one-hour session with the President and his control



of the NSC. He has powerful enemies close to Ford in Defense, Secretary Rumsfeld and Melvin Laird. And he recently lost a test of strength within his own department to UN Ambassador Moynihan.

Despite all these woes, Kissinger continues to get rave ratings from the public for his conduct of foreign affairs. Ironically, these public plaudits could be the straws that ultimately will break Kissinger's back and result in his departure from the administration. The reason being that, while the conduct of foreign affairs is the responsibility of the President, Kissinger's high standing in the public's eye is matched by an equally low public esteem for Ford's diplomatic skill, with only 28% giving the President good marks.

Kissinger would like to stay on until the end of Ford's present term. But the loss of some of his Oval Office leverage and the Moynihan defeat would seem to indicate that the man who once compared himself to a lone cowboy is getting a little slow on the draw.

Kissinger remains what he has always been: a public servant of great energy, considerable intellect and broad vision, possibly the most able secretary of state since George Marshall. But he is not any more indispensable than Schlesinger was.

And Kissinger could prove to be a luxury that a hard-pressed President bent on winning a full term in the White House simply cannot afford. (12/9/75)

ELECTION '76

Ford '76 Strategy: Take Command, Nick Thimmesch, Chicago Tribune: The present strategy of Ford's campaign for the GOP nomination is for him to be displayed as a President in command of his office, so what does Ronald Reagan have to offer?

After a rather unsettling start, the Ford campaign seems to have stabilized on that very theme. The sight of Ford galloping all over the republic in search of Reagan's ghost dismayed many backers, who counseled him to stay home, be President, go to China if you must, but be President.

That resolved, there was also the need for the top leadership of the campaign staff to be firmly established. The unexpected resignations of David Packard and Lee Nunn hardly built confidence.

But last week, a new finance chief was named, Robert Mosbacher of Houston. Howard Callaway remains firm in his post despite an earlier fuss over his remark that Rockefeller was a liability on the ticket. And professional campaign manager Stu Spencer also provides some solidity.



Ford's political managers believe if a growing number of GOP leaders get out now and thump for the President the attempted blitz by Reagan will fail. But if many Republican vocal types remain silent, Reagan could become increasingly credible, and, by late spring, could pose a serious threat to Ford.

The campaign thrust now is to strengthen Ford's leadership image by stressing his decisions on the New York fiscal situation and the Supreme Court nomination and also to give 'big play to his State of the Union message.

If that message is a success, the President will at least seem to be a man of some vision, and not an attacker, as Reagan presently is. Moreover, Ford's managers are banking on a relative measure of peace and prosperity in 1976 to shore up the incumbency advantage.

In terms of issues, thus far, Reagan's pronouncements show few serious differences with Ford.

The Ford campaign management feels it can outorganize Reagan two to one by the time the primary season is really under way.

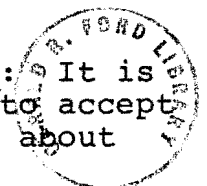
Since Reagan has all but been declared a winner in New Hampshire and Florida by we poor souls in the speculating press, Ford's managers claim any smaller performance by Reagan in those media-focused primaries could be interpreted as a loss. A few such bloody noses, the Ford loyalists argue, and Reagan may lose heart.

Any campaign manager worth his salt has apprehensions and in Ford's case they run like this: The economy could go bad, and maybe the Mideast as well -- hence, a diminution of the leadership image. Regular Republicans could sit on their Ford endorsements too long, and then it could be too little and too late, a familiar story with moderate Republicans. The national media could continue in its seemingly relentless stalking -- and destruction of Presidents, with President Ford as the quarry.

And if the primary season goes badly for Ford, reckoning is that he would only have a 50-50 chance to best Reagan in the California primary, and thus be in real trouble at the convention. But when the Ford management minds go this way for a moment, they soon snap back and see the big picture of President Ford in command of his office. -- (12/9/75)

ENERGY

Energy Politics, editorial, excerpted, C.S. Monitor: It is disappointing that President Ford appears to be willing to accept an energy bill that runs counter to his whole philosophy about



energy development. The package now being hammered out in Congress falls short of meeting the need for a logical and convincing national energy policy.

