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THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary

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PRESS BRIEFING  
BY  
LARRY SPEAKES

October 5, 1984  
The Briefing Room

12:40 P.M. EDT

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12:59 P.M. EDT  
#1211-10/05

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PRESS BRIEFING  
BY  
LARRY SPEAKES

October 5, 1984

The Briefing Room

12:40 P.M. EDT

MR. SPEAKES: The President today is announcing the appointment of John W. Shannon to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Logistics.

This afternoon, the President has a 1:30 p.m. meeting with Department of Defense costsavers. That will take place in the Roosevelt Room. And then he goes into the lawn -- into the Rose Garden to make a statement. Open press coverage there about 1:45 p.m.

We're looking for a departure for Camp David at roughly 4:30 p.m.

For the weekend, the President will make the radio address from Camp David tomorrow and return here midday Sunday, leaving for Louisville late afternoon.

The detailed fact sheet and schedule for the President's trip to Kentucky, North Carolina, and Maryland will be available late this afternoon. The check-in for the press charter is 1:30 p.m. The plane leaves Andrews at 2:15 p.m. Air Force One pool check-in is at 2:30 p.m. Air Force One leaves at 3:00 p.m. Advance copies of the debate transcript will be available at check-in time.

One note for your planning, we will bus you back from Baltimore. It takes as much time to fly as it does to bus and buses will give us some flexibility about your return time.

Q Where do the buses end up?

Q We'll go to Andrews, though, I take it?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, buses will go to Andrews. Since we will be using buses, your baggage -- no, here, I'm sorry. Your buses will be back here. Your baggage will be delivered to the transportation office rather than to Andrews. But that doesn't get your cars, does it?

Q That's right.

Q Can you send couriers?

MR. WEINBERG: Buses go both places.

MR. SPEAKES: We'll send buses both places. We'll have -- read the sign on the bus.

Q Larry, the Baltimore thing, is that just a pool or does everybody go to Baltimore?

MR. SPEAKES: Everybody goes to Baltimore.

Q And you say he's coming back here before he goes to

MORE

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Louisville? He's not going straight from Camp David to Andrews?

MR. SPEAKES: That's right. Coming back here in the late morning, early afternoon.

Q You said check-in was 1:30 p.m., not 2:30 p.m.?

MR. SPEAKES: 1:30 p.m. 2:15 p.m. departure.

Q Sunday?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, Sunday.

On Friday, October 12th, the President will travel to Ohio. He will be taking a train trip -- train campaign trip through one, two, three, four, five cities, which he will follow a portion of the same route followed by former President Truman on October 11, 1948. He will be speaking from the Ferdinand Magellan railway car, which is the same car used by President Truman during that whistle-stop tour across Ohio.

Q Obscene. (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: The President will first go to Dayton where he will speak to a Reagan-Bush rally. Then he travels to Sidney for a rally.

Q What is the -- spell the name, please.

MR. SPEAKES: Dayton, D-A-Y-T-O-N. Sidney, S-I-D-N-E-Y.

The next stop is Lima, where he will --

Q Lima.

Q Lima's Peru.

Q Lima bean.

MR. SPEAKES: Lima, where he will address a Reagan-Bush rally. Then to Dreshler, and to Perrysburg.

Q Deshler.

MR. SPEAKES: Deshler, I'm sorry. And then to Perrysburg. From Perrysburg, the President will motorcade to Toledo where he comes back to Washington.

Q Will there be a follow-campaign press train?  
(Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon. I'll try to give it to you.

Some of the President's appearances will be from the back of the car and others will be from a stage adjacent to the railroad tracks. There will be press cars on the train. Seats will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis. Filing facilities will be limited in most instances, but we're working with the telephone company to have lines installed on the press cars which will become active when the train pulls into a stop.

The filing center near the final stop -- there will be a filing center near the final stop and you will have all the filing time you need there. The Ferninand Magellan is the Gold Coast Railroad Famous U.S. Presidential Car Number 1. Information sheets available. Sign-up is posted.

