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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
LARRY SPEAKES
AND
SHEILA TATE

January 21, 1985

The Briefing Room

10:30 A.M. EST

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#1301-01/21

10:46 A.M. EST

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MR. SPEAKES: I believe everyone has been updated on the changes. I'll run through the schedule quickly since we haven't put anything out on paper.

As you know, the Reagans were at church this morning, and a travel pool accompanied. They were back then with about 30 minutes this morning -- now before they host a coffee for the Joint Congressional Committee, beginning at 10:45 a.m.

At 11:05 a.m., they will leave for the Capitol. And travel pool will accompany, which should assemble here at 10:40 a.m.

The arrive at 10:10 a.m., and at 10:30 a.m., they --

Q Do you mean 11:00 a.m.?

MR. SPEAKES: 11:30 a.m., I'm sorry. Arrive at 11:10 a.m., and at 11:30 a.m., they proceed into the Chamber and take their seats.

The program goes on for twenty minutes, including the swearing-in.

Q Rotunda, you mean?

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon? Yes, Rotunda. Am I getting all my words wrong?

At 11:50 a.m., he will deliver the -- begin the Inaugural Address. And at the conclusion of the ceremony, which, incidentally, will be identical to the one that had been planned outside. There will be no change in the --

Q What time does the Inaugural Address start? 11:30 a.m.?

MR. SPEAKES: 11:50 a.m. is what the schedule shows at the moment, pending the length of prayers and --

Q What's the time of the swearing-in -- actual?

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon?

Q Do you have an exact time on the --

MR. SPEAKES: It would be just in the 11:30 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. segment, which would probably put it at 11:45 a.m. or something like that. I would be guessing.

Q Larry, can we put out an advisory saying the embargo is moved up to 11:50 a.m. on the Address?

MR. SPEAKES: I think that would be fair, since we do anticipate it at that hour, 11:50 a.m.

MORE

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Q I don't know how many people it would matter to, but it might matter to somebody.

MR. SPEAKES: Sure. All right. That suits me. Be sure you don't tell them it's lifted completely.

At 12:35 p.m., -- after the ceremony, they'll hold briefly, and at 12:35 p.m., they go into the lunch which is in Statuary Hall. There's press pool coverage at the beginning and during the toast at the end.

They should be out of there about 1:55 p.m., back here at 2:05 p.m. They have about 30 minutes before they get on a helicopter to go to the Capital Centre.

Open press coverage for the departure, as usual.

At 2:50 p.m., they're due at the Capital Centre, and then on stage at 3:00 p.m.

And, as I understand it, there's going to be some sort of a musical presentation there. There are about -- they believe there will be about 12,000 to 15,000 parade participants who will be at the Capital Centre, military and civilian. And they will present -- a group called The Great Inaugural American Entertainment Company will present the parade finale for the President.

And he will deliver remarks to them about 3:15 p.m. Remarks will be mainly appreciation and hope they understand, and so forth.

Q Will you pipe them back here or anything like that?

MR. SPEAKES: We can do that, can't we?

Q Or could you get us a transcript of it afterwards?

MR. SPEAKES: We'll do both, yes.

Ben?

Q Larry, when does the President actually leave here for the Capital Centre?

MR. SPEAKES: At 2:35 p.m.

Q 2:35 p.m.

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q What's the name of the company that's going to present the finale?

MR. SPEAKES: I believe it's called The Great Inaugural American Entertainment Company.

Q I'm not so sure "Inaugural" is in that --

Q I don't think --

MR. SPEAKES: All right.

Q I'm not sure "American" is in it.

Q Yes.

Q I think it's just called The Great American Entertainment --

Q No.

Q No.

Q Great Inaugural Entertainment Company.

MR. SPEAKES: I'm not sure "Company" is in it. The key question is, is it great? (Laughter.)

Q It's great.

MR. SPEAKES: All right. They're due back here at 3:45 p.m.

The afternoon is all quiet. And they leave for the balls, all of which they will attend, beginning at 8:15 p.m. That puts them in the White House sometime after midnight.

Q What time does he get back from the Cap Centre?

Q How many balls --

MR. SPEAKES: Cap Centre? 3:45 p.m.

Q Larry, do you have a list of the --

Q What's the latest count of the balls? Ten?

MR. SPEAKES: Let's go one at a time. Ten, yes.

