

Transcript of the Pr

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16—Following is the White House transcript of a news conference held by President Ford today in the Oval Office of the White House:

1. The President's Schedule

Q. Mr. President, you are beginning to get some flak now from people who think you haven't been minding the store, and in the last two days I notice you had one announced business session yesterday and you have, I believe, only one today. I assume you are doing something besides playing with the puppies, so what are you doing?

A. We have some big decisions coming up that involve, for example, the course of action that we will take on any SALT II agreement, and we have some very important decisions concerning the energy matter. We have some decisions to make that involve the delivery of material to the House and Senate committees, the Church committee and the Pike committee. So, I would say the day has been full, even though there haven't been any announced public meetings of any kind.

2. Secret Israel Accords

Q. Mr. President? A. Yes, Helen? Q. I think you probably read The Post today. And also Jack Anderson, concerning secret accords with Israel for supplying the newest technology, including missiles that could be armed with nuclear warheads and so forth. Is this true?

A. That material has all been submitted to the responsible committees in the Congress. The announcement concerning the F-16 and the Pershing missile, those are not firm commitments. They do involve negotiations between the United States and Israel. They are on the shopping list, and they will be discussed with representatives of the Israeli government.

3. Arms for Middle East

Q. Do you really think you should arm one power in the Middle East at the time when you are moving for peace with offensive weapons in that . . . A. We have for a long, long time supplied Israel with very substantial amounts of military hardware. This was a policy established a good many years ago and we have always felt that the survival of Israel in the Middle East was very important, and the military hardware that we have in the past and will in the future provides for that survival. As I indicated at the outset, these items were on a list open for discussion between the United States and the Israeli Government.

4. Possible Security Treaty

Q. Mr. President, is the United States moving towards a security treaty with Israel? This document which we read in The Post suggests quite a close, more formalized defense relationship with Israel.

A. I wouldn't say a security treaty. I would simply reiterate what I have said before, that historically the United States has supplied Israel with very substantial military weaponry and it is our plan to do so in the future. But there is no firm commitment on any of the weapons that I think got in the headlines this morning. They are merely open for discussion.

5. Covert C.I.A. Activities

Q. Mr. President, in one of your early press conferences you expressed approval of the C.I.A. activities in Chile as something they have done historically. Now you are quoted as saying you may be open-minded on whether the covert activities of the C.I.A. ought to be kept in the C.I.A. or separated from it. What has caused you to change your mind, if you have?

A. Since that comment in either the first or second press conference, we have had the Rockefeller commission report. We have had the benefit of the Murphy commission recommendations. I have had the various departments and agencies of the Federal Government that have any jurisdiction analyze those recommendations and we are now in the White House itself taking into account all of the proposals and will make legislative recommendations to the Congress, and will propose some administrative changes.

I think you have to certainly benefit from these exhaustive investigations, but I don't want to make any commitment one way or another until we actually submit the legislative proposals to the Congress and decide to do whatever we want to do administratively.

6. Foreign Political Activity

Q. Through this morning, are you ruling out political activity by American agencies or is it just a question of whether the C.I.A. would do it or some other agency would do it? A. I wouldn't rule out necessary political activities by the United States if it involves our security.

7. Oil for Israel

Q. Sir, part of this agreement with Israel involves our providing them with oil either through foreign credits or giving oil to them from our own supply. We don't have enough for ourselves and can't afford to pay for what we are getting. How can we supply Israel over several years?

A. We believe our sources available to Israel keep Israel secure after they have given up the oil fields in the Middle East. We are not concerned that these supplies will be turned off and, therefore, it will have no adverse impact, as we see it, on our own supplies.

8. Paying for the Oil

Q. But we will pay for this oil, will we not? We will pay for this through foreign credits? A. This is a part of the over-all military economic agreement with Israel and it is a step, I believe, in maintaining the peace. I think it is fair to point out that several months ago 76 Senators sent me a letter actually urging that I recommend to the Congress more money for Israel and no guarantee of peace, whereas at the present time we have made this agreement—or Israel and Egypt have made this agreement—and the prospective cost to the United States is less than what the 76 Senators recommended that we propose to the Congress for Israel. So we not only have peace and a step toward a broader peace, but it is also at a lesser cost than what the 76 Senators promoted.

9. Subpoenaed C.I.A. Data

Q. Mr. President, you mentioned the Pike committee. They have subpoenaed C.I.A. materials from you, returnable tomorrow. Will you honor that subpoena?

A. Let me give some background, first, on what the situation is.

Various agencies of the Federal Government — with my approval — have given to the Pike committee everything they have asked for, including some very highly classified material.

Now, I was disappointed in the manner in which that committee handled some of this most highly classified material. I think it is fair to point out —I don't want you to misconstrue what I am saying—but it is fair to point out that some of that material is specifically protected by law, and if a private citizen were to release that information involving communications intelligence, it would be a criminal—a serious criminal offense.

