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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
LARRY SPEAKES

October 25, 1984

The Briefing Room

12:03 P.M. EDT

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#12-16/10/25

12:29 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
LARRY SPEAKES

October 25, 1984

The Briefing Room

12:03 P.M. EDT

MR. SPEAKES: Detailed schedule and fact sheet for the President's trip to New York, Connecticut and New Jersey will be available late this afternoon. For those traveling on the press plane, check in at the late hour of 8:30 a.m. Press plane's depart at 9:15 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

The President will travel to Pennsylvania and West Virginia on Monday, October 29th. He first speaks in Millersville, Pennsylvania, Lancaster County, to speak to a Reagan-Bush Rally at the Millersville's High School. I'm sorry, Millersville State University.

From there, he travels to Media -- is that what they call that?

Q Yes.

MR. SPEAKES: Media, Pennsylvania, to speak to a Reagan-Bush Rally outside the Delaware County Court House.

And following that rally, the President travels to Parkersburg, West Virginia, where he addresses a Reagan-Bush Rally at Parkersburg High School. And then he comes home.

Tentative summary schedule is available today. The sign-up will end at 5:00 p.m. today. So, sign up if you want to go to Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Q Parkersburg.

MR. SPEAKES: Yes. Have you ever been to Parkersburg?

Q Yes.

Q In West Virginia.

MR. SPEAKES: I don't think I have.

Q You know what's in Millersville?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q APBA Baseball Company.

MR. SPEAKES: Which one?

Q APBA Board Game. You know --

Q Oh, A-P-B-A.

Q -- baseball. David Eisenhower --

Q Yes. Yes.

MR. SPEAKES: Got me.

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Q APBA.

Q APBA.

MR. SPEAKES: The President has invited President Kountche of Niger to make an official working visit --

Q Niger.

MR. SPEAKES: Niger -- working visit to the United States -- get it right before you have to put it on the air -- President Kountche has accepted the invitation and will meet with the President at the White House on December 11th, 1984.

Q -- spell that?

MR. SPEAKES: You spell him k-o-u-n-t-c-h-e.

Q Last name?

Q I didn't hear you, Larry. Larry, I'm sorry.

Q What's his first name?

Q Could you do that once more?

MR. SPEAKES: What's President Kountche's first name?

Q Bill.

Q John.

Q Irving. (Laughter.)

Q Irving.

Q Irving. (Laughter.)

Q Anyone know?

Q Could you spell it again, Larry, please?

Q Larry, spell that second name again, please.

MR. SPEAKES: Ain't but one name, Ralph.

Q Spell it again --

MR. SPEAKES: Spell the one name?

Q Yes.

MR. SPEAKES: K-o-u-n-t-c-h-e.

There have been news reports about the critical famine situation in Ethiopia. Early this year, the President directed the United States' efforts to be intensified to deal with that and other drought and famine situations in Africa.

This afternoon, Peter McPherson, Administrator of the Agency for International Development will speak on this subject at 2:00 p.m. in the State Department Briefing Room.

Q Yeah. (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: I knew you'd like that.

Q Thank you, Larry. (Laughter.)

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MR. SPEAKES: Text tomorrow? No text tomorrow.

Q Four more years.

MR. SPEAKES: Whether we'll have an insert, I don't know yet.

Q Larry, why are you not giving texts anymore?

Q Why bother? (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: Because he's giving the same speech. If you haven't memorized it by now, you --

Q Does that go for Monday, too? Does that go for Monday --

Q He's not ad libbing?

MR. SPEAKES: What?

Q He's not ad libbing?

MR. SPEAKES: It's all off the cuff. (Laughter.)

Q Larry, does that go for Monday, too?

Q Is it the Medford speech or the Ohio --

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know. Until the President decides -- Lester.

Q Larry, does that go for Monday, too?

MR. SPEAKES: I'm sure it will, yes. We plan to do this probably on through the campaign, although he may interject a new one from time to time.

Q What campaign? (Laughter.)

Q Doesn't the President have anything new to say?

MR. SPEAKES: He's doing --

Q He hasn't had for years, Helen.

MR. SPEAKES: Twenty points ain't bad for saying that. That speech has got us a long way.

Ben.

Q Is he going to fire the FEMA Administrator?