Despite some modest gains in conservation, the US is importing more and more oil. Domestic production is growing only slowly. How is this challenge being met? Congress's proposed answer is to roll back the average price of domestically produced oil. "New" oil would be allowed to rise over the next 40 months at around 10% a year. Prices on "old" oil would remain controlled at the low rate of \$5.25 a barrel.

Such an energy "solution" is presumably designed to produce a saving for consumers at a time of slow economic recovery -- and a selling point for politicians seeking reelection. Yet the saving, it turns out, may prove to be no more than 1 cent on a gallon of gasoline.

The congressional bill can hardly be tagged a full-blown "conservation" act. It would not stimulate short-term conservation but encourage consumption. The net result would be to increase not lessen America's dependence on foreign oil.

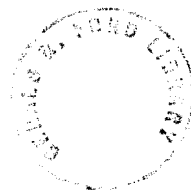
We see merit in the oil industry argument that it would be better to pursue a course which would eventually eliminate the present confusing system of multi-tiered prices for old and new oil and restore the free market mechanism domestically. This can be done by holding steady the present price of new oil and gradually phasing out controls on old oil over a period of three years or so.

It is not too late to adopt a more rational policy. Congress can draw back from passing such weak legislation and, if it does pass it, President Ford can veto it and seek a compromise with the lawmakers. In an election climate it is tempting to do what is deemed politically expedient. But Congress and the President have an opportunity to take a more statesmanlike position and demonstrate they are acting not in their own but in the nation's interest. -- (12/9/75)



Times Of TV News Items
December 10, 1975

	ABC	NBC	CBS
<u>Administration News</u>			
1. Ford/Tax Bill	:15 (2)	1:40 (4)	1:00 (13)
2. PO/Stamps		:10 (7)	
3. Retail Sales Up	1:15 (4)		
5. US Jets/Israel	:20 (6)	:15 (8)	1:30 (lead)
6. HAK/Pike Comm	:25 (14)	:15 (5)	:20 (11)
7. Richardson/Commerce	:10 (15)		
8. FBI/Kelly			1:40 (7)
<u>Other Major News</u>			
		2:00 (Brinkley)	
1. Boston/Racial Trouble	2:50 (lead)	2:35 (lead)	2:15 (3)
2. Democrats/Tax Bill	1:30 (3)		1:15 (13)
3. Stocks UP	:20 (5)		:10 (9)
4. Beirut/Fighting	1:45 (7)		:45 (2)
5. Netherlands	:20 (8)		
6. Portugal/Violence	2:35 (9)		
7. Nobel Prize/Mrs. Sakharov	:40 (10)		:30 (15)
8. Hoffa/Investigation	2:10 (11)	4:20 (2)	1:50 (4)
9. Hoffa/Provenzano	:45 (12)	#2	:10 (5)
10 Hoffa/Medlin	:15 (13)		:20 (6)
11 United Airlines	:20 (16)	:15 (3)	:10 (10)
12 Triform/LA	2:15 (17)		1:45 (21)
13 Computers/Billing	1:45 (Smith,18)		
14 Malpractice		3:00 (6)	
15 Chile/Catholics vs State		2:20 (9)	
16 S. Vietnamese Refugees		1:45 (10)	
17 Atlanta/Xmas Party		1:50 (11)	
18 Harris/Profile			4:10 (14)
19 Detente			2:35 (Sevareid)
20 UN/S Africa			:15 (17)
21 Spain/Strikes			:15 (8)
22 Ambulance/Doctors			:20 (19)
23 Diabetes			:25 (20)



2/11/75

Are Nessen,

Kissinger

Squabbling?

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FORD-PRESS A081 LEAD 120

FEDITORS: THIS SHOWS NESSEN'S COMMENT ABOUT RATS LEAVING A SINKING SHIP WAS IN APPARENT JEST AND THAT NESSEN OFTEN SPEAKS WITH REPORTERS IN SARCASTIC; JESTING TONES.

WASHINGTON (AP) - AT THE START OF 1976, WITH HIS FIRST NATIONAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN ENTERING FULL SWING, PRESIDENT FORD WILL FACE THE DEPARTURE OF SEVERAL KEY MEMBERS OF HIS TROUBLED PRESS STAFF.

ALSO LOOKING FOR ANOTHER JOB IS FORD'S MOST EXPERIENCED PRESS ADVANCE MAN, WHO IS WEIGHING AN OFFER FROM OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT.

