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TEXT:

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release June 10, 1993

PRESS BRIEFING
BY DEE DEE MYERS

The Briefing Room

12:15 P.M. EDT

MS. MYERS: One quick scheduling change. At 5:30 p.m. the President will sign the NIH reauthorization bill. It will be in the Roosevelt Room. It will be pooled.

Q What time?

MS. MYERS: At 5:30 p.m.

Q What is that bill?

Q Is that the one that bars HIV positive people from coming into the United States?

MS. MYERS: It does. It also allows fetal tissue research and other things. So it's a pretty comprehensive bill.

Q Does it bar them from coming in altogether or just to come in as immigrants, residents?

MS. MYERS: It bars immigration. It doesn't deal with travel visas. I don't think.

Q Could we possibly get a fact sheet on that bill?

MS. MYERS: Sure, we can put something together.

Q Can you give us a readout on the Domestic Policy Council meeting?

MS. MYERS: It was a good meeting, frank and productive

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conversation.

Q No advocacy. Just facts, ma'am. (Laughter.)

MS. MYERS: Just the facts. (Laughter.) It lasted a little over an hour. They talked a great deal about empowerment zones, about Education 2000, about -

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Q That was a Bush program.

MS. MYERS: Education 2000 -

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that's our education bill.

Q America 2000 was -

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Q Excuse me. How could I get -

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MS. MYERS: Yes. Please, Susan, get your facts straight or Helen will jump on you. (Laughter.) But it was a good meeting. It was the first full meeting of the Domestic Policy Council.

Susan. Nice shoes.

Q Thank you. (Laughter.) What is the President doing to mend the fences with the Black Caucus?

MS. MYERS: Well, he's spoken to a number of members on the phone including Congressman Mfume. He's had good discussions with them. The Caucus members signed a letter which they sent to the President outlining some of their concerns, including the empowerment zones, the earned income tax credit, food stamp programs and other things. The President shares those concerns and looks forward to working with members of the Black Caucus and others to protect those programs, which he said he's very committed to.

Q He spoke with Mfume today?

MS. MYERS: Last night.

Q Why won't he give them an ironclad commitment that he's not going to allow the cuts to come out of the programs that they're talking about?

MS. MYERS: I think he's given a very strong commitment to his investments including the earned income tax credit and the empowerment zones. And he said clearly, and I think Director Panetta reaffirmed last night that we're committed to those and we're going to push very hard to make sure that those are in any final package.

Q Now senior groups are calling him a senior basher this morning for some of the negotiations which are going on over Medicare.

MS. MYERS: The Senate is negotiating over Medicare. The President has made very clear that he wants to make sure this package is fair, that it does not hit unnecessarily at any particular group, particularly those most vulnerable, including seniors. I think he's made it abundantly clear that he's going to look at this, he's concerned about progressivity, he's concerned about fairness. It was one of the things he raised as the Senate was going through it's deliberations yesterday and it's something he's going to continue to press.

Q Dee Dee, what's the word on a summit with Yeltsin?

MS. MYERS: There's no schedule for a summit with Yeltsin.

Q Christopher seemed to think

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MS. MYERS: Well, what he's said -

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Q Well, the Secretary of State seemed to have announced one.

MS. MYERS: No, he didn't. And I'd talked with his folks in Athens and he announced that we would have by the end of the

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year a summit with the heads of state from the NATO countries and that at some point he expected we would have a meeting with Yeltsin in Moscow. But he didn't mean to announce one or imply that there had been one scheduled. There just simply hasn't been.

Q When is the NATO meeting?

MS. MYERS: It is sometime before the end the year. There's no firm plans, but I think -

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Q There were direct quotes from the NATO meeting now that the NATO dates were set to conform -

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to come right after the meeting in Moscow.

MS. MYERS: No, that's just simply -

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that is not -

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simply not true. There has been no -

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Q So the reporting is wrong on this?

MS. MYERS: That's correct. There has been no meeting scheduled in Moscow. Although the Secretary of State said he expected that there would be at some point be a summit meeting with Yeltsin, there is none scheduled.

Q Dee Dee, what about -

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Q Here?

MS. MYERS: I think what he said was in Moscow.

Q -

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what can you tell us about the Supreme Court?

Q Yes, but are you talking about this year?