MR. SPEAKES: The FEMA matter is under investigation by an Inspector General and I will have no comment. I don't know the facts. And until this investigation by the IG is completed, I can't say.

Ben.

Q Larry, apparently there was a report last night that the kid that was mentioned by the President who died in Grenada died under friendly fire. Is that accurate? And was the President aware of it when he was making -- prior to making his remarks?

MR. SPEAKES: The information is correct. And this information has been reported all along. Sean Luketina was assigned to the Second Brigade, 82nd Airborne. He was a radio operator with the -- was with the Command Post of that unit. Near the barracks on October 27th, '83, the unit called in Navy A-7 aircraft fire on the

enemy in the vicinity. Command Post was inadvertently hit by rounds of fire by the A-7 aircraft on October 27th. Luketina was wounded. He was evacuated to the U.S. and subsequently died in the hospital on June 30th, 1984. I presume the President was aware of it.

Q How many of the 19 people who died were killed by friendly fire?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know, Sam. You'd have to ask Defense.

Q Half of them?

MR. SPEAKES: I just -- I don't have any idea.

Q -- 19 are the -- of the official --

Q That's shocking.

Q -- landing force or is this the -- also include the helicopter crashes --

MR. SPEAKES: Nineteen were killed in all down there. And --including Luketina. And some were killed in pre-invasion activity, and others were killed during the invasion.

Q Rescue mission.

Q No, it wasn't an invasion, was it?

MR. SPEAKES: Rescue mission --

Q Oh, thank you.

Q "Pre-invasion," meaning the Delta Force?

Q Well, is there some sort of investigation going on as to why so many were killed that way?

MR. SPEAKES: How many were killed?

Q We heard 40 percent back here.

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know. You never know what you might hear in this briefing room. From either side. (Laughter.)

Ira's trying to speak. Be quiet.

Q In his speech yesterday --

Q I haven't said anything.

MR. SPEAKES: What?

Q I was laughing at your quip.

Q -- the President referred to Afghanistan, I guess drawing a comparison with the criticism of Grenada. What has the administration done to aid the rebels, and is there any consideration being given to doing more such as arms or, you know, actual wherewithal to fight the war there?

MR. SPEAKES: We have been supportive of the Afghanistan freedom fighters with our statements and by other means which we don't discuss in any detail.

Q Does that mean that -- let me just ask you specifically -- is the United States supplying them arms?

MR. SPEAKES: Not discussing that.

Q Do you have anything further on the CIA report --

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q -- which is, supposedly -- it's sometime this week?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't -- I honestly don't look for it this week. Possibly.

Q Do you look for it before the election?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, I do.

Q Do you know when?

MR. SPEAKES: No. When it's finished.

Q Let me just follow up. Is the President aware of the CIA testimony on the Hill --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q -- that it was approved by mid-level people here, and some of them didn't know Spanish, and all of that? Does he have any feelings about that at this point?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't think that was in testimony. I think that was a CIA leak --

Q Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: -- about the not knowing Spanish. He's seen all that, but he's reserving judgment until he sees the report.

Yes.

Q Could you give us some idea what the final campaign swing is going to be like, where it's going to go?

MR. SPEAKES: No. Those decisions will probably be made in the next day or so.

Q Is it still going to be as we --

Q Is he still going to end in California?

Q -- from Thursday to Sunday?

MR. SPEAKES: Do what?

Q Thursday to the 11th? Is that still --

MR. SPEAKES: Probably so, yes. I don't know whether any of those trips, the first part of it, could be out and back or not.

Q Do you expect the President to do any Q&As between now and the election, either with us or anyone else on the campaign trips?

MR. SPEAKES: He did two or three on this last trip.

Q Where?

MR. SPEAKES: It might interest you to know between --

Q Would you remind me which ones they were?

MR. SPEAKES: -- September 1st and, oh, before the debate, right? Leading up to the debate? The President has done two hours and 14 minutes of running Q&A with the press, which is equivalent --

Q Running. (Laughter.)

Q That's what he was doing, he was running.
(Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: -- which is equivalent to 14 -- to four and a quarter press conferences.

Q Now, wait a minute. What three is that?

Q You don't call that --

Q With the helicopter?

Q With or without the helicopter?

Q What three on this trip?

MR. SPEAKES: Didn't he do one under the wing here somewhere on this trip?

Q No, he did not.

