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June 7, 1975

Mr. President:

Attached is your briefing book for the Monday evening press conference.

Frank Zarb has scheduled a news conference **for 1:30 pm Monday**. That should deflect many of the questions on energy. I will, however, give you an updated section on energy, and particularly on whether the Administration's information on strip mining is erroneous, Monday afternoon.

Questions and suggested answers on other late-breaking subjects also **will be** submitted Monday.

Ron Nessen



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 9, 1975

Mr. President:

Below is a proposed news conference response for your use if appropriate:

"I noticed in my weekend reading there were news stories about an acrimonious press briefing at which charges of cover-up were made by members of the press.

I'm sure this group knows of the dedication to candor in this Administration. We have worked to bring reforms and to open up press coverage of the White House. Most, if not all, of these reforms were the result of Ron Nessen's campaign to restore trust and truthfulness in relations between the press and the White House.

I believe Ron is following my example in trying to restore credibility in the Press Room. I continue to support Ron. He has my full confidence."

RON NESSEN

June 17, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

SUBJECT: TV Series on American Presidency

I am opposed to your taking part in this proposed television program for the following reasons:

1. It will take up entirely too much of your time to serve as narrator on a 13-week series.
2. Even though this series is proposed for the Public Broadcasting network, it will have a commercial sponsor, "a major U.S. corporation" underwriting the program. I don't think it's proper for the President to take part in a commercially sponsored series.
3. As you know, there have been some critical comments after some of your recent televised speeches suggesting that Bob Mead and others are turning you into an actor. To appear in a regular televised series reading somebody else's words from a teleprompter on a set would merely contribute to this image of an actor.
4. Somebody else would write the scripts and their appraisal of former Presidents might not coincide with yours. This could be especially delicate in an election year.

If this TV series turns out to be an important contribution to the Bicentennial, you might consider taping a short introductory statement for the opening program.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Ron Nesson

What do you  
think?





SAMPLE SCRIPT

of Commons rejected another appeal on behalf of America on a redress of their grievances

MEMO TO Ray Courage  
FROM: Bob Henkel  
SUBJECT: The Presidency -- Commander In Chief

*Tim Klesinger*  
May 16, 1975

For the TV series on the American Presidency, here is an outline of an episode on the President as Commander In Chief:

"THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY"

"The President as Commander In Chief"

- Opening Cut: A panorama of newsreel footage showing Woodrow Wilson calling on Congress for a Declaration of War and later reviewing American troops in World War I; of Theodore Roosevelt sending the U.S. Fleet around the world; of Franklin D. Roosevelt aboard an aircraft carrier, or with President Eisenhower reviewing American forces in South Korea.
- Pan To The Oval Office: President Ford is sitting on the edge of his desk with the flags of the United States and of the Presidency clearly in view.
- The President: "The President is a man of many roles and duties. One of the most controversial is that of Commander In Chief. To be the Constitutional head of the United States' military establishment is an awesome and terrifying responsibility. The President's orders are never countermanded and relate to every man and woman in American uniform around the world. Many of the men who have held this office have anguished over their role as Commander In Chief. But like the other duties of being President, the man in this office determines how that responsibility shall be discharged.
- But one thing upon which all of our Presidents could agree is the civilian control of the military. That is the keystone of our constitutional mandate to direct the activities of our armed forces.
- Each one of the military services has a civilian secretary and all services are unified under a Defense Department also headed by a civilian. Each service is also answerable to an appropriate committee of the House and the Senate. But the over-all direction of the military services is under the President.

-more-

Having served in the Navy and seen combat, in the second World War, I am aware of the horrors of war and of its futility. As Commander In Chief, I see our military force as a preserver of peace.

What our Presidents have done in carrying out this duty has had a great influence on our history. The military services have had an important part in our history. The U.S. Marines are the oldest of the services. More than 24,000,000 million Americans have served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Marines, since we became a nation 200 years ago."

The President (or a narrator) then narrates the facts for a series of pictures and/or film footage of Presidents in the role of Commander In Chief, including the following:

George Washington

ordering U.S. Naval ships to remain neutral between British and French Naval battles.

James Madison

with his field Commanders as they evacuate Washington, D.C. during the British invasion of the Capitol.

James Polk

signing orders sending the American Army to fight Mexico.

Abraham Lincoln

with General U.S. Grant in the field addressing the dedication of the national military cemetery at Gettysburg. Meeting with Generals Winfield Scott and Sherman ordering troops to quell the N.Y.C. draft riots.

U.S. Grant

issuing orders to fight the Indian wars.

At the center of the controversy over U.S. military pursuit of the Indians following the massacre at Little Big Horn.

James Buchanan

and the U.S. Army's seizure of arms belonging to abolitionist John Brown.

William McKinley

orders to U.S. forces after the sinking of the U.S.S. Maine.

-more-



Theodore Roosevelt and his Armed Forces preparedness program.

Woodrow Wilson at U.S. Army training camp (World War I).

Warren Harding sending the U.S. Fleet on a world wide goodwill mission.

Herbert Hoover ordering the U.S. Army to disperse the Bonus Army.

Franklin D. Roosevelt watching maneuvers of the Fleet, calling for a Declaration of War after Pearl Harbor, meeting with his military chiefs (Nimitz, Eisenhower, Arnold, etc.), reviewing troops in North Africa with Eisenhower.

This section should also show scenes from World War II battles, the invasion of Normandy, and the march on Germany.

Harry S. Truman ordering the dropping of two H Bombs, ordering the Berlin Air Lift, ordering U.S. Forces into Korea as part of a UN Force, firing General MacArthur.

Dwight D. Eisenhower at West Point and Annapolis, ordering military advisors to Vietnam.

John F. Kennedy reporting on Bay of Pigs invasion, statements on the Cuban Missile Crisis and ordering of U.S. Naval blockade of Cuban waters.

Lyndon Johnson with troops in Vietnam ordering an increase in U.S. forces in Southeast Asia.

Richard Nixon with U.S. troops in Vietnam, with U.S. troops in Europe, announcing release of U.S. POW's from North Vietnam, announcing U.S. intervention into Cambodia.

The President then reviews how his role as a military leader as part of his everyday activities. He talks about his military advisors, his daily briefings by the National Security Council, his presence at the christening of Naval ships, presentation of medals, and meetings with members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He discusses how the President weighs foreign policy decisions along with military consideration and U.S. armed forces' commitments around the world. He closes with a statement of belief in civilian control of the military and of pride in U.S. forces. He cites the bravery of American men in wars and in times of stress.

The President then invites a leader of the U.S. Congress to discuss how the other branches of government view the President in his role as Commander In Chief. This section will deal first with Congressional response to (a) Presidential military budget and to (b) actions of the Chief Executive in meeting different kinds of situations.

Some of the more obvious examples that could be cited are: Washington dealing with piracy of U.S. ships; James Polk calling for troops to fight the Mexican War; Lincoln and his use of the military before and during the Civil War; McKinley responding to the sinking of the U.S.S. Maine; Wilson asking to arm U.S. merchant ships during the U-boat war and later as leader during U.S. involvement in World War I, etc.

The most recent Congressional action in terms of the 1974 War Powers Act illustrates further restrictions in the C-I-C powers of the President.

The President would then invite a Justice of the Supreme Court to review decisions made by the U.S. Supreme Court relative to Commander In Chief powers in times of war and peace as well as to provide an important viewpoint from the "third" branch of the Federal government.