ONE WHITE HOUSE AIDE SAID THERE IS INCREASING FRUSTRATION AMONG PRESS AIDES WHO WERE ACCUSTOMED TO A MORE EFFICIENT ORGANIZATION UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF RICHARD M. NIXON.

RON NESSEN, THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS SECRETARY, REFERRED TO IMPENDING DEPARTURES FROM HIS CREW WHEN HE TOLD REPORTERS IN APPARENT JEST DURING FORD'S ASIAN TRIP: "THE RATS ARE LEAVING THE SINKING SHIP."

NESSEN OFTEN SPEAKS WITH REPORTERS IN SARCASTIC; JESTING TONES.

FWILLIAM: 5TH GRAF A081

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FORD-PRESS 380



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WILLIAM GREENER; NESSEN'S CHIEF DEPUTY; IS LEAVING TO JOIN THE PENTAGON STAFF OF FORMER WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF DONALD RUMSFELD.

JOHN HUSHEN; NESSEN'S SECOND DEPUTY; WILL BE LEAVING THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF JAN. 1; SOURCES SAID. THE FORMER JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN CONSIDERING OUTSIDE JOB OFFERS; BUT HAS DENIED HIS DEPARTURE IS IMMINENT.

ADVANCE MAN ERIC ROSENBERGER; WHOSE CRAFT WILL BE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT AS FORD ESCALATES HIS CAMPAIGN TOURS; ALSO IS PLANNING TO LEAVE THE GOVERNMENT. ANOTHER EXPERIENCED ADVANCE MAN; ARNOLD NOEL; ALSO IS KNOWN TO BE LEAVING SOON.

NESSEN HAS BEEN GIVEN A LIST OF NEWS PROFESSIONALS FOR CONSIDERATION TO FILL GREENER'S POST; IN THE \$39,000 TO \$41,000 SALARY RANGE.

NESSEN IS OFF ON A YEAR-END VACATION; AND COULD NOT BE REACHED FOR COMMENT ON THE STAFF DEPLETIONS. HE ALSO WAS UNAVAILABLE FOR COMMENT ON REPORTS THAT HE HAS CRITICIZED SHEILA WEIDENFELD; MRS. FORD'S PRESS SECRETARY; AS WELL AS SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER.

NESSEN TOLD REPORTERS WHO COMPLAINED IN PEKING THAT THEY WERE UNABLE TO LOCATE MRS. WEIDENFELD; 'THE TAXPAYERS ARE PAYING HER TO GIVE INFORMATION. IF YOU CAN'T FIND HER; YOU SHOULD COMPLAIN AND COMPLAIN LOUDLY.'

MRS. WEIDENFELD; ASKED IS SHE WAS HAVING TROUBLE WITH NESSEN; REPLIED; 'NO MORE OR LESS THAN USUAL.'

NESSEN ALSO ACCUSED THREE REPORTERS OF BEING PATSIES FOR KISSINGER FOR AGREEING NOT TO REPORT SOME OF THE THINGS HE SAID IN A TWO-HOUR BRIEFING. NESSEN; FORMERLY AN NBC-TV REPORTER; SAID THE REPORTERS WERE DISREGARDING FREEDOM OF THE PRESS BY ALLOWING KISSINGER TO KEEP SOME COMMENTS OFF THE RECORD OR UNATTRIBUTED.

0825AED 12-12

Shake-up Seen

In Press Office

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PRESS 12-16

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- PRESIDENT FORD REAFFIRMED "FULL CONFIDENCE" IN WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY RON NESSEN MONDAY DESPITE SOME CRITICAL PUBLISHED REPORTS.

NESSEN, WHO LEFT LAST WEEK ON A VACATION EXPECTED TO CONTINUE THROUGH NEW YEAR'S, HAS BEEN CRITICIZED MAINLY FOR THE JOB HE DID DURING FORD'S RECENT 10-DAY TRIP TO CHINA, INDONESIA AND THE PHILIPPINES.

"THE PRESIDENT RETAINS HIS FULL CONFIDENCE IN HIS PRESS SECRETARY ... BECAUSE HE FEELS HE IS FULLY PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED TO DO THE JOB," DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY WILLIAM GREENER TOLD REPORTERS AFTER MEETING WITH FORD MONDAY.

