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Last Updated: 01/17/2025

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
LARRY SPEAKES

January 30, 1985

The Briefing Room

9:22 A.M. EST

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9:31 A.M. EST

#1314-01/30

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LARRY SPEAKES

January 30, 1985

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9:22 P.M. EST

MR. SPEAKES: News from Ann Devroy. She is the mother a six-pound baby girl --

Q Terrific.

Q Oh, great.

MR. SPEAKES: -- born last night. She worked, in the true sense of a newspaperwoman dedicated to her job, until 2:00 p.m. yesterday; and the baby was born at 7:15 p.m.

Q Oh.

MR. SPEAKES: The baby's name is Sarah Elizabeth.

Q How come she took the afternoon off? (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: And Ann's direct telephone number is 293-6697, Columbia Women's Hospital. So, a salute to Ann and Sarah Elizabeth this morning.

Q She'll be back this afternoon, will she?
(Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: She should be. I don't know why she's not here now.

Q Great woman. More power to her.

MR. SPEAKES: What are you eating?

Q Breakfast.

MR. SPEAKES: As a great man once said, I wouldn't even step in that, much less eat it. (Laughter.) That's awful.

Q I don't think the great man has been anywhere but Chasin's in 25 years.

Q That's one of the better ones you've come up with.

MR. SPEAKES: The President this morning at 9:40 a.m. has a 15-minute meeting with Israeli Defense Minister Rabin. We will have a readout on that meeting at noon today. Defense Minister Rabin will, in all probability, will talk to you on the lawn as he leaves.

At 10:00 a.m. this morning, the --

Q Can we get a White House photo of that, too?

MR. SPEAKES: We'll see.

This morning, the President at 10:00 a.m. will call the U.S. Savings Bond Leadership Conference which is taking place at the

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Mayflower Hotel and make brief remarks to Kent M. Black, who is the Chairman of the Savings Bond Leadership Conference and its President --

Q -- first name?

MR. SPEAKES: Kent, K-e-n-t, middle initial M. Four hundred volunteers from business and industry will be there.

This morning at 11:00 a.m., the President meets with the House Appropriations Committee. Let's see, are these Republicans and Democrats? Yes, a bipartisan group. The entire membership, I believe, has been invited, quite a large group. And the subject will be defense issues for the coming legislative term. He'll particularly talk on the MX and the SDI, as well as the arms control negotiations.

Joining the meeting are the Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense and the Foreign Policy Advisor. All three will make remarks beginning at 10:00 a.m., prior to the President's arrival at 11:00 a.m.

Q Who's the Foreign Policy Advisor?

MR. SPEAKES: Mr. McFarlane.

At 11:30 a.m. --

Q Where is this held --

MR. SPEAKES: Roosevelt Room.

Q I thought he was the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs --

MR. SPEAKES: At 11:30 a.m., the President will have his meeting with Ambassador Kirkpatrick.

Q 11:32 a.m. --

MR. SPEAKES: We will ask her if she wishes to speak to you in the Briefing Room. I'm sure if she speaks anywhere, it will be here. So you can staff here rather than anywhere else.

At 1:15 p.m., the President is in the Indian Treaty Room presenting awards on design excellence. These are federal design -- architects who have succeeded in federal design programs.

Q How long is the Kirkpatrick meeting scheduled for?

MR. SPEAKES: It is open ended, so I don't know when she will finish.

And that's pretty well it. I don't see anything in the paper this morning that --

Q No photos today at all then?

MR. SPEAKES: No photos.

Let me tell you one other thing. The White House Outreach Working Group on Central America will meet today, 2:30 p.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. It is open to press. The speakers will be Secretary of Defense Weinberger, who will speak on the situation in Central America and Arnaud de Borchgrave will --

Q Ummm.

Q Good.

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MR. SPEAKES: -- speak also. 456-6623 will get you a free ticket to the event.

Q What time is it?

MR. SPEAKES: 2:30 p.m.

Ira you've had a question?