The President invites a leading Constitutional expert to discuss the differing viewpoints as to how much power the President is allowed in the U.S. Constitution. This discussion will show that interpretation of the law relative to C-I-C power has been different with nearly every President.

The President concludes this review of the President as Commander In Chief by saying, "War has never been an instrument of national policy in this country, and never will be. The trust given to me and to my predecessors carries an admonition of prudence and of clear thinking. We can be safe in the knowledge that our military leadership is also prudent. The citizen soldier has been an integral part of our entire history. No other nation has had such a dedication to the preservation of peace as a motive of its Armed Forces."

The Episode closes with a panorama of Gerald Ford in U.S. Naval uniform and later with members of the Armed Forces.

Close in on the Presidential Seal.

...BH...

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 15, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: Jim Connor  
FROM: Ron Nessen *RHN*  
SUBJECT: Requested personal reflections on the President's first year  
in office

It is not possible to assess properly where the Ford Administration stands today without first remembering the situation when the President took office a year ago.

The nation was in shock. The people's faith in and respect for the Presidency was severely undermined. The people's belief in the probity and candor of their elected leaders, which is essential in a democratic system, was shaken.

This damage to our society has not been completely repaired and will not be for a long time. But the healing process has begun and is proceeding faster than many thought possible. This is largely because of the personal qualities of President Ford. He has displayed the right qualities for this moment of our national history.

Just a year ago President Ford's qualities were not widely known. Now he is known, liked, trusted, and perceived to be up to the job.

Incidentally, I sense that the President's forcefulness and assurance as a leader are growing day by day as a result of the public acceptance and of his own increasing mastery and confidence in the job.

The Ford Administration's success in reviving the nation's spirit and restoring faith in the Presidency during this first year was just as important as any success in matters of policy and substance.

Another point to remember in assessing the first year is that a good deal of time was consumed cleaning up left-over problems. These included the status of Former President Nixon, his expenses, his papers, and his White House advisors; the Indo-China war; the inflationary and recessionary economic difficulties; and the whole range of domestic and international problems which had been allowed to drift without proper attention.

Despite the amount of time that had to be spent on these left-over problems, a good start was made toward creating a new Ford agenda for the nation:

- A plan to achieve independence from foreign sources of energy.
- A plan to reform the cumbersome, time-consuming, expensive, and often anti-consumer machinery of the regulatory agencies.
- A plan to restore the health of the economy without reigniting inflation.
- A plan to protect law abiding citizens from criminals.
- A plan to create a transportation system for the future, including a revision of the highway trust fund.

All these initiatives on the domestic front have a consistency that reflects the President's personal philosophy of opposition to ever-growing government and ever-growing tax bills. I sense that more and more of the public is coming to share this philosophy.

The public and press also seem to understand and appreciate the President's commitment to avoiding short term, politically popular solutions to problems in favor of longer range, more fundamental solutions which are not always immediately popular. This is in keeping with his method of telling the people the straight truth and hard facts.

One success which has been largely overlooked by the press and public was the selection of a really outstanding group of Cabinet members.

In foreign affairs, the end of America's involvement in Indo-China was the major event of the year. The President handled the end of the war in a way that saved the Americans who were there, and as many Indo-Chinese as possible, and did not further divide Americans or alienate Congress.

There were successes in foreign policy this year, notably the SALT Agreement and the Mayaguez rescue, as well as the reassertion of America's determination to play a leading role in the world. But again, the President's own personality and the favorable impression he made on foreign leaders, both friends and adversaries, perhaps outweighed any specific success.

As the second year of the Ford Administration begins, I see two matters that need attention:

1. The need to improve the internal workings of the White House so that problems can be anticipated and dealt with in a thoughtful way with a full range of advice from the President's staff prior to a decision. Too often we are forced to react hurriedly to problems that have turned into crises. The Solzhenitsyn affair is an example of this.

I have the feeling that too much of the President's time is taken up with short and relatively unimportant meetings, not leaving enough time to anticipate and consider the major problems before they get out of hand.

2. The need to answer the complaint which often appears in print and in conversation that the President is a nice and competent man who is doing a good job, but who lacks compassion for less fortunate Americans.

It seems to me the President can overcome this image of lacking compassion without violating his own philosophy on the economy and the proper role of government.

**July 21, 1975**

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT**

**FROM: RON NESSEN**

**Here is a bundle of clippings from the various Michigan newspapers reporting on your recent visit to Traverse City and Mackinac Island.**

**Something tells me they like you in Michigan!**

**RN/cg**



July 21, 1975

Mr. President:

I have written a thank-you for these.

Ron Nessen

RN/cg



WILLIAM G. CONOMOS  
EDITOR-PUBLISHER

ORLANDO, FLORIDA  
July 17, 1975

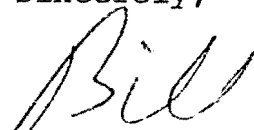
Dear Ron:

I am enclosing a tear sheet from the July 16 Sentinel Star along with two color prints of a photograph of Susan Ford and astronaut Dave Scott at the Apollo-Soyuz launch at Cape Canaveral.

Perhaps the Ford family would like to have these.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

