

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Press Secretary, Office of the:
Press Releases and Press Briefings: Records, 1981-1989

Series: II: PRESS BRIEFINGS

Folder Title: 01/20/1985 (#1300)

Box: 33

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digitized-textual-material>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Inventories, visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/white-house-inventories>

Contact a reference archivist at: **reagan.library@nara.gov**

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/research-support/citation-guide>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

Last Updated: 01/17/2025

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
LARRY SPEAKES
AND SHEILA TATE

January 20, 1985

The Briefing Room

11:00 A.M. EST

INDEX

SUBJECT

PAGE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President's schedule.....1-10
Swearing-in, church service, family, menu

FOREIGN

McFarlane/Central America.....10
Arms control meeting.....10

11:16 A.M. EST

#1300-01/20

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
LARRY SPEAKES
AND SHEILA TATE

January 20, 1985

The Briefing Room

11:00 A.M. EST

MR. SPEAKES: We thought it would be appropriate this morning to come fill you in on whatever details of events that might have occurred through the morning and answer any questions that were pending.

As you know, the President's schedule has included church and the official swearing-in at 11:50 a.m., and the events that follow. And as has been announced by the Inaugural Committee, the President, this morning, after seeing the weather forecast and getting a bit of a hint of what the weather was going to be for the rest of the day, thought in consideration of the many young people that would be participating at the Jefferson tonight, that he would recommend to his staff that he cancel the briefing, knowing that -- cancel the Youth Memorial Event. Knowing that he's going to be out there only a few minutes, but many, many people would have to be out there for hours, the President suggested that it be cancelled.

There are no plans for any other changes this afternoon and the President --

Q And it has been cancelled now?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, it has been cancelled. The schools that were offering young people to participate have been notified, and I think there's a general announcement being made to local radio stations and so forth so that the public that was participating -- it was not an event that required tickets -- or paid tickets. So nobody has lost their money.

There is, at the moment, no plan to change anything tomorrow due to the weather. But whether that will come up -- and, of course, the afternoon, with the Inaugural officials -- or the Inaugural Committee, the Congressional Inaugural Committee, I don't know.

Other than that, Sheila Tate is here to give you considerable amount of detail on the Reagans' morning, and so forth.

So, Sheila.

Q Now, before she comes on, did the President say anything about the church service?

MR. SPEAKES: Impressive, was his word when he walked out.

Q Can't hear the question, Larry.

Q What was the question?

MR. SPEAKES: "Did the President say anything about the church service?" Impressive.

Q When he -- do you mean, walked back in the White House?

MORE

#1300-01/20

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

MS. TATE: Well, by popular demand, we've tried to piece their morning together.

The Reagans were awakened this morning by the White House operator at 7:30 a.m., as is traditional. They had breakfast on trays in their bedroom as they dressed. Have been to church and back.

Q What did they have for breakfast?

Q What did they eat?

Q What did they eat?

MS. TATE: Ah. They had juice, soft-boiled egg, whole wheat toast with honey, and decaffeinated coffee.

Q What kind of juice? (Laughter.)

Q What kind of juice?

Q Small or large? (Laughter.)

Q Fruit.

MS. TATE: Fruit. (Laughter.)

Q Fruit juice.

Q Whole wheat toast and honey.

Q Say it again.

MS. TATE: Juice, soft-boiled egg, whole wheat toast with honey -- no butter -- and decaffeinated coffee.

Q You're not long for this world. (Laughter.)

Q Filing break. (Laughter.)

MS. TATE: The rest of the guests had breakfast

in the Solarium, set up buffet style.

Q Who is staying in the White House? Do you have the list?

MS. TATE: There are fourteen guests. Every bedroom is occupied. Let's see, there's Neil and Bess Reagan; Dr. Richard Davis, his wife Patricia and their two children -- Anne, with an "e" and Geoffrey, G-E-O-F-F-R-E-Y.

Q All in one room?

MS. TATE: (Laughter.)

Q -- in one bed --

Q That was stupid, Gary, stupid.

MS. TATE: Ron and Doria --

Q Who was the third kid?

Q No, she said two --

MS. TATE: Two children.