Q Is there a schedule of which ones he goes to first, or is there any kind of a schedule?

MR. SPEAKES: There is a schedule. Did we have that in our original schedule? Yes, that was in our original schedule we put out.

Q The order?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q Except for the Veteran's, right?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, the Veteran's, we added on the end.

Anything else? Ira?

Q Despite the President's policy of not taking a nap, because of the length of today, do you suppose he will?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know whether he will or not. If he does, we'll let you know.

Q Larry, is this thing at the Capital Centre going to be unique? Only parade participants? Anybody besides those who were to appear --

MR. SPEAKES: I believe that's it. Just parade participants.

Bob?

Q Can you or Sheila do a little early morning tick-tock, like you did yesterday?

MR. SPEAKES: Sheila's prepared. Ready and waiting.

Q First, I'd like to ask, has the President heard from Moscow or the Vatican, or anything -- congratulations?

MR. SPEAKES: You mean congratulatory? Have we gotten any congratulatory messages? (Laughter.) Nobody cares, right?

Q What's Reagan going to tell the abortion marchers tomorrow?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't have a text of that; but I'm sure it will be his -- state his policy.

Q What about coverage on that, Larry? Will we get a picture -- a pool picture of him doing it?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't think so. I think what we'll do is just, if you want it, you'll hear it out there.

David.

Q -- can't even get a -- just a pool fill or anything of him giving this thing?

MR. SPEAKES: We'll see.

Q It's really important.

Q You're going to pipe it in here, though, aren't you?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q What's the --

Q Do you think --

Q -- purpose --

Q Do you think --

Q Go ahead, Helen.

Q Do you think that he will denounce terrorism?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know. I haven't seen his remarks; but he has denounced terrorism.

Q Publicly, I mean, by -- and by --

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know, Helen. I just --

Q -- public word.

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know whether -- I haven't seen his remarks.

David.

Q What's the purpose of the arms control meeting? Is it for him to -- Is it just to greet and say hello to these people or is there a substantive agenda for --

MR. SPEAKES: I think there will be some substance discussed. He's bringing in the entire team, the President and Vice President, Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, Foreign Policy Advisor, the three new Ambassadors and the two advisors, Nitze and Rowney, will all participate. So, it will be the full team for the first time and an opportunity for him to outline his thoughts about how they proceed. We do not have place or date yet on the meetings.

Q Larry, can I just follow up on that? Is there an assurance that Rowney is going to accept this job? I mean, was there any question or doubt whether he's going to be an advisor?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know of any reason why he wouldn't. I haven't heard him express --

Let me get Ira and I'll come back up to you.

Q On ABC this morning, the Vice President was talking about the broad goal of war and peace and said that the aim of arms reduction does not necessarily include an arms agreement coming out of this thing in Geneva. Does that represent the President's feeling?

MR. SPEAKES: I'd have to see the context of that. The aims of arms reduction does not include an arms agreement?

Q -- I think he used the phrase "not necessarily an arms agreement." And I think what he was referring to was a specific outcome of this Geneva process.

MR. SPEAKES: Well, we can't predict the Geneva process, for sure.

Q Well, what I was wondering is if that maybe was following along with some of the senior administration officials who said -- was an indication not to get too optimistic again.

MR. SPEAKES: No --

Q -- if you're trying to put out a line that maybe this isn't the end-all, be-all of arms reduction.

MR. SPEAKES: We've said from start to finish, top to bottom, it's going to be a long and difficult process. And we're prepared to go in it with an open mind and we're ready to --

Q Would you take a look at that --

MR. SPEAKES: -- negotiate.

Q -- at some point and --

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q -- put a spin on it.

MR. SPEAKES: Patricia.

Q What time is tomorrow's meeting?

MR. SPEAKES: Tomorrow's meeting? What'd we say --

MR. ROUSSEL: One-thirty p.m.

MR. SPEAKES: One-thirty p.m.

Q Do you anticipate a photo of that?

MR. SPEAKES: We'll just have to wait and see in the morning. We haven't --

Q Do you have anything on Congressman Long, who died?

Q -- just a second. Do you have -- anticipate that the President might appear out here or have a statement with his team?

MR. SPEAKES: I wouldn't anticipate that, no. If we do any readout, that'll be about the basis of it.

What, Ira?

Q Congressman died. Any reaction? Gillis Long, I think.

MR. SPEAKES: No. This is the first I've heard of it.