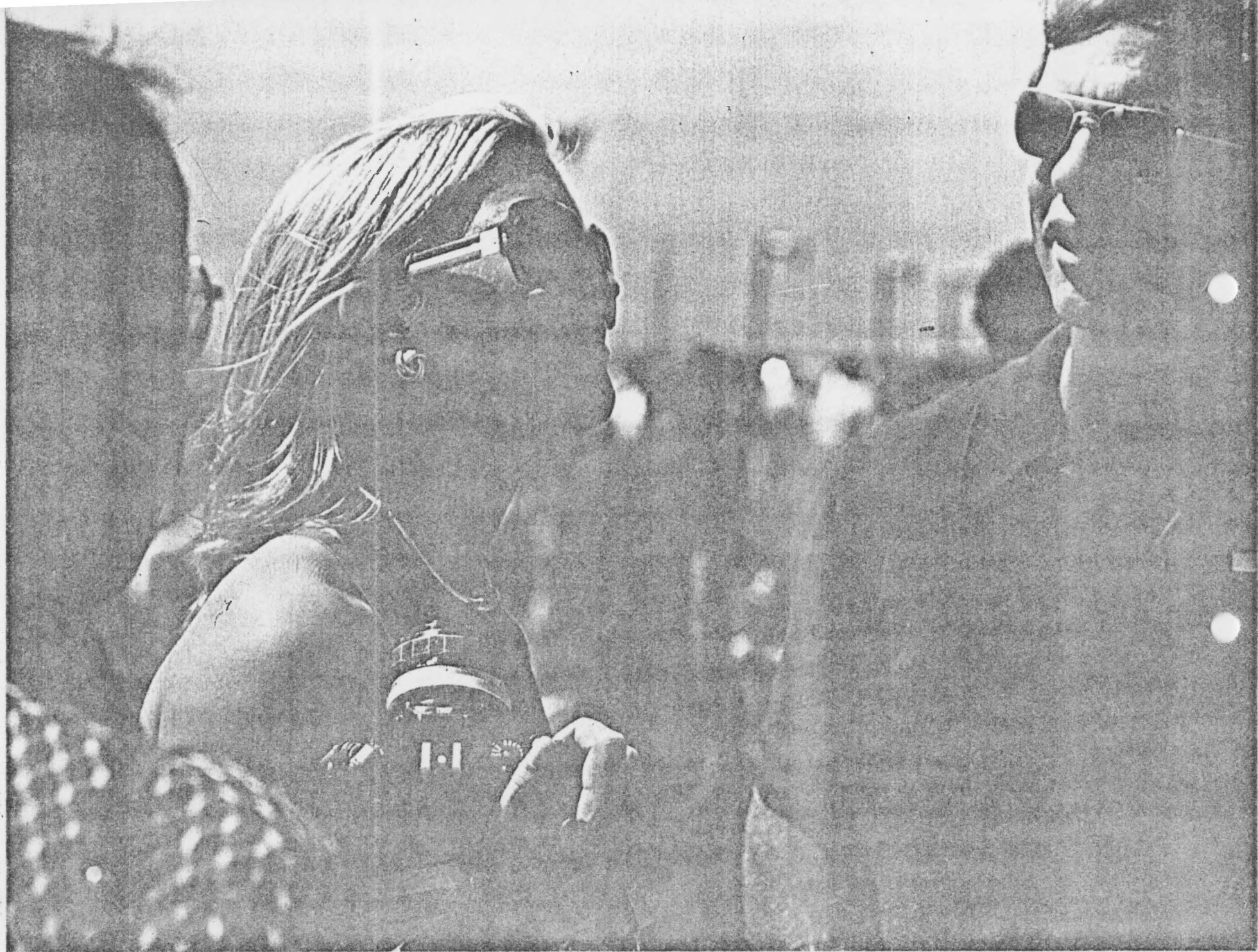


William G. Conomos

Mr. Ronald H. Nessen  
Press Secretary to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

WGC:ek  
enc/





**July 24, 1975**

**Mr. President:**

**As you requested, I am sending you these transcripts of your three news interviews this week in time for your meeting this afternoon with Vice President Rockefeller.**

**The portion of each interview dealing with the Vice President is marked with a paper clip, and the specific questions and answers on the Vice President are outlined in yellow.**

**Also enclosed is your formal statement on the Vice President, read by me at my news briefing on June 16.**

**Ron Nessen**

**Attachments:**

**Statement read by Ron Nessen at June 16, 1975 briefing  
Interview of President with Bill Anderson, Godfrey Sperling, George Will  
Interview of President with New York Times  
Interview of President with U.S. News and World Report**



**July 24, 1975**

**Mr. President:**

**A forest ranger in Yellowstone National Park, Wayne Roplog ("Ranger Rip"), who has been a ranger since 1936 and knew you when you were a ranger in Yellowstone, will be interviewed on the TODAY SHOW in the morning at about 7:15 am (Channel 4).**

**He will talk about his memories of you as a ranger.**

**You might want to watch if you have the time.**

**Ron Nessen**



August 1, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

RON NESSEN

An initial sampling of personal reaction to your speech in the Press Room from Ralph Harris of Reuters, Richard Ryan of Detroit News, Larry O'Rourke of the Philadelphia Bulletin, Susan Peterson of CBS, Frank Cormier of AP, Bob Steinbrink of Golden West Broadcasting, Phil Jones of CBS-Radio, Walt Rodgers of AP-Radio, Harry Trewitt of the Baltimore Sun and others brought the following comments:

"An excellent speech...the best speech he has ever given...the top speech of the Conference...well written and well delivered...a tough speech...he's never delivered a speech better...he seemed to be in total control."

So far I have detected no negative opinion at all. The Press Corps is extremely impressed with your speech.

RN/pac



August 5, 1975

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT**

Here is a compilation of the major stories written so far assessing your first year in the White House. As you can see, some of them are based on the many first anniversary interviews you have given.

I think it is fair to say that the year-end articles so far have been overwhelmingly favorable.

The Press Office is pulling together the anniversary articles running this week and during the weekend and I will deliver these to you early next week in Vail.

**RON NESSEN**

**Attachment**

**RN/pp**



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 6, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Here is the Q & A briefing book for your Public Broadcasting System interview Thursday morning and for the wire service correspondents interview Friday morning.

Guidance on energy questions will be provided later today. Also additional foreign policy guidance will be provided later today.

Both interviews are supposed to dwell primarily on your first year in office and your plans for the future, but this briefing book on current questions is being provided in case the correspondents take the opportunity to ask about current developments.

*RAW*

RON NESSEN

Attachments

July 23, 1975

Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE)

The Soviet Union first proposed a European security conference on February 10, 1954, and periodically reiterated the proposal in subsequent years. It received little initial enthusiasm from Western and neutral nations, but following increased bilateral initiatives toward detente, a renewed Warsaw Pact appeal from Budapest on March 17, 1969 elicited a cautiously positive reaction from NATO. The United States and our NATO allies took the position that such a conference might serve a useful purpose, but only after concrete progress had been achieved on the most sensitive aspect of East-West confrontation in Europe, namely Berlin.

It was specified in successive NATO documents beginning in December 1969 that conclusion of a new Four-Power agreement on Berlin, aimed at effecting practical improvements in relations between the people on both sides of the wall and between Bonn and West Berlin, could lead to allied willingness to participate in a Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). The allies also increasingly emphasized the importance they attached to improving F. R. G. relations with the G. D. R., U. S. S. R., Poland and other Warsaw Pact countries. The Berlin Accord, signed September 3, 1971 took effect in June 1972 as did the F. R. G. -G. D. R. Basic Treaty normalizing relations between those two states. The Warsaw Pact countries agreed to commence exploratory talks on Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions (MBFR) at Vienna beginning in January 1973. CSCE Multilateral Preparatory Talks thereupon opened at Helsinki in November 1972.

Stage I

Stage I of CSCE opened with a meeting of Foreign Ministers of 33 European states plus the United States and Canada at Helsinki from July 3 to 7, 1973. Ministers approved the "Final Recommendations" of the preparatory phase, which set the agenda and established mandates for committees and subcommittees during the Stage II negotiations.

Stage II

Stage II began September 18, 1973 in Geneva. Senior officials from the 35 participating countries met to work out an agreed final document organized under the four agenda items or "baskets:"

1. Questions relating to security in Europe;
2. Cooperation in the fields of economics, science and technology, and the environment;
3. Cooperation in strengthening human contacts, the exchange of information, and cultural and educational ties (the so-called "freer movement" issue); and
4. Post-conference follow-up arrangements.

Basket 1

Under the first agenda item, conference negotiators have produced a declaration of the following ten principles of interstate relations:

- Sovereign equality, respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty.
- Refraining from the threat or use of force.
- Inviolability of frontiers.
- Territorial integrity of states.
- Peaceful settlement of disputes.
- Non-intervention in internal affairs.
- Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief.
- Equal rights and self-determination of peoples.
- Cooperation among states.
- Fulfillment in good faith of international obligations.

The U. S. S. R. viewed this declaration as the central document of the conference. The Soviets were especially anxious to gain Western acceptance of an unambiguous principle on inviolability of frontiers by force. Western participants made clear, however, that their agreement to this precept would not constitute formal recognition of existing European frontiers or imply that present



borders are immutable. The Federal Republic of Germany, with the firm support of its NATO allies, insisted on a reference in the Declaration of Principles to the possibility of effecting border changes by peaceful means. The United States took an active role in negotiation of this key text on peaceful border changes, which is included in the principle of sovereign equality.

Also under agenda item 1, CSCE participants have negotiated limited military security measures designed to strengthen mutual trust and confidence. Specific texts were produced on two modest but significant "confidence-building measures:" prior notification of military maneuvers, and exchange of observers at those maneuvers. Adoption of these measures was urged by the smaller European countries.