Q Geoffrey and --

MS. TATE: Anne.

Q -- with an "e."

MS. TATE: With an "e." Ron and Doria; Michael, Colleen and their two children --

Q -- they got in the big house --

MS. TATE: -- and Patti arrives tonight.

Q You said Dick Davis?

MS. TATE: Richard Davis, right.

Q Well, that's not the --

MS. TATE: Richard Davis is --

Q -- No, it's her brother, Nancy's brother --

MS. TATE: -- Nancy Reagan's brother.

Q Oh, okay.

Q Wrong again --

Q And Maureen?

MS. TATE: Maureen and Dennis -- didn't I say that? Yes.

Q Where's he from?

MS. TATE: Philadelphia.

Q Who's in the Lincoln bedroom?

MS. TATE: That honor went to Maureen and Dennis because Dennis is the tallest. (Laughter.)

Q Who's in the Queen's room?

MS. TATE: I don't know.

Q What honor?

Q It's long -- not -- (Laughter.)

Q Get that in the transcript -- (Laughter.)

Q We've got a real time problem here. Did everybody go to church?

MS. TATE: No. Michael and Cameron, I think Maureen and Dennis, but not -- Colleen and Ashley stayed home, and Ron and Doria stayed home.

Q Who went?

MS. TATE: I think everybody else went.

Q Except?

MS. TATE: Colleen and Ashley and Ron and Doria.

Tonight, by the way, the only --

Q Did they all go in the Presidential motorcade?

MR. SPEAKES: Separate motorcade --

MS. TATE: They go in -- separate.

MR. SPEAKES: -- they went earlier.

Q Was Ron awake when Billy Graham told the story about him?

MS. TATE: Last night?

Q No -- this morning.

Q In church.

MS. TATE: Oh, I don't --

Q He wasn't there, but -- was he watching television?

MS. TATE: Tonight -- tonight -- there's a couple more things -- tonight there will be family dinner at 7:00 p.m. in the first floor family dining room. Maureen has a party out tonight, and Michael has invited some friends in to watch the Super Bowl, and they'll watch the Super Bowl in the family theater.

Q Who are these friends?

MS. TATE: I don't know -- friends of his.

Q Will the President watch the game also?

MS. TATE: He'll be able to see -- post-8:00 o'clock -- he'll be able to see the game. He'll be having dinner at 7:00 p.m., so --

Q Do you know what the menu is tonight?

MS. TATE: Pot roast with a rice salad and vegetables.

Q What?

Q Rice salad.

MS. TATE: Pot roast with a rice salad and vegetables.

Q The President and Nancy will be there and all the family -- for this meal?

MS. TATE: Yes, yes.

Q Except for Michael.

MS. TATE: Michael will be hosting his guests with a buffet in the family dining room.

Q Are the Bush -- part of this?

MS. TATE: No, this is the Reagan family.

Q The rest of the menu?

Q Dessert?

MS. TATE: Cookies and compote for dessert, that's all I know.

Q Sheila, do you have any quote from Mrs. Reagan at all?

MS. TATE: She said, "It's very cold."

Q Ohhhhhhh. (Laughter.)

Q Do you have anything on the kids -- what they're doing? They're running around -- if they've made any discoveries about the White House?

Q You mean the little ones?

MS. TATE: Yes, I haven't heard anything lately. I know the snowman was a big hit yesterday.

Q What was the question?

MS. TATE: What -- any anecdotes about the kids running around or anything.

Q Where and when did Mrs. Reagan say it was very cold?

MS. TATE: Just a few moments ago, talking about going to and from church.

Q How did they like the Gala, do you know?

MS. TATE: I failed to ask. I'm sure they loved it.

Q Do you know how many of Michael's friends are going to be in?

MS. TATE: I understand it's a party of ten.

Q What was the question?

Q What's the question?

MS. TATE: How many of Michael's friends are going to be here for the Super Bowl -- it's a party of ten.

Q After the Swearing-in, there will be a reception, and how many more people have been invited?

MS. TATE: The swearing-in is 96 and a half people. Ashley will be sitting on her father's lap, I suppose. And about 170 altogether for the post-swearing-in reception.

Q Who are they? What category?