GREENER SAID HE ALSO PERSONALLY CHECKED WITH JOHN W. HUSHEN, ANOTHER DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY, AND ERIC ROSENBERGER, THE TOP PRESS ADVANCE MAN, TO ASK THEM ABOUT REPORTS OF THEIR IMMINENT DEPARTURE AND ACKNOWLEDGED HE HAD HEARD SUCH TALK "ALL OVER THIS BUILDING.

BUT HE SAID BOTH MEN TOLD HIM THEY "HAD NO DEFINITE PLANS" AND "TO MY KNOWLEDGE, NEITHER OF THEM HAS BEEN ASKED TO LEAVE."

GREENER HIMSELF IS EXPECTED TO STEP OUT OF HIS WHITE HOUSE JOB AND SHIFT TO THE PENTAGON SHORTLY, WAITING ONLY FOR SENATE CONFIRMATION OF HIS NOMINATION TO BECOME AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

WHITE HOUSE SOURCES HAVE SAID HUSHEN IS EXPECTED TO BE GONE BY EARLY JANUARY AND THAT ROSENBERGER IS CONSIDERING OFFERS FROM PRIVATE INDUSTRY. IF THEY WERE TO DEPART ALONG WITH GREENER AS FORD IS STARTING AN ELECTION YEAR, IT COULD CREATE SOME CAMPAIGN PROBLEMS FOR THE PRESIDENT, THE SOURCES SAID.

GREENER SAID FORD GAVE NO INDICATION THAT HE WAS "CONCERNED" BY THE REPORTS. HE SAID THE SUBJECT CAME UP ONLY AFTER HE TOOK THE OCCASION TO TELL THE PRESIDENT HOW MUCH HE HAD ENJOYED WORKING FOR HIM.

UPI 12-16 08:55 RES



A321 HFR 12-20,21

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W20STAIRS 12-18

ADV FOR WEEKEND DEC 20,21
(COMMENTARY)

BY HELEN THOMAS
UPI WHITE HOUSE REPORTER

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- BACKSTAIRS AT THE WHITE HOUSE:

PRESIDENT FORD'S PRESS OFFICE IS IN DISARRAY AND BY THE FIRST OF THE YEAR WILL NEED REBUILDING.

ONLY PRESS SECRETARY RON NESSEN SEEMS WILLING TO STAY WITH IT AS FORD'S POLITICAL CAMPAIGN GETS UNDERWAY. MOST OF NESSEN'S TOP ASSOCIATES ARE GONE OR WILL BE GOING.

FORMER WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF DONALD RUMSFELD, NOW SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, RAIDED THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS OFFICE TO PLUCK OFF AN OLD FRIEND, NESSEN DEPUTY WILLIAM GREENER, TO BE THE NO. 1 SPOKESMAN AT THE PENTAGON. IT HAS LEFT A BIG GAP IN THE OFFICE.

GREENER WAS POPULAR WITH REPORTERS. HE WOULD PICK UP THE TELEPHONE AND TRY TO FIND OUT ANSWERS TO THEIR QUESTIONS AND FOLLOW THROUGH IN TRYING TO GIVE THE MOST POSSIBLE INFORMATION.

NESSEN'S OTHER DEPUTY, JOHN HUSHEN, ALSO PLANS TO LEAVE IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND HAS BEEN SOUNDED OUT FOR EMPLOYMENT BY A CABLE TELEVISION OUTFIT.

NESSEN IS CONSIDERING SEVERAL CANDIDATES FOR THE VACANCIES BUT HAS BEEN VACATIONING IN FLORIDA AND HAS NOT YET GOTTEN DOWN TO CASES.

FORD MAY FACE ANOTHER BIG LOSS WITH THE DEPARTURE OF ERIC ROSENBERGER, HIS POPULAR ADVANCE MAN, WHOSE JOB IT WAS TO SET UP NEWS COVERAGE ARRANGEMENTS ON ALL OF FORD'S TRIPS AWAY FROM THE WHITE HOUSE.

FORD IS AWARE OF THE PRESS OFFICE PROBLEMS AND HAS RESTATED PRIVATELY HIS CONFIDENCE IN NESSEN. BUT THERE ARE GROWING QUESTIONS AS TO HIS STATUS.

NESSEN DISPLAYED SOMETHING OF A FEUD WITH SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER ON FORD'S RECENT CHINA TRIP, EVEN AT ONE POINT BERATING REPORTERS FOR GRANTING KISSINGER SPECIAL CONCESSIONS ON THE TERMS WITH WHICH THEY DEAL WITH HIM.