Questions on it?

Q First come, first serve -- you mean every stop, everybody piles on the train and --

MR. SPEAKES: No, no. When you sign up, if you get in the number of seats -- how many seats do you think we'll have?

MR. WEINBERG: We will have four or five regular passenger cars and a filing car.

Q Will you have assigned seats on these cars once you sign up?

MR. WEINBERG: Yes. The transportation office will treat it just like an airplane.

Q And when is the sign-up sheet going to be posted?

MR. WEINBERG: It's posted now.

Q Will Dick Tuck have a spy on the train?

Q How many days will it be?

Q Will there be a pool arrangement as well as --

MR. SPEAKES: One day.

Q No filing --

Q If we don't get on the train, what happens?

Q So, Mark, you've got -- 100 seats --

Q You'll have to have a hand car, then, Steve.

Q You gonna take Truman's press secretary with you?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, what happened to -- what's his name?  
(Laughter.)

Q Early -- Steve Early --

MR. SPEAKES: No, that other fella --

Q What other fella --

MR. SPEAKES: The fella we had here.

Q Oh, oh, oh -- I know --

Q Ask him to go with you --

Q -- not going to be a press center --

MR. SPEAKES: Okay, Mrs. Reagan, on Tuesday --

Q -- signing up, Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: What?

Q Signing up.

MR. SPEAKES: Fine.

Q -- a pool on his train?

MR. SPEAKES: Continuing on in a similar vein, Mrs. Reagan will host a luncheon in the White House in observance of Eleanor Roosevelt's birthday centennial. (Laughter.) Approximately 130 guests will be --

Q What is this, Democrat week? (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: -- in attendance with the three surviving children of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt --

Q Absolutely shameless -- (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: -- nine grandchildren and members of the Eleanor Roosevelt Centennial Commission and the Eleanor Roosevelt Institute and personal friends of Mrs. Roosevelt --

Q Are you going to bring the Kennedys in next week, too?

MR. SPEAKES: At the request of Mrs. Reagan, the portrait of Mrs. Roosevelt, now hanging with other First Ladies on the ground floor, will be displayed in the East Room during the week of the Eleanor Roosevelt Centennial. Following the luncheon a theatre works repertory company from New York will perform excerpts from the play, "First Lady." Mrs. Reagan will speak as well as Mr. James Roosevelt.



Q Does the President have any Republican idols?  
(Laughter.)

Q Calvin Coolidge. (Laughter.)

Q Yes, is the Coolidge family coming to the White House before the election?

MR. SPEAKES: Earlier today we released a statement on unemployment which is at --

Q Any surviving Hoovers?

MR. SPEAKES: -- 7.1 percent -- is that right?

MR. FITZWATER: -- three --

MR. SPEAKES: 7.3 percent --

The situation on the continuing resolution -- the conference is due to convene at 1:00 p.m. Our position is that we would still like to see a clean continuing resolution. We have found generally acceptable the nine appropriations bills for government agencies that are in the continuing resolution. With that on there, it would provide us with a clean bill, but we oppose the 53 water projects which total more than \$6 billion. OMB Director Stockman has written to the leadership of the -- who's the conference committee leadership of the appropriations committee -- Senator Hatfield -- in which he has singled out the water projects as being our major concern, and indicating that we take strong exception to the inclusion of any appropriations that initiate new construction starts in water projects.

Q Can we have a copy of that letter?

MR. SPEAKES: No, but -- I've just quoted from it --

Q Larry, beside the water projects, is there any other objection, because yesterday you seemed unclear about whether there were any others?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, as I said yesterday, we're continuing to work with the conference committee -- there have been questions raised on other matters within there, but we're hoping to be resolved -- that they can be resolved prior to the final action of the conference committee.

Q There's none you want to identify?

MR. SPEAKES: Not at the moment, no.

Q Did the President also send a letter up this morning?

MR. SPEAKES: No, I don't believe the President -- the President didn't send a letter this morning, no. He has spoken to some members of the leadership up there --

Q This morning?