### Basket 2

Under agenda item 2, the Geneva talks produced a series of declarations, or resolutions, on economic, scientific and technological, and environmental cooperation. The United States did not pursue major economic policy objectives at CSCE preferring to leave them to such fora as the Multilateral Trade Negotiations. We took care to ensure that the CSCE texts would not conflict with the U.S. Trade Act of 1974. We hope the practical understandings in this area will broaden the scope of East-West exchanges, help reduce barriers to trade, and make a useful contribution to detente.

### Basket 3

The third agenda item, "basket 3", deals with increased human contacts, flow of information, and cooperation in cultural and educational relations. This item was included on the CSCE agenda only as a result of energetic efforts by the United States, our allies, and the neutral states. At Geneva, agreement was reached on basket 3 texts dealing with such issues as family reunification, family visits, marriages between nationals of different states, the right to travel, access to printed as well as broadcast information, improved working conditions for journalists, and increased cultural and educational cooperation.

#### Basket 4

Under the fourth agenda item, the conference produced a text on post-CSCE "follow-up" arrangements. Debate focused on the degree of institutionalization and continuity to be accorded post-conference activities. The final compromise text provides for unilateral, bilateral, and multilateral actions designed to carry forward the work of the conference and monitor the implementation of agreed texts. A meeting of experts will be convened in the first half of 1977 to prepare for a gathering of senior officials later that year to review results of CSCE and plan for possible future meetings.

#### Special Topics

In addition to the primary East-West focus of the conference, a number of the smaller participants had special interests which were taken into account in evolving a CSCE consensus. Romania urged acknowledgment of the special status and needs of developing countries; and Malta, Cyprus and Yugoslavia requested consideration of the interests of non-participating Mediterranean states. Special consideration was given to the concerns of Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus. In general, the smaller countries of Europe appreciated the opportunity CSCE gave them to participate in the detente dialogue.

#### Stage III

Stage III will be held at Helsinki from July 30 to August 1, 1975. The U. S. S. R. through Communist Party General Secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev requested that Stage III of CSCE be held at the summit level. The United States and its allies maintained that a final decision on the level of Stage III should come after achievement of satisfactory results in Stage II. In intense negotiations during June and early July, all substantive issues were resolved to the satisfaction of all participants and the date for Stage III agreed.

The CSCE final document resembles the Universal Declaration of Human Rights or the UN Friendly Relations Declaration. Conference participants view the final document as a statement of political resolve or declaration of intent, not as an agreement legally binding upon governments. However, as a carefully negotiated text, solemnly signed by high-level representatives of the 35 nations involved, it generally will be seen as having considerable moral and political force.

CSCE is sometimes incorrectly compared to the 1815 Congress of Vienna that influenced the political order in Europe for much of the 19th Century, but it is a much more modest event. The results of the conference are but a step in the process of detente, raising the hope of further improvement in East-West relations. CSCE is also the beginning of a new approach to consultations on matters of importance by all European states. The extent to which CSCE agreements are implemented over time will be the true test for judging the success of this conference.

# # #

**August 6, 1975**

**Mr. President:**

**Here is the original of a cartoon sent to you by the artist, Ed Gambia, of the Nashville Banner. It appeared in TIME Magazine January 13. I have written a thank you note.**

**Ren Nessen**

**RN/cg**



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 6, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

RON NESSEN

*RHN*

Here is the final batch of question and answer briefing papers for your PBS interview Thursday and the wire services interview Friday.

They were prepared by the NSC and deal with possible foreign policy questions.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 6, 1975

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RON NESSEN

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Also under agenda item 1, CSCE participants have negotiated limited military security measures designed to strengthen mutual trust and confidence. Specific texts were produced on two modest but significant "confidence-building measures:" prior notification of military maneuvers, and exchange of observers at those maneuvers. Adoption of these measures was urged by the smaller European countries.

#### Basket 2

Under agenda item 2, the Geneva talks produced a series of declarations, or resolutions, on economic, scientific and technological, and environmental cooperation. The United States did not pursue major economic policy objectives at CSCE preferring to leave them to such fora as the Multilateral Trade Negotiations. We took care to ensure that the CSCE texts would not conflict with the U.S. Trade Act of 1974. We hope the practical understandings in this area will broaden the scope of East-West exchanges, help reduce barriers to trade, and make a useful contribution to detente.

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In addition to the primary East-West focus of the conference, a number of the smaller participants had special interests which were taken into account in evolving a CSCE consensus. Romania urged acknowledgment of the special status and needs of developing countries; and Malta, Cyprus and Yugoslavia requested consideration of the interests of non-participating Mediterranean states. Special consideration was given to the concerns of Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus. In general, the smaller countries of Europe appreciated the opportunity CSCE gave them to participate in the detente dialogue.

Stage III

Stage III will be held at Helsinki from July 30 to August 1, 1975. The U. S. S. R. through Communist Party General Secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev requested that Stage III of CSCE be held at the summit level. The United States and its allies maintained that a final decision on the level of Stage III should come after achievement of satisfactory results in Stage II. In intense negotiations during June and early July, all substantive issues were resolved to the satisfaction of all participants and the date for Stage III agreed.

The CSCE final document resembles the Universal Declaration of Human Rights or the UN Friendly Relations Declaration. Conference participants view the final document as a statement of political resolve or declaration of intent, not as an agreement legally binding upon governments. However, as a carefully negotiated text, solemnly signed by high-level representatives of the 35 nations involved, it generally will be seen as having considerable moral and political force.

CSCE is sometimes incorrectly compared to the 1815 Congress of Vienna that influenced the political order in Europe for much of the 19th Century, but it is a much more modest event. The results of the conference are but a step in the process of detente, raising the hope of further improvement in East-West relations. CSCE is also the beginning of a new approach to consultations on matters of importance by all European states. The extent to which CSCE agreements are implemented over time will be the true test for judging the success of this conference.

# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 7, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Attached find additional Q & A briefing material for your wire service interview on Friday morning. One packet deals with economic questions. The second packet deals with foreign policy questions and should REPLACE the foreign policy questions you now have in your briefing book.

RON NESSEN

Attachments

cc: Don Rumsfeld

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 15, 1975

Mr. President:

Here is the special photo supplement published by the Louisville Times on the occasion of your first anniversary in office.

You may recall that a photographer from the Louisville Times, Bill Luster, spent a week or so following you around during July.

*RAW*

Ron Nessen

faith in its institutions.  
Most people wanted  
to believe that the nightmare was, indeed,  
over. Now, a year has passed. What kind  
of a man and what kind of a president has  
Gerald Ford turned out to be? To find out,  
staff photographer Bill Luster recently

August 28, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Attached is the latest issue of The Fulton County News of McConnellsburg, Pennsylvania, the place where Jim Connor has a farm. Jim arranged for a photographer from The Fulton County News to follow you around on a recent day and the resulting attractive photo log is on pages 4 and 5 of this newspaper.

BON NESSEN

Attachment

BN/pp



August 27, 1975

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT**

The new format for the White House Conferences has impressed even Helen Thomas! See the attached column -- especially the bracketed paragraphs.

**RON NESSEN**

**Attachment**

**cc: Don Rumsfeld**

**RN/pp**



ADV FOR PMS FRI AUG 29

(600)

WASHINGTON WINDOW

(COMMENTARY)

IN LOVE WITH CAMPAIGNING

BY HELEN THOMAS

UPI WHITE HOUSE REPORTER

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- "I LOVE A GOOD POLITICAL CAMPAIGN," SAID PRESIDENT FORD.