Q Yes, can you confirm or say anything about the story in The Post this morning about deep cuts in housing programs, including that senior citizens program that he supported so strongly in Buffalo?

MR. SPEAKES: We will be presenting the budget to you on Saturday for release on Monday, and at that time you'll see it. Otherwise, you'll have to wait until then.

Bob and then --

Q Was the White House aware that Mr. Latta told psychiatrists over at -- I guess, St. Elizabeth's that he hears voices, also, that he had committed himself to a mental institution last summer?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't think we've had any contact with the psychiatrist or anything on it. I don't know whether the Secret Service has. I don't know

whether they've been following the procedure or not, but as far as I know, no one in the White House.

So, Terry?

Q Can you outline to us the job that the President is going to offer Mrs. Kirkpatrick today?

MR. SPEAKES: Sure. (Laughter.)

Q Did you say --

MR. SPEAKES: No, I --

Q Customs inspector in El Paso -- (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: I don't have anything on the meeting, Terry. I can shed no light until it's finished.

Q Can you request a White House photo of that, too?

MR. SPEAKES: You may request it.

Q What do you think's the chances?

Q Did you say that --

MR. SPEAKES: We'll see.

Q -- there's an announcement at noon on the Rabin meeting?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes. I would look for a readout and an announcement on the Rabin meeting at noon.

Q No photos on any of these events today?

Q I take it --

MR. SPEAKES: Terry?

Q Further on Kirkpatrick -- do you expect this to be the climactic meeting -- (laughter) -- that we will learn today --

Q Shhhhhh.

Q Larry, we can't hear a thing back here.

MR. SPEAKES: You'll just have to wait until the end of the meeting. I just don't know, Terry. I don't think either participant in the meeting knows, really. It's just going to be a discussion.

Q They have not talked?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q What's the reaction to Hatfield's comments that Weinberger has become a draft dodger on the war on budget deficits?

MR. SPEAKES: He's got a nice writer, Hatfield does. (Laughter.)

Q How come Marlin doesn't write like that?

MR. SPEAKES: No, there's no change in the President's position, as he outlined Saturday. He will pursue the defense budget increase, as promised.

So, Bob?

Q Is there --

MR. SPEAKES: We're going to probably have to -- what accounted for the large crowd in the back, I wonder? Let's hold it down in the back a little bit.

Q Is there a time for the Baker swearing-in?

Q It's the Egyptian press.

MR. SPEAKES: No, I don't know that anything's been set on that.

Q Can you give us a little guidance on the Kirkpatrick affair? Can we view this as a great affair of state or as prime time soap opera?

MR. SPEAKES: As a what?

Q A prime time soap opera. (Laughter.)

Q People searching for leads here.

MR. SPEAKES: I just answered almost the same question that Terry said. I don't know anything about the meeting.

Q Quick. Less light.

MR. SPEAKES: -- a light of some kind. Yes. There we go. Little bit more in the briefing room.

Q Well, Helen, what do you think?

MR. SPEAKES: One more switch back there.

Q Let's go back and get some jokes.

Q Larry?

MR. SPEAKES: Charles?

Q Larry, do you see -- back to Senator Hatfield. Do you see him opening up a new front or is this -- does this reopen something that you thought was more or less resolved -- this bringing up tax increases again?

MR. SPEAKES: We are dealing in combat terms today, right? There's just been no change in the President's position on taxes. Defense, non-defense cuts, all of the above, remains the same. Steady as she goes.

Q So then, you don't see anything new in Hatfield's polemics?

MR. SPEAKES: I didn't say that.

Q Well, I'm asking that.

MR. SPEAKES: I can't make a judgment on what Senator Hatfield's going to do. Check with him.

Q Well, is the tone of the President's appearance before the Appropriation Committee members today going to be, "We've offered you \$8.7 billion in cuts. That's it."?

MR. SPEAKES: No. It's going to be an appeal for specific programs. That's what it's going to be.

Gene?