I am not saying that the Congress has violated a criminal law, or this committee has done so. I only use that as an illustration to show how serious the Congress felt the release of that information would be because they passed a law saying if you or any one of you released it, it would be a serious criminal offense.

Now, the committee has all of the information that it asked for, some highly classified. They have all of the information they need to make a legislative determination as to whether the intelligence community was properly organized, properly managed, did its job well.

I am very concerned as to the damage to our intelligence sources if the procedure used by the committee in this last instance is to be the procedure used by the committee in the future. Until I find from the committee what their procedure is going to be, I will not give them the information.

I have to have from them what their procedure is under this very important classified or secret material that we have given them and that they want.

10. Extension of Tax Cut

Q. Mr. President, some members of Congress are talking like an extension of the tax cut is already an accomplished fact next year. In fact, they are saying that an even larger cut needs to come. What is your thinking right now on the tax cut next year?

A. We have made no firm decision on that. We will, in a reasonably short period of time, make a recommendation. If the economy needs any additional stimulant, we will, of course, recommend a continuation of the present tax cut.

If we find that the economy is continuing to come out of the recession, as it is, and there is no danger of added inflationary problems, we would probably not recommend a continuation of the tax cut. But, we do feel that we have some additional time before making a specific request of the Congress for action in this area.

11. Quality Education

Q. Mr. President, you have been saying that there is a better way than bus-ing to achieve quality education and suggested some better ways, such as improving facilities and the teacher-pupil ratio. Are you prepared to approve of more money to do things like that?

A. We, of course, do have in the emergency school aid legislation and appropriations a substantial amount of money that is available, and we have made money available to Boston and we have—if my memory is correct—done the same in Louisville, although I will have to check that.

The thing that bothers me about actions of some of the courts, where they are involved in the school busing controversy, is that they apparently have not taken into consideration the law that was passed and signed by me on August 12 of 1974, three days after I was sworn in.

That law included what was known then, and still is, as the Esch Amendment. I just happen to have a copy of the Esch Amendment here that sets forth seven specific proposals that the court should follow before they actually use the busing remedy.

It is in Title 2 of the Education Amendments of 1974, Section 214. This section establishes a priority of remedies and it says, in effect, that the courts and other Government agencies shall require first of the following remedies, or the first combination of the remedies, which would correct a denial of rights.

It says, for example, assigning students to schools closest to their homes, taking into account both school capacities and natural physical barriers;

two, assigning students to the closest school, taking into account only school capacities; three, permitting students to transfer from a school in which a majority of the students are of their race to one in which a minority are of their race; four, creating or revising attendant zones or grade structures without requiring transportation, construction of new schools or closing of inferior schools, establishment of magnet schools.

Then it goes on to say that students should not be transferred to a school other than the school closest or the next closest to his place of residence.

Now, those recommendations included in law in many instances apparently have not been followed by the courts. I think the court ought to take into cognizance the legislative recommendations that are as a matter of law, at the present.

Now, in addition, there are other things that I have mentioned before—improved facilities, upgrading the teachers, if necessary, including the better pupil-teacher ratios.

12. Funds for Education

Q. Mr. President, that requires a lot more money than just the emergency fund you talked about. Are you going to propose increases?

A. I don't think it is going to require a great deal more money, Bonnie. Really, that is a very substantial sum, and it has been used up in Boston, and I believe it is being used in Louisville.

It is not nearly as much money if you focus it in on the places where the tension is the highest, and the problem is the greatest, particularly if the courts follow the law, as was enacted by the congress in 1974.

13. 1954 High Court Ruling

Q. Mr. President, on two occasions over the weekend in discussing busing you mentioned a 1954 Supreme Court decision as the basis for busing. It is my recollection that the Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. the Board of Education* related to striking separate but equal. Could you elaborate a little bit on that?

A. You are correct but I don't think I said that decision in any way ordered court busing. It was the decision in 1954 that declared unconstitutional the long accepted practice in many states of having separate but equal schools. But as an outgrowth of that Court decision there have been the subsequent decisions that have involved busing.



Associated Press
President Ford gestured at a photographer to the amusement of reporters during his news conference in the Oval Office of the White House yesterday.

14. U.S. Technicians in Sinai

Q. Mr. President, as you know, a good many Congressional offices are receiving mail which runs contrary to your proposal for the Middle East settlement, particularly objecting to the use of American technicians in the Sinai. I was wondering, sir, if, as you say, that is worth the risk? How long are those Americans going to be there, and is that not an open-ended commitment?

A. They will be there during the term of the agreement unless I, or another President, withdraw them because of any danger to their lives. It is a case of not more than 200 Americans performing a highly technical warning station responsibility in a U.N. buffer zone. I think it is a good contribution by the United States to the establishment and permanency of peace in the Middle East.