"I LIKE TO CAMPAIGN," HE ADDED TO THREE TELEVISION REPORTERS WHO INTERVIEWED HIM RECENTLY IN MILWAUKEE.

AND FORD MEANS IT AND HE SHOWS IT WHEN HE'S OUT ON THE ROAD. HIS WHITE HOUSE RIDES REFUSE TO CALL IT CAMPAIGNING BUT THE PRESIDENT, NO MATTER, IS MAKING POINTS IN HIS HEAVY TRAVEL SCHEDULE AND IS GETTING TO GLAD-HAND PEOPLE ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.

OBSERVERS NOTE THAT MORE AND MORE OF THE GRASS ROOTS POPULATION ARE TURNING OUT AT THE AIRPORTS AND ON THE CITY STREETS TO SEE THE PRESIDENT. MUCH OF THE PUBLIC RESPONSE IS DRUMMED UP BUT THERE IS ALSO A NOTICEABLE RISE IN PEOPLE WHO COME OUT TO SEE FORD BECAUSE HE IS THE PRESIDENT.

THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT FORD ENJOYS HIS PERSONAL ENCOUNTERS WITH THE PEOPLE HE IS MEETING ALL OVER THE COUNTRY AND THERE WILL BE MANY MORE TO COME. OVER THE NEXT TWO MONTHS, HE IS EXPECTED TO HIT SOME 14 STATES AND SOME 20 CITIES IN A SERIES OF SPEECHES AND APPEARANCES WHICH WILL GIVE HIM POLITICAL EXPOSURE.

BUT HE ALSO IS LEARNING A LOT.

THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCES ON DOMESTIC POLICY WHICH ARE BEING HELD AROUND THE COUNTRY ARE AN EDUCATION FOR FORD. HE HAS OPENED UP THE FORMAT TO PERMIT HIMSELF TO BE QUESTIONED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE AND SEEMS TO THOROUGHLY ENJOY IT.

MANY OF THE QUESTIONS ARE HARD HITTING, REFLECTING CRITICISMS ON HIS POLICIES ON THE ENVIRONMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND FEDERAL AID TO EDUCATION. BUT HE TAKES THEM ALL IN GOOD SPIRIT, USUALLY NOT GIVING AN INCH AND IN THE END THE QUESTIONER SEEMS QUITE SATISFIED THAT HE HAS AT LEAST BEEN ABLE TO ASK THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES HIMSELF FOR THIS VIEWS.

IN REALITY, FORD HAS TRANSPIANTED THE PRESS CONFERENCE FORMAT TO THE PEOPLE. THERE IS SOME CRITICISM THAT THERE ARE LIMITATIONS ON WHO ACTUALLY GETS TO ASK THE PRESIDENT A QUESTION, BUT THE SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS WHICH PICK THE PERSON TO POSE A QUESTION TO FORD ARE WIDELY REPRESENTATIVE OF A CROSS SECTION OF THE AREA.

FORD APPEARS TO COME ACROSS BETTER IN THE GIVE AND TAKE THAN HE DOES WHEN HE IS PUTTING FORTH HIS VIEWS IN A FORMAL SPEECH. THERE IS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF COMPETITIVENESS AND COMBATIVENESS AND AT THE SAME TIME A DEMOCRATIC ASPECT THAT HE IS WILLING TO LISTEN AND EVEN POSSIBLY FOLLOW THROUGH IF A LOCAL PROBLEM IS PRESENTED TO HIM.

IT'S A NEW STYLE OF CAMPAIGNING. FORD ALSO HAS ADOPTED A PROCEDURE OF GRANTING LOCAL TELEVISION INTERVIEWS TO REPORTERS AT AIRPORTS FROM HIS DEPARTURES FROM THE BIG CITIES. MOST OF THE QUESTIONS HE IS HIT WITH COVER AREA PROBLEMS AND HE HAS SHOWN ON SEVERAL OCCASSIONS THAT HE HAS BEEN PRIMED ON THE REGIONAL TOPICS OF THE UHY.

SO FAR, THE WHITE HOUSE IS NOT CALLING IT OUT AND CAMPAIGNING. AS PRESIDENT, FORD IS IN DEMAND FOR APPEARANCES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.

PRESS SECRETARY RON NESSEN TOLD REPORTERS THAT IT'S NOT ALL A GRAVY TRAIN FOR THE INCUMBENT, THAT HE HAS DISADVANTAGES IN THAT HE IS ACCOUNTABLE FOR EVERYTHING HE SAYS AND DOES.

BUT ONLY TWO INCUMBENTS HAVE BEEN DEFEATED IN THIS CENTURY AND PEOPLE ARE WONT TO GIVE THE PRESIDENT THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT.

NESSEN SAYS THAT FORD WILL NOT ACTUALLY BEGIN TO CAMPAIGN UNTIL THE FIRST OF THE YEAR BUT UNTIL THAT TIME COMES ALONG THERE IS A REASONABLE FACSIMILE THAT FORD IS MANAGING TO DRUM UP SUPPORT AND POSSIBLY VOTES WITH THE PEOPLE AROUND THE COUNTRY.

ADV FOR PMS FRI AUG 29

UPI 08-27 08:46 RED





August 28, 1975

**MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT**

**FROM: RON NESSEN**

Here is your question and answer briefing book for the New England television interview on Saturday. Tabs A, B and C contain information on a number of local and New England questions which you are likely to get during the interview. Tabs D and E contain information on more general questions in the domestic and foreign fields.

I will provide you on Friday additional information on questions concerning fishing and busing, which are of particular interest in New England.

**Attachment:**

**Briefing Book**

*copy to Runo feed*



August 29, 1975

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT**

**FROM:           RON NESSEN**

**Here is the proposed statement to the press on your meeting with Senator Mansfield and Speaker Albert.**

**The statement is approved by Frank Zarb, Alan Greenspan, Max Friedersdorf, and Jack Marsh.**

**Approve           \_\_\_\_\_**

**Disapprove       \_\_\_\_\_**

**Revisions        \_\_\_\_\_**



August 29, 1975

## Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

## STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The President met for one hour with Senate Majority Leader Mansfield and House Speaker Albert. Also attending were Frank Zarb, Alan Greenspan, Rogers C.B. Morton, Max Friedersdorf, and Jack Marsh.

The President expressed his appreciation for the constructive way in which Senator Mansfield and Speaker Albert are seeking to resolve this difficult national energy problem.

It was understood that the President will veto the six-month extension of oil price controls because he strongly believes the economic health and security of the United States permit no further delay in beginning a program to achieve independence from unreliable foreign energy sources which can set our oil prices at will.

However, the President agreed to delay vetoing the bill until Senator Mansfield has discussed his compromise decontrol plan with Senate Democrats. Speaker Albert also will review the compromise plan with a number of House Democratic leaders.

The President told Senator Mansfield and Speaker Albert that he would not veto a short extension of oil price controls if he is reasonably confident that Congress will act favorably within a matter of weeks on the phased decontrol plan offered by Senator Mansfield.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 29, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here are several last-minute additions to your question and answer briefing book for the Saturday television interview in Providence.

Attached are:

- (1) Two suggested answers on the school busing controversey
- (2) Background on Federal aid to education in Boston from HEW Secretary Matthews.
- (3) A confidential backgr ound memo from the NSC on the off-shore fishing controversey, which is of particular interest in New England.