MR. SPEAKES: -- by telephone. Yes.

Q What's the estimate they tell him about getting a long-running CR today?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't think we are in a position to predict. We've been talking to them. Jim Baker has talked to Howard Baker today, but it just depends on how they thrash things out.

Q The last word from the Hill seemed to be that they might even have to wait until next Tuesday.

MR. SPEAKES: Well, that, too, is a possibility. The possibility of another -- the short CR expires tonight at 6:00 p.m. We might be faced with the possibility of having another one to continue over into Tuesday, or Wednesday, or whatever of next week. Our position is that the conferees can, and should, get down to business this afternoon and provide us with a clean CR that the President can sign. It can be done, and we think it should be done, and it should be done so that another stop-gap short-term continuing resolution is not necessary.

Q Well, if they don't do something, will the government have to shut down again? The weekend is probably not the best test --

MR. SPEAKES: The weekend and the holiday Monday does give some breather in there, but then again, you're faced with Tuesday morning. At present, I think the instructions from the Office of Personnel Management is that all federal employees should report to work on Tuesday morning, and then we'd make a call from there as to where we stand on Tuesday morning.

Paul?

Q The calls this morning were to the GOP leadership?

MR. SPEAKES: That's right.

Q The shut down of the government, does that cost some money?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know, that was addressed here yesterday.

Q Well, a congressional committee said that last time it cost \$65 million.

MR. SPEAKES: That's right, but as our dear friend from OMB, who's an expert on this, said -- that there were estimates either way.

Q In his talks with the GOP leadership this morning, did he indicate he would reject the funding bill if it contained these water projects?

MR. SPEAKES: Well, we have major problems with the water projects.



We are indicating both through me and privately that we do not want a continuing resolution with this pork barrel \$6 million worth of -- \$6 billion worth of water projects on it. Now, the President never states, nor do I, as to what he will do with it. But our position is clear. We don't want the water projects on the bill. It goes against our policy of seeking a new approach to water projects and that involves a different way of funding water projects.

Q Can you tell us why the President blamed the Democrats in the House yesterday when it would appear to be Senate inaction that brought you to the point where you didn't have a C.R.?

MR. SPEAKES: I think the President feels that the Democratic leadership in the House has continuously stalled as various legislative projects have moved through there. They have loaded up bills. The water projects -- where did they come from? Democrats?

MR. FITZWATER: The House.

MR. SPEAKES: Democrats in the House.

Q They passed the C.R.

Q They passed the C.R. September 25th, didn't they?

Q The Senate passed it.

Q Is that correct?

MR. FITZWATER: Well, the basic problem is all the additional add-on amendments that have been put on the bill in an effort to try to secure passage. So, in spite of that --

Q Yes, but that's not what the President said yesterday.

Q That was in the Senate.

Q He didn't complain about add-ons, he complained about not getting a budget on time, when, in fact, the House had passed it on the 25th, several days before the end of the fiscal year. And the Senate was the one that was --

MR. FITZWATER: The reason for not having it on time was all the additional add-ons at the end that had to be considered and then --

MR. SPEAKES: They went all night voting on amendments.

Q But including those in the Senate --

Q -- in the Senate.

Q Which were being added on in the Senate.

Q I mean the President was talking about the House.

MR. FITZWATER: On both sides.

Q No answer to that, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: That's yesterday's story, sorry.

Q Tip O'Neill said there was a Hollywood --

Q Then he didn't know what he was talking --

Q --publicity stunt to shut down the government.

MR. SPEAKES: I don't want to deal with Tip anymore.

Q Why not?

MR. SPEAKES: Just don't.

Q Tip thinks that Bush would be a pretty good President. Do you agree with him on that?

MR. SPEAKES: I just told your colleague up here that I don't deal with Tip's stuff anymore.

Q When did you?

Q Since when?

Q What's the answer to the question about --

MR. SPEAKES: A time or two I have.

Q -- about the President's reference yesterday to the House? Was he correct in referring to the problems associated with the House majority or did he mean to say it was the Senate problem?