Q Yes, he did, but we had -- but we would remind you that there is a little background noise from Air Force One.

Q Will there be another formal press conference before the election?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know.

Q Well, now, is there any plan to have one?

Q Well, how about Q&A?

MR. SPEAKES: Why do we always do this when there's -- on the no-news days?

Q Because there's no news.

Q No. We do this every chance we get.

Q Larry --

Q The President said when he was last in this briefing room --

MR. SPEAKES: Lester, I'll call on you when I get ready. You don't have to call my name. You just back off over in the corner and stand there and you will have -- I'll call you. (Laughter.)

Q The President said, when he was last in this briefing room, that he was thinking about it when asked if he was going to have a half hour -- is he still thinking about it?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes. (Laughter.)

Q Will he do any Q&A with audiences?

MR. SPEAKES: With audiences? I don't know. The events right now are generally Reagan-Bush rallies which -- I don't know whether he wants to do any with them or not.

Q Can you explain why he hasn't had a news conference?

MR. SPEAKES: Oh, I'm not playing that game.

Go ahead.

Q Why? It's not a game. It's a --

MR. SPEAKES: It is a game. I'm not going to talk about it.

Q It's a legitimate question.

MR. SPEAKES: Paul.

Q What's the question?

MR. SPEAKES: Paul.

Q Why doesn't he have a news conference?

MR. SPEAKES: Speak.

Q Clarify the item before the election, what's going to be coming out involving the CIA report?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes. There's a CIA report that we expect before the election. I don't have a timetable for it.

Q Will that be released to the public or is that the internal --

MR. SPEAKES: We'll have to wait until we see what it is.

Q Is the President afraid to have a news conference?

Q Yes.

MR. SPEAKES: Bob.

Q He isn't, but his managers are afraid to.

MR. SPEAKES: Let's straighten Paul out here. The CIA -- the report on the CIA -- there are two reports. One is a formal investigation by the Inspector General's office at the CIA. The second is by the President's Foreign Intelligence Oversight Board. I would expect one or both before the election. I do not have a

specific timetable. Will they be released to the public? I do not know. I would judge, in some form or another, there will be an announcement concerning the reports.

Bob, yes.

Q Thank you.

Q Has the President asked about reports that say that more than 19 servicemen died in Grenada?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, and they're false.

Q He's asked?

Q He's asked?

MR. SPEAKES: Has the President asked about them?

Q Yes.

MR. SPEAKES: He didn't need to ask because he knew the facts.

Q He seldom knows -- let me -- (laughter) -- let me just ask you about something. While we were on this trip, the State Department apparently corrected the President's view of whether the alternative to Marcos was only a communist government and says that he didn't mean to paint an either-or picture. In fact, what is

the President's view? Did the State Department correct it properly?

MR. SPEAKES: The President did not paint an either-or view in there. He was simply stating the dangers of communism in a country like the Philippines.

Q So he -- well, he did say an either-or view, but he didn't mean to limit it to that? Is that what you're saying?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't think he -- he didn't -- if you look back at what he said, I don't believe he said that, Sam.

Q I think he said the alternative to Marcos --

Q The alternative to Marcos is a communist government.

Q There are 12,000 communist guerrillas.

MR. SPEAKES: When was the debate -- Sunday? And what's today -- Thursday?

Q He answered the question --

Q We haven't seen you that often, at least I haven't.

MR. SPEAKES: Well, I've talked to you every time. You've got nothing but hot air every time I talk to you. You were working the crowd yesterday. I was available for an hour and a half there at the fraternity house. You were working the crowd.

Q We weren't there.

Q Is that the crowd that was yelling, "Fritz is a wimp" --

MR. SPEAKES: What?

Q -- to which Ronald Reagan began to giggle -- (laughter) --

MR. SPEAKES: -- to which your network is the only one that had the guts to use on the air.

Q It had the guts.

Q Wrong. Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: Lester, if you call my name one more time, you'll have to leave the room. (Laughter.) I'll talk to you when I get ready.

Q What should he call you -- Fred?

Q Larry.

Q Come on.

MR. SPEAKES: I'm going to do -- I'll do you like the Ferraro campaign did The Washington Times.

Q That's exactly the question I had in mind, Larry.
(Laughter.) That's exactly -- could I ask the question, please, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: Well --

Q What was your question?

Q Please.