MS. TATE: Everyone who attends the swearing-in, plus other family members -- extended family members -- cousins, in-laws, that sort of thing, and close, Reagan -- close, old-time friends.

Q Are you going to make the guest list available?

MS. TATE: I don't think so. We've generally --

Q What kind -- will there be music or entertainment or anything that --

MS. TATE: It's kind of a luncheon -- yes, I would think so -- a luncheon-buffet type of reception.

Q What's the menu?

Q Can you say what -- whether government officials will be there?

MS. TATE: All the government officials attending the swearing-in.

Q Who are? We don't know who they are.

MS. TATE: All right. Well, it's basically the two Supreme Court Justices who are participating in

the swearing-in. These are all with spouses, now.

The Congressional leadership --

Q Bipartisan?

MS. TATE: Yes.

Q How many?

MS. TATE: There are -- with Laxalt -- there are 11 members of Congress with spouses: O'Neill, Thurmond, Dole, Byrd, Michel and Laxalt.

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Vessey, all members of the Cabinet and spouses and Assistants to the President, Meese, Baker, Deaver, McFarlane.

Q Is Deaver going to make it?

Q Deaver going to make it?

MS. TATE: I don't know. Do you know, Larry, if Deaver's

--

MR. SPEAKES: I think Deaver's on. Let me check with Kim. He's supposed to do --

Q No speech?

MS. TATE: Then it's members of the President's family, members of the Vice President's family and also the Reverend and Mrs. Donn Moomaw. That's D-o-n-n M-o-o-m-a-w, Pastor of the Bel-Air Presbyterian Church.

Q Spelling again, please.

MS. TATE: M-o-o-m-a-w. Donn is with a double 'n.'

Q Billy Graham wasn't invited?

MS. TATE: Not to the official swearing-in.

Q Lunch?

MS. TATE: I don't know.

MR. SPEAKES: The Deaver question --

Q Where's Darman?

MR. SPEAKES: Deaver will not do Brinkley;

Q No Darman?

MR. SPEAKES: -- but -- Meet the Press, I'm sorry, but he will do --

Q Sheila, are those the only four assistants to the President that will be there?

MS. TATE: That's correct.

Q Go on. I'm listening. (Laughter.)

Q We're all with you, Larry. That's all right.

Q Go ahead. What'd you say, Larry?

Q What about Regan?

Q He's going to make it for the ceremony, is that right?

MR. SPEAKES: He's going to make a late call on the ceremonies --

Q Why? Where is he?

MR. SPEAKES: What? Been out for a week.

MS. TATE: Okay?

Q So then what happens after --

MS. TATE: The one thing, you asked the menu --

Q Yes.

MS. TATE: -- on this luncheon. It's pasta carbinara, pasta shells carbinara, c-a-r-b-i-n-a-r-a.

Q b-o-n.

Q b-o-n.

Q b-o-n-a-r-a.

MS. TATE: Oh, it's spelled wrong here.

Q Spelled wrong.

Q Would you spell that again?

Q Okay. Pasta carbonara --

MS. TATE: Vegetable salad, spinach salad with bacon, pastry table.

Q On the seating chart, are these people, the Ellises and Leblonds, are they Bush relatives?

MS. TATE: Bush relatives.

Q Will the First Lady be with the President when he flips the coin?

MS. TATE: I --

MR. SPEAKES: Would she be? No. I --

MS. TATE: I don't think so.

Q Where will be flip the coin?

Q -- Bush relatives --

Q What was the question about --

MS. TATE: Bush -- Ellis and LeBlond, on the guest list, are Bush relatives.

Q Sheila, could we request a guest list for the official ceremony?

MS. TATE: I think you basically have it, just from what I've read you.

Q Except without spouses, right?

Q We don't have the relatives names, all of them and so forth, do we?

MS. TATE: Can I -- Well, it's -- it's the -- the Reagan family is everybody I've given you. It's all on that seating chart, all family members are seated in those first three rows.

Q How about Mrs. Reagan's outfit?

MS. TATE: It's a red -- she's wearing a red wool dress to the swearing-in today. That's --

Q Whose dress is it?

MS. TATE: I don't know.