Q Some of the Republican Senators seem to feel that the President isn't sensitive enough to the fact that 22 of them will be running for reelection in '86. Is there anything you can say to reassure them --

Q Good luck.

MR. SPEAKES: He is sensitive to the fact that 22 are going to be running in '86.

Q He isn't.

MR. SPEAKES: He's a supporter of Republicans.
(Laughter.)

Q Wow.

Q Filing brief.

Q He's a supporter of Republicans. There's a lead.

MR. SPEAKES: He certainly will be mindful of that.

Q I heard him tell one once, "Shut up."

MR. SPEAKES: Did you? A Republican?

Q Yes. A Republican candidate.

MR. SPEAKES: Candy?

Q Saturday, are there going to be a bunch of briefings? You're not just going to hand out a book, or what?

MR. SPEAKES: No. There's the standard budget briefing at --

Q All those --

MR. SPEAKES: No, we'll hand out the books on Saturday. That will be it. But on Monday, there will be --

Q Well, see, some years past, you had briefings all over town on various parts of the budget. You're not --

MR. SPEAKES: No --

Q -- you're just having the mega-briefing on Monday?

MR. SPEAKES: No, it will be the standard procedure. We'll hand out the budget on Saturday, and then on Monday at 12:00 noon, Secretary Baker and Stockman and --

Q Baker's going to be --

MR. SPEAKES: -- and Niskanen will be briefing on the budget at the State Department auditorium. In the afternoon, each department will brief in its department.

Q All I'm trying to get is, over the weekend, nothing's happening but handing out the book?

Q DOD on Saturday.

Q Is the Pentagon still doing it?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes. DOD is going ahead. It's the only department, I believe, that's going ahead of the others.

Q Are you going to brief on your budget, the White House budget?

MR. SPEAKES: No. I'll just brief on the Press Office entertainment budget, which is so meager that I can't buy coffee for visiting press secretaries when they come here.

Q Ahhhh.

MR. SPEAKES: \$400 a year.

Q Tell Mr. Regan about that --

Q -- for taking you guys out.

Q Anybody got a hat? (Laughter.)

Q Does that represent a cut? (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: No, it's been the same for four years. Steady as she goes.

Q -- freeze --

Q Is Regan still moving in Monday?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q Don't you have some Republican heavy-hitters that could contribute to the -- (laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: Should get a Press Office coffee fund.

Nelson?

Q Larry, can you tell us anything about the logistics of the prayer breakfast tomorrow?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know the specifics. Let's see if Mark has worked on that. And I'm sure it will be always -- sometimes we've run into coverage problems.

Q Mark?

Q Always.

Q Like always.

Q Yes. Every year.

Q He's busy right now.

Q Come on, Mark, we're waiting.

MR. WEINBERG: How did I get to be the religious expert?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes. What's the logistics on the breakfast tomorrow?

MR. WEINBERG: A single head-on pool and we're in a fixed position. Motorcade pool does cuts on arrival at the beginning and during remarks. Pool writers and correspondents are seated inside, others held backstage.

Q Where's your yarmulke?

MR. SPEAKES: Piped into the briefing room.

Q What time does the pool depart here?

MR. WEINBERG: I haven't seen the schedule yet. It hasn't come over.

Q Larry, what time are you going to brief today?

MR. WEINBERG: Early. Around 7:00 a.m. or so, maybe before.

MR. SPEAKES: If Kirkpatrick decides to come in the briefing room, I'm sure it will be around noon. I'll wait until that meeting's concluded and see what she wants to do, then follow her.

Q We'll hold our breath --

Q You're not setting a time. You're just going to wait until after the meeting's over then?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, and I would anticipate noonish for one or the other of us, or both.

Q Do you think --

Q Larry, can we anticipate that the President might accompany Mrs. Kirkpatrick out here?

MR. SPEAKES: No.

Q And you think she'll either come out here or she'll just drive out. She won't come out to the lawn?

MR. SPEAKES: We'll give you some guidance on it after she arrives.

Q What time's the regular briefing? (Laughter.)

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

9:31 A.M. EST

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