MR. SPEAKES: Well, we were --

Q Please. I'm sure there must be a contrast.

MR. SPEAKES: I've got the answer. Ohhh. (Laughter.)
I've got the answer.

Q Could I ask the question?

MR. SPEAKES: I've got the answer; I don't need the question.

Q -- let him ask his question, you get rid of him.

Q -- let me ask the question.

MR. SPEAKES: Oh, do you? Will you guarantee it? Go ahead.

Q Larry, my recollection is -- (laughter) -- my recollection is that the President, no matter how badly he has been savaged by such papers as The Washington Post and The New York Times, has never discriminated against any of their reporters by excluding them from the campaign plane. Is that true?

MR. SPEAKES: That's true.

Q Is it true also that he -- (laughter) --

MR. SPEAKES: As long as they pay the bills, they can fly with us.

Q Wait a minute. (Laughter.) Is it also true that our State Department, when they exclude one of our reporters from the Soviet Union, we retaliate?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes. From time to time.

Q Right. Okay. Now, my question is: Would the White House, in the interest of fair campaigning --

Q Get rid of the --

Q -- and freedom of the press, be willing to suggest to the Ferraro campaign that if they continue discriminating against women reporters for The New York Post and The Washington Times when there are seats available, that you will exclude -- begin a policy excluding all male reporters from The Washington Post and The New York Times?

MR. SPEAKES: No. (Laughter.)

Q Yea.

MR. SPEAKES: What we're going to do -- we're going -- here, what we're going to do is we're going to exclude all reporters who don't carry our message. Therefore, we're cancelling both press planes. (Laughter.) Punctuated by --

Q Why did you resist so long, Larry? I mean, that was a good answer.

MR. SPEAKES: Oh, it was really great, wasn't it, Lester? (Laughter.)

Anybody have anything else?

Q Yes.

MR. SPEAKES: Owen?

Q I can understand you're not talking about the CIA, but why won't you tell us about why Howard Cosell is here today?

MR. SPEAKES: Is Howard here today?

Q Yes.

MR. SPEAKES: Maybe -- the sportscasters thing. The President will receive -- glad you asked -- the American Sportscasters Association Award.

Q Why is there no coverage of that, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: Just isn't.

Q We -- it's the American public has a --

MR. SPEAKES: Would you use it?

Q -- vested interest.

Q Is the President going to give him lessons --

Q Yes, I promise you --

Q -- of how to broadcast sports events? (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: He will tell him the one about when the wire went dead.

Q Ahhh.

Q -- we don't want --

Q The wire's been dead a long time.

Q What's the President --

Q Is there a bill signing at 1:15 p.m. tonight or has that been cancelled?

MR. SPEAKES: Next week.

Q What's in the letter --

Q What's the problem?

Q What?

Q Can you tell us why it's been postponed?

Q -- cancelled? We don't --

MR. SPEAKES: Paperwork --

Q Shhhhh.

MR. SPEAKES: -- Darman told me.

Q What's that?

MR. SPEAKES: Paperwork. Darman told me -- getting the paperwork done on the bill.

Q What's the President doing today?

Q I'm sorry. We can't hear. There's --

MR. SPEAKES: I wonder why.

Q There is no signing ceremony?

MR. SPEAKES: That's right. Is no signing ceremony.

Q So we won't see him at all today?

Q -- you put it on the schedule yesterday thinking the paperwork would be completed? Or what's -- I don't understand -- paperwork --

MR. SPEAKES: Sometimes schedules that are given to us are incorrect. Most of the time, we save the world by straightening them out. This time we didn't.

Q So you are saying that the ceremony was not scheduled and then dropped?

MR. SPEAKES: It could have been, and then just said we can't get ready in time. I don't know.

Q What is their paperwork once a bill is enrolled and comes down here and it is decided the President will sign it? Then, the paperwork --

MR. SPEAKES: All the departments and agencies look at it in detail and decide what it is, what the impact is. OMB runs studies on it. Recommendations --

Q In other words, on this particular bill the President had not decided to sign it yet because that paperwork wasn't completed? Yet, someone put it on the schedule, and people were notified to come to a ceremony?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know whether people were notified to come or not.

Q Larry, is he going to sign a wetlands bill?

Q Well, someone made a mistake.

Q -- tomorrow in Connecticut?