Ben.

Q Larry, on the weather, is there any more -- can you describe the President's mood, treating -- over and above what was put out in his statement last night?

MR. SPEAKES: Obviously disappointed, he and Mrs. Reagan both, at the necessity of cancelling the outdoor events. But they really felt they had no choice. There was high-level medical and military consultation and it was just a very serious problem for health and safety. We would have had probably some very serious personal problems as far as the participants.

The Reagans looked at it knowing they'll be out for an hour, or they'll be in an enclosed stand here; but knowing that parade participants might be out three or four hours, if not longer and that people who had to see the Inaugural would have to start very early and sit out in the cold for a couple of hours.

So, it was just obvious, knowing that -- what the medical people told them, that they would have had severe frostbite, if not some conditions that could have been worse.

Q Could you tell us a little more about what the medical people told them?

MR. SPEAKES: The medical people told them that exposed areas would freeze in less than five minutes with wind-chill factors like this. So, I think people who have been doing stand-ups on the lawn would readily attest to that this morning.

Q Yes.

Q Was there concern expressed by some of these medical people about the President's own health, even from standing out there for 20 minutes?

MR. SPEAKES: No, I don't think that was ever -- that was not voiced to the President, nor do I think it was voiced in the private meetings because --

Q But even so, had it gone on, he would have been exposed for at least the length of time it took to take the oath and to speak. There was no heat.

MR. SPEAKES: No, there was heat in his area of the stand where he speaks and so forth, some heat that would have provided some relief.

David.

Q Who were these -- are the medical people that

MR. SPEAKES: We had the names last night.

Q -- had the names last night.

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q -- in the paper today.

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, several --

Larry, do you have any --

MR. SPEAKES: Read the paper.

Q Consult your local newspaper.

Q That's right.

MR. SPEAKES: David, then Candy.

Q I'll sell one to you.

Do you have any more information about how much this has cost -- putting this thing off is going to cost, and whether the Inaugural Committee's got financial problems or anything like that?

MR. SPEAKES: No. I think the Inaugural will be -- as soon as they're able to address it, they will. We're going to refund the parade ticket money and --

Q Do you have a mechanism for that yet? I mean, a post office box --

MR. SPEAKES: They're developing it. They will put out a detailed scenario on how you get your money back. They won't all -- it all -- all requests for refunds by February 10th. They will be putting that out in the next day or so.

Q Thank you.

Q Has the President gotten any sort of a report from them, initial report on how much they are going to be out --

MR. SPEAKES: No. We just have to sell more medals.
(Laughter.)

Q Have you heard him make any -- Larry --

MR. SPEAKES: What?

Q Have you heard him make any comments today going into the church on, you know, how's he feeling or anything?

MR. SPEAKES: Not really. On the tip of everybody's tongue is how cold it is and that, but there were no choice words. Sheila might have one from the First Lady.

Q Is the abortion --

MR. SPEAKES: Let's get Candy and get Sheila on.

Q -- abortion speech tomorrow -- is this like a major speech on abortion or just something that he's doing because they asked him to do it? I mean, do you see it as any --

MR. SPEAKES: Well, I'd characterize it somewhere in between that. (Laughter.)

Q I see. (Laughter.)

Q Will he speak at all about the bombings?

MR. SPEAKES: Will he speak at all about the bombings? I answered that a minute ago.

Q He doesn't know.

MR. SPEAKES: And I don't know. I haven't seen the remarks, so I don't know.

Let's get Sheila up here with her report.

MS. TATE: The Reagans were awakened this morning at 7:30 a.m. by the White House operator, breakfasted on trays in their rooms as usual. Do you want to know what they ate?

Q Yes.

Q Soft eggs.

MS. TATE: No. No, they had orange juice, cereal, toast and decaffeinated coffee.

Q What kind of cereal?

Q Hot cereal or cold cereal?

MS. TATE: Cold cereal.

Q What?

MS. TATE: Cold cereal.

Q Cold cereal.

Q Whole wheat toast again?

MS. TATE: Yes, whole wheat toast.

Q Whole wheat toast -- honey, no butter?

MS. TATE: No butter. Honey.

Q -- get tired of that?

Q What have they got against butter?

MS. TATE: They are currently posing for a National Geographic Society Family Photo for the --

Q Which ones?

Q Yes, which ones?