## VIEWS ON BUSING

Q. What are your views on court-ordered busing to achieve racial balance?

A. I am opposed to it for a very simple reason: it does not work. It does not reach the goal which is to assure every child, regardless of race, a quality education. In the public debate over busing, it seems to me that we have lost sight of what the debate is all about. We are not trying to assure our children of the right to be bused. We must assure our children the right to get a first-class education, wherever they go to school. There are many ways, and we should be using all of our talents and skills to use these ways, to make sure that every school in every neighborhood provides our children with a top-quality education in an integrated environment. I want to be sure you clearly understand that I will uphold the law of the land and the orders of every court and expect the citizens of this country to do the same.

## ALTERNATIVES TO BUSING

Q. What are some of these ways you think can achieve a good integrated education without busing?

A. There are many ways, some of them outlined in what was called the Esch Amendment approved by the Congress last year, and incidentally, I supported the Esch Amendment when I was in Congress. Also various court orders have spelled out ways to assure quality, integrated education without busing. But each community's problems have to be worked out in that community to fit its own needs and circumstances, and I just can't give a single formula that will fit every city and every school district in this country. What I want to do is to urge the parents and the school boards and the teachers and the principals and local officials in every community to work together in a cooperative spirit to devise the best plan for quality, integrated education in their own community, keeping in mind that we must do what is best for all our children.

August 30, 1975

Mr. President:

Attached is a special issue of the Traverse City  
Record-Eagle commemorating your visit there in  
July. I don't believe I have ever seen such  
extensive coverage in a local paper of a Presidential  
visit.

Ron Hossen

Attachment

RN/pp



September 2, 1975

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT!**

As Rob Hartmann suggested, here is a compilation of clippings from local New England newspapers on your Saturday trip to Maine and Rhode Island.

From now on we will prepare a similar compilation of local coverage after each of your out-of-town trips.

**RON NESSEN**

**Attachment**

**RN/pp**





September 3, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: ✓ THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: RON NESSEN

**Mr. President, here is your question and answer briefing book for the White House Conference in Seattle.**

**We have limited the questions in the book to matters of special concern in the Seattle region about which you are likely to be asked by participants in the White House Conference.**

**I believe you are already fully briefed on more general domestic questions and you will have had an opportunity to talk to Dr. Kissinger about the Middle East settlement before you depart for Seattle.**

**Attachment**

**RN/pac**



September 3, 1975

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT**

**FROM: RON NESSEN**

You might be interested in knowing that I have received a cable from Roy Rowan informing me that his book, The Four Days of Mayaguez, has gone into a second printing, indicating that it is doing well.



**September 3, 1975**

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT**

**FROM: RON NESSEN**

**Jack Marsh suggested that we pull together the initial editorial reaction to the Middle East settlement for his use with Congress.**

**I thought you might like to see the first group of editorials yourself.**

**Attachment:**

**Editorials**

**cc: Don Rumsfeld  
Dick Cheney  
Jerry Jones**



**RN/jb**

**September 3, 1975**

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT**

**FROM: RON NESSEN**

**As you requested, attached is a transcript of my statement and briefing following your meeting Tuesday with Governor Carey of New York.**



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 10, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: ✓ THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: RON NESSEN

FROM: BILL ROBERTS *WRB*

SUBJECT: Filmed message for the Radio Television  
News Directors 1975 Conference in Dallas,  
Texas

PURPOSE

To convey your personal greetings to the some 500 members of the RTNDA attending their 1975 Conference in Dallas, Texas, September 16-19. They had invited you to speak to the Conference, but, because of your Dallas trip the weekend before, you were unable to attend. RTNDA President Tom Frawley, of Cox Broadcasting, Washington, D.C. suggested a filmed message.

BACKGROUND

You filmed a message to the 1974 Conference a year ago, and spoke to the RTNDA Board of Directors when it met in Washington last January.

The RTNDA membership includes the News Directors of almost all of the major radio and TV stations in the top 50 markest, as well as many other broadcast journalists. The late Dick Cheverton of the WOOD stations in Grand Rapids was a very influential member, and served as President in the early 1960's. Jack Hogan of WZZM-TV is now on the RTNDA Board of Directors, and Bill Gill, News Director of WOTV is a member.

Tom Frawley is the current President. John Salisbury of KXL, Portland, Oregon, current Vice Pr esident, will become President of our group at the end of the Conference. I am a member of RTNDA, and was President in 1970.

PREPARATION

The message -- two minutes in length -- would be prepared by Paul Theis' office. It would be filmed on Monday, September 15, with other messages already scheduled for filming.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_

DISAPPROVE \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

September 11, 1975

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT**

**FROM: RON NESSEN**

**Here is your briefing book for questions and answers during the television interview and the White House Conference in St. Louis.**

**We have limited the questions to those local matters about which you are likely to be asked, as well as some more general questions which may come up.**

**We also have included some background on a number of local issues in the St. Louis area about which you may not be completely familiar.**

**Some of the people here who have observed your answers over the past few months suggest that you might want to occasionally give a briefer answer, perhaps even just a "yes" or "no" with a very few explanative sentences.**

**Attachment:**

**Briefing Book**

**RN/jb**



**September 21, 1975**

**Mr. President:**

**You may recall that in June you spent a half hour with W. Leonard Evans Jr., the very attractive publisher of Tuesday, a Black magazine distributed in several dozen newspapers around the country.**

**Attached find the tenth anniversary issue of Tuesday in which Mr. Evans describes in words and pictures his meeting with you. The article is highly favorable.**

**Ron Neessen**

**RN/cg**

**Attachment: September 1975 edition of Tuesday magazine**





September 25, 1975

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT**

**THROUGH: DON RUMSFELD**

**FROM: RON NESSEN**

Maggie Hunter of the New York Times is having a reunion party at her home in Georgetown on October 18, at 6:30 pm, for the reporters and staff who travelled those 118,000 miles with you aboard Air Force Two when you were Vice President.

Those attending include: Phil Jones, Tom DeFrank, Roger Gittines, Bob Leonard, David Kennerly, various camera crews, Colonels Sardo and Blake, Paul Miltich, Maggie and me.

Obviously, Maggie would like you to attend if possible. Format is cocktails at 6:30 pm, followed by a home-made spaghetti dinner and then, I imagine, some kind of short skits about the old days as Vice President.

You could give Maggie a definite "yes" or "no" now, or you could leave the matter under consideration and make a decision closer to the date.

\_\_\_\_\_ I'll attend. Have it put on my calendar.

\_\_\_\_\_ Regret very nicely to Maggie. I'll send a letter.

\_\_\_\_\_ I'll make a decision closer to the date.

**RN/pc/cg**



September 26, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT ✓

THROUGH:

DON RUMSFELD

FROM:

RON NESSEN

SUBJECT:

Request from William  
Raspberry of the  
Washington Post for an  
interview with you.

Bill Raspberry, the black syndicated columnist with the Washington Post, whose views against bussing you have praised publicly, has requested a 30 minute interview with you.

He would like to limit the interview to questions regarding various racial problems, school bussing, black unemployment, etc., etc.

I have serious doubts about granting such an interview, even though Raspberry is opposed to forced bussing for racial balance in school. I am concerned that an entire half hour devoted to racial problems could result in some comments which would exacerbate the situation.

DECISION:

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, set it up.

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree with you. Decline politely.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, set it up, but wait awhile before holding the interview.

RN/pp



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 29, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

RAN

Mr. President:

Here is your question and answer briefing book for the television interview and the White House Conference in Omaha.

You will notice that the first section consists of local and regional questions of specific interest in the Omaha area.

We have included more general questions than usual on domestic, energy, and international matters because it has been some time since your last full briefing book.