MR. SPEAKES: A wetlands bill tomorrow? Yes.

Q Wrong. Clearly we're not --

Q Shhhh.

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know what the background is --

Q -- quiet. God.

Q You called my child?

Q Well, I can't understand what anybody's saying. I don't --

MR. SPEAKES: I'm answering three questions at once -- same time.

Q Tell us about the wetlands bill.

MR. SPEAKES: Wetlands bill -- he will sign tomorrow in Connecticut. It's a bill that provides funding for wildlife preserve -- or wetlands federal reserve type system in Connecticut.

Q Is the paperwork done on that?

Q Was he opposed to it?

Q Wait a minute.

Q Was he opposed to it?

MR. SPEAKES: I do not know.

Q What's the number on it?

Q Does anybody --

MR. SPEAKES: I do not know.

Q -- know? Marlin, was he opposed to it?

MR. FITZWATER: I don't know on this bill. We generally have --

Q It's on your schedule.

MR. FITZWATER: -- supported increased purchases of wetlands -- as a general matter. And I don't know on this specific bill.

Q Do you know the bill number?

MR. SPEAKES: Miles.

Q Larry, is the President going to go election night -- be at the ranch?

Q I can't hear it.

MR. SPEAKES: I would anticipate that he will spend election night on the West Coast, but it all depends on the schedule that's developed for the last week.

Q What is he doing today?

Q Do you have any comments on these --

Q Sleeping.

Q -- demonstrations that have been -- here recently --

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q What was the question?

Q Question?

Q What was the question?

MR. SPEAKES: Comments on demonstrations? No.

Ira?

MORE

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Q Isn't the reason that this trade bill was taken off the schedule is because Brock is campaigning in Tennessee or elsewhere for Congressional candidates, and that was deemed more important?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know whether it was or not.

Q Well, you said it was paper work that wasn't finished.

MR. SPEAKES: That's what Darman tells me. He says because Brock's campaigning in Tennessee.

Q Well, what are the facts?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know the facts.

Q Can you get them? What's your job?

MR. SPEAKES: My job's not to sit here and yeah, yeay, yeah with you over something --

Q Your job is to answer legitimate questions about White House activities.

MR. SPEAKES: Is it in the Constitution? (Laughter.)

Q What's he doing today?

Q Yes, as a matter of fact it is.

Q Thirty-second amendment today, Larry.

Q What is the President doing today?

MR. SPEAKES: I'm hungry.

Charles?

Q Why is the President invisible 12 days before the election? Complacency setting in?

MR. SPEAKES: No. He's very busy today --

Q Doing what?

MR. SPEAKES: What's he doing Helen asked.

Q How busy is he?

Q Who did he have lunch with?

MR. SPEAKES: He had lunch alone. He's eating right this minute.

The President's schedule today: For thirty minutes this morning he met with Baker, Meese and Deaver. At 9:30 a.m. he had a thirty minute National Security briefing. At 10:00 a.m. he had an hour of personal time. At 11:00 a.m. he had a private meeting with a number of outside officials. At 11:30 a.m. he had a political meeting. At 12:00 o'clock he had lunch.

At 1:00 p.m. he will receive the report from the President's Commission on Organized Crime, the American Sportscasters Association Award, the Hero of Young America Award, and have a photo for Business Week's election issue.

At 1:30 p.m. he does some taping for the campaign. At 2:30 p.m. he does taping for the Kansas City Chiefs' Tribute to Harry

Truman, the -- Dupont Campaign, the --

Q What?

MR. SPEAKES: -- the Gubernatorial and Congressional campaign messages. He has 45 minutes of personal time this afternoon. At 3:30 p.m. a number of us will spend 60 minutes preparing him for two interviews that will take place at 4:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

And he goes home at 5:30 p.m. if he doesn't have to go back in the office.

Q Who are the interviews?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't ever tell who interviews are, I don't tell when --

Q Why can't we cover some of this?

Q Will we get the transcripts of those interviews?

Q What about seeing him for some of the awards then?

MR. SPEAKES: I have been asked one, two, three questions

Q Why can't the press cover some of that activity?

MR. SPEAKES: You've been covering him 24 hours a day for the last three or four days, and you're just not covering this.

Q What's the Organized Crime Report about?