MR. SPEAKES: Where were you when they just asked the same question up here?

Q It sort of lost its way back here.

MR. SPEAKES: Oh, did it? Yes, the President's correct.  
(Laughter.)

Q Can't go wrong with that answer.

MR. SPEAKES: Helen.

Q The Center on Budget and Public Priorities says that blacks -- poor blacks have been devastated by the President's policies and that the fragile middle class blacks also have suffered greatly from the President's policies. What is your reaction?

MR. SPEAKES: We have seen only the story in the newspaper this morning and have not received a copy of the report or had a chance to analyze it to prepare any -- to look at how they arrived at their figures, and so forth.

Q Will you do that?

MR. SPEAKES: I would assume we will if we get a copy of it.

Q I'd like to have a comment on it.

MR. SPEAKES: All right.

Ira.

Q Is the President now aware of the story about his land deeds in the 1940s in Beverly Hills --

MR. SPEAKES: He's aware of the story. He was not aware that the covenant was in the documents that were signed either when he bought the property or when he turned it over to Jane Wyman.

Q Did he not read the documents before he signed them?

MR. SPEAKES: He was not aware of it.

Q But he did sign them?

Q Did he not seek additional covenants to be placed on additional lots that initially were not covered by those covenants?

MR. SPEAKES: I'm not aware of anything like that. This story dates back to 1966.

Q -- when he bought the subject lots, he apparently insisted that the same covenants be applied to them, and they were not in the original --

MR. SPEAKES: What is the documentation for his insistence?

Q Sorry?

MR. SPEAKES: Who says?

Q Well, there's an individual out in California who says that --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes. I'm not familiar with the -- the President does not recall -- was not aware of those being in there at the time he either bought or sold the property.

Bob?

Q Larry, does the President feel the C.R. is being delayed by the Democrats until after the debate for political reasons, so he can accuse them of pork barrel --

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Candy.

Q Can you not address the general conclusions in Helen's question? I mean do you have to wait for the details to say whether the President's policies have hurt --

MR. SPEAKES: What we have to do is look at how these people arrived at their conclusions and then make our judgments based on that. I try generally not to comment on things that I haven't seen. I've only seen a news account of it and that was in The Washington Post.

Q Oh, my gosh, I didn't know that. (Laughter.)

Q Have we seen you since the House committee released a report detailing what it --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q We have?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q When was that?

MR. SPEAKES: Yesterday.

Q What did you say on that?

Q Where was I?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know -- trying to sober up again -- (laughter.)

Q Well, what was your response, and refresh my memory to that House committee report on security in Beirut.

MR. SPEAKES: My response was -- the DOD answer to -- the Department of Defense --

MR. SIMS: State.

MR. SPEAKES: State Department answered it in two pages of -- I don't have it with me, I'd be glad to furnish it to you.

Q Well, do you think -- both Democrats and Republicans apparently signed the report. You're not saying it was a political action are you?

MR. SPEAKES: I didn't say that, no --

Q What is the President's reaction --

Q Why doesn't the White House have a response, since you're responsible?

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon?

Q Why don't you have a response, you're responsible?

Q The President said it was his responsibility. The question is, why doesn't the White House respond then?

MR. SPEAKES: The question is -- that the Department of State responded in some detail.

Q They didn't really respond -- they --

Q So it is Shultz's responsibility, huh?

Q They did not give a response on it; they said they'd look at it.

MR. SPEAKES: Okay. Mick?

Q Larry, there are published reports that the U.S. --

Q Ignore the question, and you'll be fine --

Q -- has identified those responsible for the bombing, and there have been discussions at the White House level about possible retaliation. Can you shed any light on that?

MR. SPEAKES: Won't comment on either of the above, nor shed any light.

Bob?

Q October 23rd --

Q -- thought it was the 25th --

Q Well, does the administration have figures of its own to say that blacks have not been devastated by the President's policies?