MARTHA MITCHELL IS BEING TREATED AT THE SLOAN KETTERING MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IN NEW YORK AND HAS PERKED UP HER ROOM WITH THE MANY COLORFUL CHRISTMAS CARDS SHE HAS BEEN RECEIVING FROM FRIENDS AND FANS.

SHE IS ANXIOUS TO GET OUT OF THE HOSPITAL AND IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH UPI ASKED THAT ALL HER FRIENDS BE REMEMBERED WITH CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

SHE IS WORKING ON HER MEMOIRS WHILE SHE RECUPERATES FROM A CANCEROUS BLOOD DISORDER.

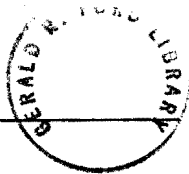


Eliot Marshall

Dec. 20 - New Republic

White House Watch

After the Trip



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John Osborne
2917 "O" Street N.W.
Washington D.C. 20007


January 6, 1976

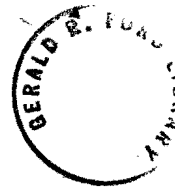
Sirs:

In the News Media section of your January 12 issue, you say: "The New Republic's John Osborne wrote: "It is intolerable that Ron Nessen should be kept by the President." In the December 20 issue of The New Republic, I wrote in part: "It is intolerable that Ron Nessen should be kept by the President ... in a position to bait, derogate and sneer at Henry Kissinger ..." You folks ever hear of the three-dot ellipsis? It would have mitigated though not cured the distortion.

Sincerely,


John Osborne

cc: Mel Elfin
Ron Nessen (by hand )
Robert Myers (New Republic)



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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 21, 1976

Dear Mr. Pollak:

Thank you very much for your thoughtfulness in taking the time to write to Newsweek to point out their misleading, partial quote from John Osborne.

As you point out, the full quote was not exactly flattering to me, but it certainly conveyed John Osborne's view, whereas the partial quote completely distorted what he intended to say.

Incidentally, John Osborne himself sent a letter to the editor of Newsweek pointing out this same misleading use of his words.

Again, I appreciate your taking the time to write to Newsweek.

Sincerely,

Ron Nessen
Press Secretary
to the President

Mr. Louis H. Pollak
University of Pennsylvania
The Law School
3400 Chestnut Street I4
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19174



UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA 19174

The Law School
3400 Chestnut Street 14
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

January 14, 1976

Mr. Ron Nessen
White House Press Secretary
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Nessen:

I take the liberty of enclosing herewith a
copy of a letter I have sent to the Editor of
Newsweek.

Sincerely yours,


Louis H. Pollak

LHP:rdh
Enc.



UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA 19174

The Law School
3400 Chestnut Street 14
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

January 14, 1976

Mr. Edward Kosner
Editor
Newsweek
The Newsweek Building
Livingston, New Jersey 07039

Dear Mr. Kosner:

The article entitled "Nessen's Report Card" in Newsweek for January 12 states: "After the [Peking] trip, The New Republic's John Osborne wrote: 'It is intolerable that Ron Nessen should be kept by the President.'" The ordinary reader would, I should think, read the quotation attributed to Mr. Osborne as a recommendation that Mr. Nessen be dismissed — a reading reinforced by the fact that the very next sentence of the Newsweek story recites that certain highly placed presidential advisers "are known to believe that Nessen should be fired."

In fairness to Mr. Osborne, Mr. Nessen, and the President, it would seem appropriate to set forth the entire Osborne sentence from which the Newsweek quotation was excerpted (without notice that it was only an excerpt). The entire Osborne sentence, though sharply critical of Mr. Nessen, and indeed of the President, is not, at least explicitly, a call for Mr. Nessen's dismissal. The entire Osborne sentence is as follows: "It is intolerable that Ron Nessen should be kept by the President and — one is bound to assume — knowingly kept by the President in a position



Mr. Edward Kosner

Page Two

to bait, derogate and sneer at Henry Kissinger, in my opinion one of this country's great and creative Secretaries of State, in the way that Nessen has done and by definition has been permitted if not encouraged to do during this journey."

Sincerely yours,

Louis H. Pollak

LHP:rdb

cc: Mr. Ron Nessen ✓
Mr. John Osborne