MR. SPEAKES: The Organized Crime Report is a report presented to the President of the United States by Judge Irving R. Kaufman, Chairman of the President's Commission on Organized Crime. It's entitled, "A Cash Connection." It's the Commission's interim report. "A Cash Connection" describes money, laundering processes in detail; concludes that the problem is widespread. Recommends voluntary, administrative, and legislative measures to counter them -- the most important of these is legislative. "A Cash Connection" proposes legislation that is basically -- would make money laundering a crime.

In March, 1984, the Commission held hearings on the problems of financial laundering schemes of organized crime. Details of the interim report will be released by the Commission on Tuesday, October 30th, in New York. The Commission was created October 14, 1982 -- or it was announced by the President then; and on July 28th, 1983 in a Rose Garden ceremony, the President signed an Executive Order establishing the Commission.

Q -- report tonight?

MR. SPEAKES: The Commission will last three years. It is to undertake a region-by-region analysis of the influence of organized crime; to organize and debate the data it gathers; to hold public hearings on the findings. It will present its findings and recommendations to the President and Attorney General by March 1st, 1986.

Q Does this report have any --

MR. SPEAKES: The Commission is presently holding hearings in New York on the activities of sophisticated criminal groups with worldwide connections which operate in the United States.

Q Does this include the Mafia, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: It is composed of 19 distinguished individuals. Organized crime, Lester.

Q Well, that would include the Mafia. Is that a possible criticism that this might be politically motivated?

MR. SPEAKES: Not when it was done two years ago -- long before the President announced --

Q It's continuing then --

Q What was this political meeting about? Was it to plan the rest of the --

Q Wait a minute, can we finish with one thing at a time.

Q -- finish -- one item per moment, please --

MR. SPEAKES: What do you want to do, Deborah?

Q First of all, is this their first report?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q Can we get any further look at it today?

MR. SPEAKES: The first report, we can get no further look at it. I've given you a peek, and the Commission itself is holding the report until they get ready to announce it Tuesday in New York City.

Q Is Jackie Pressler's name in it?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know -- always one wise guy.

Q So this report will go public next week?

MR. SPEAKES: Will it go public next week?

Q I couldn't hear everything you said -- that's why --

MR. SPEAKES: Tuesday. October 30th. In New York. Third time. Details of the interim report will be released by the Commission. New York. Tuesday. October 30th. Day before Halloween.

Q Where? What time?

MR. SPEAKES: Times Square -- the middle of the street.

Q Well, I mean, this is --

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know. Call the Commission. Call the Justice Department. You've got from now until Tuesday to do it.

Q It is the President's Commission on Crime, is it not?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, but it is an independent Commission. I have given you more detail. Would you like more?

Q Yes.

Q Sure.

MR. SPEAKES: Okay.

Q Ohhhhhhh -- (Laughter.)

Q Any of those mentioned by The New York Post?

MR. SPEAKES: The Commission consists of 19 distinguished individuals, with expertise --

Q How about speaking up and not mumbling?

MR. SPEAKES: -- in various aspects of law enforcement. Judge Kaufman, a Judge of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit since 1961 --

Q Well, not about the Commission -- how about the report?

MR. SPEAKES: -- and Chief Judge of that Court from 1973 to 1980 --

Q We know about -- Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: -- has been a member of --

Q Come on -- that's background -- come on --

MR. SPEAKES: What?

Q That's the Commission -- I mean the report --

MR. SPEAKES: She wanted more -- hadn't had enough --

MR. ROUSSEL: The report will be released on Tuesday.

Q The arrogance since Sunday is remarkable --

Q You're giving us a peek, I just wonder if --

MR. SPEAKES: Look, look, look --

Q -- wondered if any of those names -- The New York Post or the Philadelphia Inquirer --

MR. SPEAKES: Look, I realize all of you have had news for three or four days running here, and there is -- happens to be a day when there is not a lot of news, and I can't help you.

Q Answer the questions. That's all we're asking you to do.

MR. SPEAKES: If there was, I'd be proud to give it to you.

Q Larry, do you know when the trade bill will be signed?

MR. SPEAKES Pardon?

Q When will the trade bill be signed?

MR. SPEAKES: Probably next week. Paul --

Q Can we have a photo op with the Judge and the President?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q How about this Paul?

Q I know McPherson is briefing, but can you tell us, since the President directed, that anything possible will be done to help those people, is he satisfied, or dissatisfied with what he's been told the progress has been since then? What is the President's view?