MR. SPEAKES: Once again, Bob, until I see the report, to see the details of the charges, to see how they arrived at the



conclusions, then I'm not going to address it.

Q Let me ask a question about security in Beirut --

Q -- figures to show that they have --

MR. SPEAKES: Their unemployment's going down -- that's one thing --

Q Let me ask a question about security. Is the President now satisfied that the security arrangements at the moment, for the Ambassador's residence, and for other installations there, have been beefed up to the point that it's okay -- it's not going to happen again.

MR. SPEAKES: Well, Sam, I don't think security arrangements can ever reach the optimum, but certainly we'll do the best we can, as we've always tried to do. And I have not heard the President express any judgment on the current security arrangements there. I can't speak for him on that subject --

Q Well, has he inquired of the people that have briefed him -- when they came back from their mission -- as to whether it is now fairly safe against a truck bomb?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know whether he made that specific inquiry or not.

Q Has he read the House report, and if not, why not?

MR. SPEAKES: Has he read the House report? I don't think he's read it in its detail -- in its entirety -- but, he's certainly aware of it. It is -- how long, Bob -- five pages?

MR. SIMS: It's five and a half pages double spaced.

MR. SPEAKES: I see, so it's --

Q What's wrong with that?

Q That's not a lot of reading. (Laughter.)

Q Is that a long report?

MR. SIMS: I've read it.

Q You've read it? And what do you think of it?

MR. SPEAKES: Same thing the State Department thinks of it.

Q What is the President doing to prepare for the debate today? Can you tell us?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q How about tomorrow at Camp David? Will there be anything up there?

MR. SPEAKES: I'm just not discussing debate preparation.

Q Could it be he's not preparing at all?

MR. SPEAKES: Never know. (Laughter.)

Q In light of this committee report -- the intelligence committee report -- is the President sticking with his view that no one is to blame?



MR. SPEAKES: Yes, the President hasn't changed his view on it.

Ben?

Q Are you concerned that Harry Truman or Eleanor Roosevelt may be spinning in their graves as a result of this Roosevelt --

Q -- like an earthquake?

MR. SPEAKES: No. I think they would be pleased.

Q Ohhhhhhh. (Laughter.) Yeah, I'll bet. That's not what Harry would say. (Laughter.)

Q Who decided on this train -- oh, excuse me, did you -- who decided on the train whistle stop.

MR. SPEAKES: The President, ultimately. He's responsible.

Q Ohhhhhh, right, right. (Laughter.)

Q I know he's -- ultimately -- but, who's idea was it?

MR. SPEAKES: The idea is generated over -- many people generate ideas; you know, good people --

Q Michael Deaver.

MR. SPEAKES: Good ideas have many fathers.

Q Michael Deaver productions presents -- (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: Wouldn't go on that --

Q Larry --

Q Is he going to become a Democrat? (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: Is the President going to become a Democrat?

Q Question --

Q Thank you, Helen --

Q Wait a second, there's a question over here. Did you have a question?

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon?

Q What's the answer?

Q Any reaction to Moscow's statement on Gromyko talks in Washington?

Q What's the answer to Helen's question?

MR. SPEAKES: Reaction to the Politburo statement, right? We've taken note of the Politburo statement that Foreign Minister Gromyko's meetings were important and useful. We agree with that description. We hope the meetings will pave the way for a more productive dialogue with the Soviet Union and agreement on practical steps --

Q What's after Soviet Union, please?

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MR. SPEAKES: -- An agreement on practical steps to improve our bilateral relations.

Q What about the rest of the statement?

MR. SPEAKES: That's what we note.

Q Do you have --

Q You don't note the part which complains, as Gromyko did here, that they see nothing in the policies to suggest that the United States wants to seriously deal?

MR. SPEAKES: We've made our statements. Had enough?

Q Larry, is this a statement by you or by the President?

MR. SPEAKES: By me.

Q Could I have a copy of it? (Laughter.)

Q He's learning -- (Laughter.)

Q Got to watch him -- he's been here too long, then -- (Laughter.)

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

12:59 P.M. EDT

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