Several more questions and answers are being prepared on farm production and exports, food prices, and some other questions to local groups.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 30, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DON RUMSFELD

FROM: RON NESSEN *RAW*

The Gridiron Club is publishing a book reminiscing about the speeches made to its annual dinner by Presidents and other public officials. The book is being written by Harold Brayman, a former president of the Gridiron Club and former president of the National Press Club.

Mr. Brayman has sent me the attached pages from his manuscript which quote from the speeches you have made to the Gridiron dinners. Since these speeches have always been considered off-the-record, Mr. Brayman and the Gridiron Club feel an obligation to obtain your permission before publishing the excerpts from your speeches.

When you have a moment, would you please review the manuscript and scratch out whatever lines you would prefer not to have published?

Attachment

Ford, as the House Minority Leader, was introduced to speak for the Republicans. "And if the electoral fates are in his favor," said Finney, "he may be the next Speaker of the House."

Referring to the last song, Ford said that "what the President calls us in public -- wooden soldiers -- is nothing compared to what he calls us in private.

"Let me tell you a little inside story. I've heard that President Johnson tells his visitors: 'There's nothing wrong with Jerry Ford except he played football too long -- without a helmet.'

"Now I don't mind a little joke. But like so many other things you hear nowadays, that just isn't true.

"And I can prove it. On the Gridiron, I always wear my helmet."

He pulled out a helmet from under the table and put it on.

"This is really my helmet -- ," he said, "it used to fit."

Humphrey was to be the Democratic speaker, and Ford paid his respects to him in the following comment:

"Why did I ever tell Nat Finney I wanted to be the next Republican Speaker? Matching me against Hubert Humphrey for laughs is like putting Twiggy up against Zsa Zsa Gabor.

"Nat told me how it would go tonight. He said first he'd give a little talk -- and next I'd give a little talk -- and then the Vice President would follow.

"I said: 'Who follows the Vice President?'

"He said: 'Hardly anybody.'

"It's good to see so many great political writers here tonight. More and more lately, you gentlemen have been the zipper on the Credibility Gap.

"Now, where else in Washington can you bask in the warm glow of good fellowship -- and see Bill Fulbright toast President Johnson's health in Charlie DeGaulle's wine?"

After some references to the "Garbage Gap" in New York City, which had supplanted the Missile Gap, he noted that "Presidents are not always considerate of their Vice Presidents."

"Remember when Nixon returned from South America -- stone

"Remember when Johnson had to fly 26,000 miles -- for a camel?" A reference to the fact that he had been given a camel in Saudi Arabia<sup>7</sup>.

"Frankly, if I were Vice President Humphrey, and just got home from a backbreaking tour of Africa, and the next day my President put a stop to all foreign travel -- well, I'd lead a pretty good riot myself.

"But what a full public career Vice President Humphrey has had.-- just one long struggle against McCarthyism.

"He's been birched red by the Old Right, and rapped brown by the New Left.

"But Hubert always comes up smiling. He's really the Pagliacci of politics."

As to Bobby Kennedy, Ford remarked that "Bobby's now at the awkward age. He's too young to be President -- and he's really too old for that haircut."

Of George Wallace he commented that "if George sneaks off with just a few little ol' electoral votes, we may have to pick the next President in the House of Representatives."

Of Nelson Rockefeller: "He still won't volunteer, but last week he installed a hot line to his draft board."

Concerning President Johnson, he recalled that Henry Clay always said he'd rather be right than president.

"Now President Johnson has proved once and for all," he said, "it really is a choice.

"You know, I nearly didn't get here on time tonight. When I heard it was to be a bi-partisan affair, I went straight to the President's Club.

"Isn't that where you go to Buy Partisans?"

But partisanship, he said, had to stop somewhere, and it does, for "the things that unite us as Americans are far more enduring than the things that divide us, and one of these is our national sense of humor...

"Our unwritten compact of respect for the convictions of others and faith in the decency of others, allows Americans the luxury of rugged political competition. Let's all work to banish war from our shrinking world and hate from our expanding hearts -- to make this whole planet as full of friendship and felicity as this room tonight.

"In this spirit, let me assure the distinguished Vice President of the United States, before all of you, that I have absolutely no designs on his job.

"How many others in this room can make that statement?

"I'm serious. I'm not at all interested in the Vice Presidency.

"I love the House of Representatives, despite the long, irregular hours.

"Sometimes, though, when it's late and I'm tired and hungry -- on that long drive home to Alexandria, as I go past 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, I do seem to hear a little voice saying:

"If you lived here, you'd be home now."

The Democratic skit was laid at the Alamo, where "132 years ago tonight, in the war for Texas independence, 4,000 Mexicans at the Alamo had Lyndon B. Johnson's grandfather surrounded. Since then, things haven't changed much," said the announcer. "Or again the Alamo is under siege, and once again its defender is the head of the Johnson family."

A long list of Democratic Senators were among the defend and an impersonator of John Bailey, Chairman of the Democratic Par thought them "a likely bunch of defenders! Look at them!"

He named seven or eight. "I'd feel safer with the Viet Cong."

An impersonator of Senator Everett Dirksen asked that Bailey not forget him, and Bailey inquired, "Aren't you in the wrc skit?"

"Possibly I am," replied Dirksen. "But when anybody knows as much about me as does Lyndon Baines Johnson, I stalwartly and graciously rush to his defense. He is my command in-chief -- so long as he doesn't begin to tell all he knows."

Bailey decided that in order to make a proper defense of citadel, they would have to call in the reserves. The reserves pr to be <sup>b</sup>Bobby Kennedy<sup>"</sup> with an entourage including <sup>"John</sup>Kenneth Galbraith<sup>"</sup> and <sup>v</sup>Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.<sup>"</sup>

This led Bailey to comment of Kennedy, "He may be ready, but he's not about to be called."



We can walk through the storm  
with our heads held high,  
And not be afraid of the night.  
For the stars we have followed  
Still ride the sky,  
And still show us the way back to light.

The times may be hard,  
the road may be long,  
But our destiny's our own.  
We'll all join hands with the rest  
of the world,  
And we'll never walk alone --  
We'll never walk alone. (1)

The toast was offered to President Ford, and he responded with good grace and closed with a tribute to the Gridiron Club, which, with his permission, is reproduced here:

Since he had moved into the White House, he said, "I've learned how much of a life-saving medicine a little laughter is for Presidents. So, if a fine evening of fun and friendship like this is good for Presidents, it must also be good for America.

"The Gridiron Club nurtures this great national asset. And I'm very glad we can all poke gentle jokes at ourselves and one another just this way -- singeing without really burning -- and I hope it will always stay that way.

"Americans are a very diverse people, living together in many different styles and many different places. We are united more by the way we look at things than by the traditional ties of blood or belief or battles long forgotten. And when we are able to look at the brighter side of our troubles and the lighter side of our struggles, and see the smile that lies just below the surface of our neighbor's face, I think we Americans are at our very best.

"Thank you and good night."

And so ended 90 years of Gridiron history, during which 15 Presidents, hundreds of distinguished Americans who never made the Presidency, and thousands of guests heard and saw themselves satirized; and often answered with great wit in an organization the like of which does not exist in any comparable degree anywhere else in the world.

####

October 6, 1975

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT**

**FROM: RON NESSEN**

**This is the only Congressional reaction to your speech which has  
come across the wires so far.**



October 9, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT ✓

Attached are the three items you requested:

1. The text of your speech announcing the tax cut program;
2. the text of your adlib remarks to the oral surgeons on Tuesday night; and,
3. the Wednesday Wall Street Journal folded to its editorial on the tax cut program.