15. U.S. Intervention in Sinai

Q. May I follow up, please? I would like to ask what you would do if in the course of their term in the Sinai, the P.L.O. moves in and kidnapped some of them, captured them, or in perhaps there were killed? Would you then use American intervention: the question being then, would you flatly rule out there would be no American intervention to protect those people?

A. You are speculating on something I do not anticipate would happen, I think I or any other President would use utmost caution in the protection of the lives of any Americans.

16. Americans on Other Fronts

Q. Mr. President, to follow that up, if you are committed to the use of Americans on the Egyptian front, would you also, later perhaps, be committed to the principle of using Americans on the Jordanian or the Syrian front?

A. I don't think I should speculate about any negotiations or agreements that have not yet begun. It is a very valuable contribution to peace in the present agreement, but I would not want to make any commitment concerning any other.

that they will do precisely as you indicate they might now do. And it is very helpful in that regard.

18. Sadat's Knowledge of Pact

Q. Mr. President, was President Sadat aware before he initiated this agreement, signed the agreement, that the U.S. would be discussing with Israel the missiles and the other shopping list of things you have mentioned, those specifics?

A. I think they were familiar with the fact we anticipated a commitment to Israel for sizable military hardware. I can't indicate to you whether they knew the precise weapons or not but they knew, of course, we were going to make a substantial commitment in weapons to Israel.

19. Endorsement of Rockefeller

Q. Mr. President, in recent weeks you have been saying some especially nice things about Vice President Rockefeller. You said you don't dump a good teammate, and you have endorsed his performance as Vice President. Yet you have always backed away from giving a flat endorsement of him as your running mate in 1976. Why won't you do that?

A. I don't think that is the tradition at this early stage of a potential—not a potential, but a Presidential convention and Presidential race. There is no need of my reiterating the many nice things I have said about him because he knows how I feel about him.

Everybody, I think, who has read or heard knows precisely how I feel about the fine job he has done, and he and I are in no disagreement on the comments I have made or the attitude that I have taken. So I think the record should just stand where it is.

20. Campaign Expenses

Q. Mr. President, regarding the early stage of the campaign, there has been some suggestion that you are probably deriving an unfair advantage by not having your political travel expenses charged against your Presidential campaign amount. Do you feel comfortable with this?

A. We have been very, very scrupulous in our bookkeeping to make certain that we cannot be legitimately criticized. A President has really three functions: one, being President and attending public affairs or civic affairs; he has another responsibility as head of a political party—and in those cases, of course, the national committee, the Republican National Committee, assumes the cost—and where I am involved as a candidate, the President Ford Committee will pick up the tab.

We are keeping very scrupulous books. We are, of course, going to abide by any decision of the Federal Elections Commission, and I hope they will clarify

22. Threats Against Israel

A. I think it is a difference of degree, not of any real substance. Obviously, if he makes appearances before Republican groups, I am sure he is going to have a favorable impact on them, and my impression is that he has made a favorable impact on the various Republican groups where he has spoken or met with the individuals.

Now, whether that can be translated into getting delegates or not, only time will tell. But, the difference alluded to, I think, is one of not great sustenance.

Q. Mr. President, in this agreement published in The Post today, it refers to the United States viewing with particular gravity threats made against Israel by a world power and goes on to say that the United States would promptly consult with Israel on supports or assistance that it could lend.

Now, does this go forward toward a security treaty, or does it not, and, if so, doesn't it have to be taken to the Congress first to be approved? A. That language does not constitute a treaty. The words speak for themselves.

23. Discipline of Navy

Q. Mr. President, as an old Navy man—A. Old? Do you think the discipline given the commander of the submarine on which the go-go dancer performed was perhaps not in the tradition of the Navy that you knew?

A. I think I ought to refer that to the Navy, where the matter is being, I am sure, thoroughly and properly handled under the procedures in the Navy Code of Conduct, or whatever they—

24. Policy on Inflation

Q. Mr. President, the cost of living keeps going up and up and Chairman Burns is now saying once again, as he has before, that monetary policy—that is the Fed—just can't carry the burden of trying to cushion inflation. Once again, it is talking again about an income policy, starting perhaps with jawboning, voluntary jawboning, and holding down wage and prices and perhaps the dressing up of the wage-price controls. I know you are against wage and price controls but do you think it is fair for Mr. Burns to have to carry this load by himself?

A. I would like to reiterate my firm opposition to wage and price controls. I don't think it is fair to put all of the burden in the battle against inflation on the shoulders of the Federal Reserve Board. I have repeatedly indicated that Federal fiscal policy was as important as monetary policy in the battle against inflation and that is why I have consistently said we had to hold the line on Federal spending, and that is precisely why I drew that \$60-billion deficit line in the Oval Office three or four months ago.

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