MS. TATE: The whole family -- for the Living White House guidebook.

Q The only time they'll ever be together again.

Q Is Patti there?

MS. TATE: Yes, Patti arrived late yesterday. So, there were 15 guests in the House last night.

Q Where'd she sleep?

MS. TATE: In the White House.

Q I thought all the beds --

MS. TATE: I don't have a floor plan on who --
(Laughter.)

I talked to Mrs. Reagan about 8:00 a.m. this morning and asked her her reaction to the decisions of yesterday; and she said -- she obviously felt the President had no choice. They didn't want anyone to get frostbite. And she said, "I'm disappointed mainly for all of those kids who worked so hard."

Q Sheila, was she involved at all in this decision, in this meeting yesterday?

MS. TATE: Not to my knowledge, no.

In terms of family, the only thing I can tell you about tonight is that --

Q How about telling us today? Will the whole family go to the Capitol?

MS. TATE: Yes. Oh, yes.

Q Will they go to the Capitol Centre?

MS. TATE: That I don't know.

Q But they all will -- the whole --

MS. TATE: First of all, as far as church is concerned, everyone went except Ashley this morning. The whole family will go to the Capitol.

Q Including Ashley?

MS. TATE: I think so.

Q What do you think --

Q What was the last question?

MS. TATE: Who will go to the Capitol for the swearing-in?

Q I think so? (Laughter.)

Q I think so? (Laughter.)

MS. TATE: The whole -- she said, "The whole family?" I said, "I think so."

The balls tonight -- Maureen and Michael --

Q Wait. Do they all go the lunch on the Hill?

MS. TATE: Yes, they stay up there for that.

Q The whole family?

MS. TATE: Yes.

Q Okay.

MS. TATE: The original plan was for -- since it was outdoors -- for Ashley not to go. I have to check and make sure she's going to go now that it's indoors.

Then, tonight the -- Patti's leaving today after the ceremonies. Ron and Doria are having some friends in, and they are not going to the balls. Michael and Maureen are planning to attend one or more balls, and I don't have details on their schedules.

Q Sheila, who's taking care of Ashley?

MS. TATE: There's a babysitter.

Q The White House provided --

MS. TATE: No, it's --

Q Somebody they took?

MS. TATE: It's someone Michael provided.

Q -- going to get a readout on Paul's yoga class --

MS. TATE: Do you want this read? Mr. Weinberg would like this read: Travel pool should come to the Press Office at this time. Please note that the travel pool

to the Capitol will be the same as the one on the press helo. to and from the Capital Centre. When the motorcade returns to the White House and pool should remain in the vans. They will go immediately to the Pentagon.

Q Sheila?

MS. TATE: Yes?

Q Considering the morning coat and everything --

MS. TATE: I can't hear you.

Q Did the President use the services today of a valet or anything to help him get dressed, or --

MS. TATE: Oh, I don't have any idea. I don't know.

Q How about dinner?

MS. TATE: They're having a ham buffet set up tonight for people to eat as they dress.

Q Ham?

MS. TATE: Ham. Baked.

Q Where are the -- Ron and Doria --

Q State Dining Room?

MS. TATE: No, on the second and third floors.

Q Where are Ron and Doria entertaining?

MS. TATE: Second floor.

Q Is that a dinner?

MS. TATE: Ron and Doria? No, it would just be buffet.

Q Did you --

Q Have their friends --

MS. TATE: They're having just friends come over.

Q Sheila, has the First Lady expressed any interest in having more full houses like this -- it's so much having the whole family here, that she wants to do this again?

MS. TATE: She's been so busy that I'm sure she hasn't thought about it, and I didn't think to ask. I think they've really enjoyed it. You know, it's hectic, but it's a lot of fun.

Q Well, is anyone going with them in the motorcade tonight to the balls?

MS. TATE: They don't go in the same motorcade, they go in advance.

Q Sheila, in light of Billy Graham's moving recollection about Ron and the President at the football game, and to see the players on their knees, do you have any idea why Ron didn't go to church yesterday?

MS. TATE: Why -- why who? Why Ron junior --

Q Yes.

MS. TATE: No, I don't know.

Q Thank you.

MS. TATE: Okay?

Q He did go this morning, though? He did attend church?

MS. TATE: Yes, yes.

Q Were you at the entertainment reception last -- yesterday afternoon?

MS. TATE: No, I was not.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

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