MR. SPEAKES: The progress of our effort the President is satisfied with, but, he's never satisfied as long as he sees photographs of starving people anywhere --

Q That's an incredible one -- (Laughter.)

Q That's good, Larry --

Q Let's answer 301, and --

Q We'll keep them off television, then, Larry.
(Laughter.)

Q Larry, has he asked -- has he asked for anything more to be done since he saw those pictures?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes he has --

Q What has he asked for?

MR. SPEAKES: Not since last night -- no, he's not since last night -- but since he originated the new impetus on the part of the administration to provide funding to African nations who are experiencing drought, they've increased it a couple of times. Peter McPherson will tell you all about it.

Q Does he have -- does the President have any problem with doing more for that country because it has a Marxist government?

MR. SPEAKES: The President has no problem with it; would like to do whatever he can for people who are experiencing difficulty as a result of the drought.

Paul?

Q -- doing all we can?

Q Will you be putting out the copies of the Q & A today -- today?

MR. SPEAKES: What Q & A?

Q Scripps-Howard --

Q -- the interviews --

MR. SPEAKES: It's up to the individuals who are getting the interviews, groups who are getting the interviews, the organizations who are getting the interviews. I doubt it.

Q Are those newspaper, or broadcast --

Q Are these news media organizations, Larry, that he's doing the interviews with?

MR. SPEAKES: We don't usually do that. When you have one we don't tell anybody. So --

Q But you have to spend an hour to prepare him for these interviews?

MR. SPEAKES: About an hour to sit down and talk about a number of issues.

Q Don't brutalize him. (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: I never brutalize him.

Have I ever been accused of being brutal -- brutalizing

him?

Bob?

Q Is Stockman in on that briefing?

Q He's going to play the reporter. (Laughter.)

Q The President says that he was working to improve human rights in Southern Africa. After that time they sent troops into a township, held searches -- what was the President's reaction?

MR. SPEAKES: I didn't hear him specifically comment on the recent government activity in South Africa.

Q Why has the President not been as forceful in dealing with South Africa as he has in similar challenges in other countries?

MR. SPEAKES: Such as?

Q Poland.

Q Poland.

MR. SPEAKES: We continue to work with the South Africans. We've made our views known. We've participated in the Commission --

Q Why the difference? That's the question.

MR. SPEAKES: Bob, different countries, different methods of working with countries. You know.

Q I don't know. That's why I'm asking you.

Q Has the President -- I know he's been busy. Is he aware of the United States being the only country on the Security Council abstaining on the resolution condemning South Africa?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know.

Q Do you have anything on Pravda restating the Soviet position on INF and the dismantling of the --

MR. SPEAKES: On the Soviet position on --

Q Pravda story today. They are again asking for the dismantling of U.S. Pershing and cruise.

MR. SPEAKES: There's been no change in the U.S. position. I'd like to look at the statement before I comment in any detail.

Q Would the U.S. abstain without the President knowing it? (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: I said I don't know the answer, whether he knew or not.

Q Well, how could -- I mean, how is that possible?

MR. SPEAKES: How is it possible that I don't know what the President knew about abstaining on a Security Council resolution?

Q Yes. I mean, doesn't the President give those orders on a vote like that?

MR. SPEAKES: He didn't give me any orders on it. I don't know the answer to it, Helen, is what I'm trying to tell --

Q Would you find out?

MR. SPEAKES: I'll try to. Be glad to.

Q I can't believe that he wouldn't know how we vote in the UN.

MR. SPEAKES: Who said he didn't?

Q Well, you're implying that --

MR. SPEAKES: See, you're -- this is the third time today, sitting in that front seat, that you have jumped to conclusions for something you heard your colleagues say and nothing that you heard the official government spokesman say.

Q You said, "I don't know." I mean, don't you absolutely know whether he would have control over a vote?

MR. SPEAKES: Helen, I don't know specifically whether he was aware of this action or not. I have not asked him about it, it has not come up in any discussions that I've had with him over the last three or four days.

Q Larry, you're not your generally congenial self today. Did you have a bad night, or something? (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: No. I was in very good shape until you showed up, Lester. (Laughter.)

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Q The arrogance of the league, Lester.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

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12:29 P.M. EDT