Q Hers, one presumes. (Laughter.)

Q How old is Ashley now?

MS. TATE: I can't hear you.

Q How old --

Q It belongs to Flo.

Q -- is Ashley now?

MS. TATE: Twenty months.

Q Twenty months and six, huh?

Q Oh, Ashley.

Q Ashley.

MS. TATE: The boy is -- Cameron is six.

Q What I meant is who designed the

Q What room --

Q -- who designed the dress?

MS. TATE: State Dining Room.

Q -- kitchen Cabinet? What California friends?

MS. TATE: They would be coming in for the reception --

Q But not the swearing-in?

MS. TATE: -- not the swearing-in.

Q Sheila, what was the -- State Dining Room, what was the question?

MS. TATE: Where the reception is.

Q And where will the President stand to take the oath?

MS. TATE: On the stair landing of the Grand Staircase. It's -- I think it's two steps -- two or three steps up from the State Floor level facing the State Dining Room.

Q And everyone else will be seated out in the Entrance Hall?

MS. TATE: Yes.

Q Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKES: As far as briefing, if there's anything after the swearing-in ceremony, we'll come back. I don't really anticipate it.

Tomorrow, as soon as the President gets situated in the reviewing stand for the parade after the morning activities, Sheila and I will come here.

Q The President didn't say anything about where this chill wind was coming from, did he --

MR. SPEAKES: Minnesota, I think. (Laughter.)
Minnesota.

Also, I think in the morning, too, after we come back from church and before we go to the Hill, we'll have time to come here and give you the wake-up time and the breakfast menu, which won't be much different from today's. So, we'll be here twice tomorrow, Sheila and I.

Q One thing, Larry, any statements from the President at all about today?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q Nothing? No statement?

Q Has McFarlane reported to the President on his trip to Central America?

MR. SPEAKES: No, he hasn't had a chance to t down with him because he only got back Saturday morning.

Q Have you confirmed the Tuesday arms meeting and the abortion -- talk to the abortion people --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, both of those items. He'll have the arms control team in on Tuesday and the --

Q What time is the abortion --

MR. SPEAKES: Around noon, right at noon.

Q What's the President going to wear for warmth tomorrow? Serious question. Is he going to --

MR. SPEAKES: Wear long johns?

Q Long johns?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know. We'll find that out tomorrow.

Q He'd be smart.

MR. SPEAKES: He'll be -- He sure will. I am.

Q What's his mood? Have you talked to him?

Q When is the arms control meeting, Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: Arms control meeting is -- I don't know what time it's on the schedule, John, but it's sometime Tuesday.

Q Are you briefing tomorrow morning?

MR. SPEAKES: I just said so, yes. I'll be in here after church and as the parade gets under way.

Q Larry, can you in any way characterize the President's mood without including the word "magnificent"?

Q This is a test.

MR. SPEAKES: (Laughter) -- our magnificent man.

Q Did he say anything to you?

Q Or "really great."

Q -- is he -- he's brilliant, Larry, versus magnificent?

Yes. The President is always in an upbeat mood. He's --

Q -- a lot like Plante.

Q Yes.

MR. SPEAKES: I guess if I had thought about it I could -- you are cold. (Laughter.)

Q -- an upbeat mood on television.

Q Got you steaming.

MR. SPEAKES: I would say upbeat, enthusiastic, a lot of stomping of the feet and rubbing the hands together, that kind of stuff.

Q Is he disappointed that this thing this evening has been cancelled? Was he looking forward to that?

MR. SPEAKES: Oh, certainly, he is because a lot of people came a long distance to be able to do it. But I think the snow and the weather lends a certain new element to -- an excitement and different approach to it.

Q Has he expressed any sense of history about this moment --

MR. SPEAKES: No, I haven't asked him about his sense of history today.

Q Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes?

Q -- have you heard any serious consideration at all being given to moving the ceremony tomorrow inside?

MR. SPEAKES: No, I mentioned that earlier, Chris. I have heard no talk of it. There are no plans at the moment to change, although that could be raised later.

Q Has he said anything about the weather, about being unhappy --

MR. SPEAKES: No, he takes it in stride as usual.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

11:16 A.M. EST
#1300-1/20