RON NESSEN

Attachments

RN/pp



**October 13, 1975**

**Mr. President:**

**Here is the transcript of Secretary Kissinger's  
appearance on Meet the Press yesterday, which you  
requested.**

**Ron Messer**

**Attachment**



October 13, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH:

DON RUMSFELD

FROM:

RON NESSEN

NBC is doing a special broadcast on American foreign policy to be broadcast early next year. The filming has already begun. They have done quite a bit of filming of Secretary Kissinger in his various activities and they would like to have an opportunity to film, very briefly, at the beginning of your regular daily meeting with Secretary Kissinger on either Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday of this week (Secretary Kissinger will be away on Wednesday).

If you agree, NBC would do its filming in about two minutes and leave before your substantive discussions with Henry begin. If you indicate your approval, I will make the necessary arrangements.

DECISION:

APPROVE: \_\_\_\_\_

For Tuesday \_\_\_\_\_

For Thursday \_\_\_\_\_

For Friday \_\_\_\_\_

DISAPPROVE: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_



October 16, 1975

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT**

**FROM: RON NESSEN**

I thought you would like to see a copy of the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce publication Challenge containing an article on de-regulation prepared under your signature.

**Attachment:**

**Challenge**



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 16, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

RON NESSEN

RHN

Mr. President, here are some questions and answers you might wish to look at before your interview with the Cox Newspapers on ~~Thursday~~ FRIDAY

The questions on Cuba, Panama and school bussing are of particular interest to the Cox Papers.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

REUNION PARTY FOR AIR FORCE II COMPANIONS

Saturday, October 18, 1975

6:45 p.m.

Maggie Hunter Residence

I. PURPOSE

To attend an informal reception and dinner at Maggie Hunter's house for reporters and staff members who travelled with you on Air Force II during your Vice Presidential days.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, PRESS PLAN

A. Background

The small group of staff members and reporters who travelled with you as Vice President has maintained the friendships established during those many trips. As you recall, last August I had a reunion of this group at my house which you attended. There was another reunion at Tom DeFrank's condominium in Vail at Christmas time and now Maggie Hunter is having a reunion for the group.

The evening will consist of a reception beginning about 6:30, with a spaghetti dinner, cooked by NBC cameraman George Sozio, to be served later. There also are likely to be some brief humorous sketches and songs about the Vice Presidential days and what has happened to us all since then.

Maggie's address is: 3517 R Street, N. W. in Georgetown.

We have kept your attendance at this party a surprise, so Maggie and the others do not know you are coming.

B. Participants

The President  
Mrs. Ford?  
Maggie Hunter  
Phil Jones  
Tom DeFrank  
Roger Gittines  
Bob Leonard  
David Kennerly  
Ron Nessen  
Cameramen and technicians from AF II  
Col. Sardo  
Col. Blake  
Paul Miltich (may be out of town)

C. Press Plan

No prior announcement. A regular travel pool will follow you but will not be told ahead of time where you are going. David Kennerly photos to be distributed later to those attending.

III. TALKING POINTS

Nothing required except a lot of reminiscing.

**October 22, 1975**

**Mr. President:**

**Andy Anderson, the President of the Omaha World Herald, who you have met several times recently, thought you would enjoy seeing these samples of his newspapers' coverage of the recent White House conference in Omaha.**

**I have sent him your thanks.**

**Ron Nessen**

**Attachments: Omaha World Herald pieces of Oct. 1 and Oct. 3**



**October 29, 1975**

**MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT**

**FROM: RON NESSEN**

**Here is a set of questions and answers which are likely to be raised in connection with your New York City speech.**

**This guidance was prepared by the Economic Policy Board.**



**October 29, 1975**

**MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT**

**FROM: RON NESSEN**

**Here is a set of questions and answers which are likely to be raised in connection with your New York City speech.**

**This guidance was prepared by the Economic Policy Board.**



**October 29, 1975**

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT**

**FROM: RON NESSEN**

**Here is your question and answer briefing book for the Metromedia television interview in Los Angeles Thursday morning.**

**The questioners plan to deal only with three areas:**  
**New York City**  
**Urban problems in general**  
**Politics**

**This book contains guidance on New York City and general urban questions. I assume you have your own answers for political questions.**

**RN/cg**



**October 31, 1975**

**Mr. President:**

**Here is a compilation of newspaper articles, editorials, and cartoons through Thursday night, which resulted from your National Press Club speech on New York City.**

**Ron Nessen**



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 21, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here is a compilation of this morning's initial newspaper reports and commentary on the Regan candidacy.

Attachments



November 22, 1975

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT**

**FROM: RON NESSEN**

**NBC informs me that the audience for your "Meet the Press" appearance was almost 10 million viewers, considered to be an extremely large audience for that hour on a Sunday.**



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# NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY, INC.

1500 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004 TEL. (202) 838-1000

ROBERT D. HYNES, JR.  
Director  
Government Relations

RN  
November 21, 1975

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20500

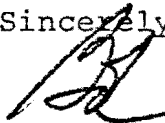
Dear Mr. President:

After our conversation on Wednesday evening I checked with our "Meet the Press" people and found that your staff has already requested and received copies, both audio and video, of your recent appearance on the program.

I am told that Major James White of the Office of Communications has the tapes.

I think your appearance was an excellent one and with the longer format gave you a fine opportunity to answer questions in depth. New York tells me that during an average minute some 3.9 million homes were watching, which translates into almost 10 million viewers, a very good showing for a Sunday morning news program.

Sincerely,



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 24, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RON NESSEN

Here is the Q & A briefing book for your interview Tuesday with the New Hampshire television station WMUR-TV.

It consists primarily of State and regional issues which are likely to make up most of the program.

Note especially the question, suggested answer and background on the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant, an especially big issue in New Hampshire.

Note also the mild put-down of me for my unintentional criticism of skiing conditions in New Hampshire.

I will bring you up to date on any late news developments just before the interview.

Attachment:

Briefing Book

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 26, 1975

MR. PRESIDENT:

Attached is the wire service copy on the  
New York City plan and the other topics  
covered at your news conference this evening.



RON NESSEN

Attachments

November 28, 1975

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT**

**FROM: RON NESSEN**

**Here are the major wire service stories on your Supreme Court appointment (and on Mrs. Ford's reaction).**

**As you see, not a single bad word has been said about Judge Stevens!**



November 28, 1975

MR. PRESIDENT:

As you requested, here is the break-down of the mail, telegram, and telephone comment from the public on your New York City announcement as of 10:00 a.m. this morning:

IN FAVOR-----36  
AGAINST-----106  
MISCELLANEOUS COMMENT ---2

As you see, the public reaction is extremely light, in fact, too light to really judge public reaction.

I am also attaching a few clippings representing the first reactions in editorials and columns.

RON NESSEN

Attachments

RN/pp



NEW YORK DAILY NEWS  
November 27, 1975

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# *Who Saved the City in the End? Pal Jerry, of Course*

By JAMES WIEGHART

politically difficult actions necessary to put their reducing services and Carey has been leaning on

DAILY NEWS (New York), November 28, 1975

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**IN THE NICK OF TIME**



THE NEW YORK TIMES

11/27/75

Deliverance? . . .

THE WASHINGTON STAR

(November 28, 1975)

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# Helping hand for New York

THE WASHINGTON POST (November 28, 1975)

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*Joseph Kraft*

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# Rhetoric and Compromises