MS. MYERS: No, not necessarily. There's no date for a meeting with -

-

I mean, the President will meet with President Yeltsin in Tokyo. But there is no plans, specific or unspecific, for a summit with Yeltsin in Moscow at this point.

Q Will the President be going to Brussels in December for the NATO summit?

MS. MYERS: I don't know. We don't have the dates worked out. Yes, at some point, he'll be going for a NATO heads of state meeting, yes. The Secretary of State -

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Q About that time of year?

MS. MYERS: Probably toward the end of the year. The Secretary of State announced that today.

Q Can you explain the President's comment yesterday I believe in answer to a question at the Roundtable about now he would consider entitlement caps? I thought the President has argued strenuously against entitlement caps because it would shift costs unfairly.

MS. MYERS: Yes, but I think the President's been very clear

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I don't know what comment you're referring to.

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Q In answer to -

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during the Q&A yesterday.

MS. MYERS: I'd have to go back and look at the transcript, but I think his position has been consistent on that, that he doesn't support entitlement caps, he does think that that would end up shifting costs to the private sector for health care. He believes that health care cost reductions has to be achieved through comprehensive health care reform. There's been no change in that.

Q He did say specifically that he would be open to entitlement caps as part of health care reform. He talked about his concerns about cost shifting and imposing entitlement caps in the budget process, but the quote was, "I would be open to that."

MS. MYERS: But as part of health care reform and not part of the budget or reconciliation process.

Q Right. Can you explain how that fits into his previous comments?

MS. MYERS: The point that he's tried to make throughout is that if you cap entitlement costs now, without doing anything about health care reform, with the cost of health care rising, with absolutely no controls on it, as is the current system, all you'll do is you shift the cost to the private sector. People who are currently insured and employers who pay insurance for their employees will go up. I think we're looking at a number of options, and I obviously can't speak to the specifics on health care reform. But if you have a health care reform program that controls costs, you can have a much more effective handle on controlling the costs -

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particularly the costs and growth of entitlement programs.

I don't think he meant to imply any particular program, other than to say that the only way to control the growth in the cost of entitlements is to control the growth in health costs. And the only way to do that is through comprehensive reform.

Q Dee Dee, is there anything in this program at all that is non-

negotiable in the budget reconciliation? Is there anything specifically that he has said you can't touch this at all, don't modify it?

MS. MYERS: The President is committed to his principles on this.

Q What might those be? (Laughter.)

MS. MYERS: I didn't bring my flash cards today.

Q I'm asking about specifics. Is there anything specifically in this program that is non-

negotiable? I think we all understand the principles.

Q Really?

MS. MYERS: I think there's a lot of things that are non-

negotiable.

Q Such as what?

MS. MYERS: Such as progressivity is non-negotiable. He's going to make sure that this program is progressive, that's it's fair.

Q Those are principles.

MS. MYERS: I don't think he's going to let -

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at this point, what we want to do is make sure that the process goes forward. The President's committed to seeing it go forward in the Senate, through the Senate Finance Committee, to the full Senate, back to conference. I think what he's most concerned about is that he gets a budget that meets those broad principles. I don't think we're going to -

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and there are many things in there that he's very committed to. He's very committed to an earned income tax credit; he thinks that's been a successful program. Any compromise that comes out of a

conference will contain some form of an earned income tax credit.

Q But it can be less than what you're asking for. Now that the energy tax will probably be less?

MS. MYERS: We'll see what gets worked out. I think that there's clearly going to be some changes and adjustments on a number of programs. But the President is committed to his investments; he's committed to \$500 billion in deficit reduction; he's committed to fairness; and he's committed to a broad-

based energy tax. And all those things will be contained.

Q Dee Dee, if the Senate bill does not meet those principles, is he prepared to accept a Senate bill that doesn't meet it in order to fight for them in conference, or will he impose -

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MS. MYERS: I think we want to see the process go forward. And the Senate bill -

-

it's something that the Senate's going to have to work out. We'll continue to make very clear what the President wants to see. But the thing we're most concerned about is the final product.

Q Is that a yes then, Dee Dee?

MS. MYERS: We don't have a vote in the Senate, and we can't control the final product in the Senate.

Q So he doesn't care about the Senate then?

MS. MYERS: Well, no. He would like to see the Senate's final package meet the principles that he's outlined. But again, he's not a member of the Senate, he can't vote, he can't make specific changes in that package. He does want to see the process go forward, and what he's most concerned about and what he's going to fight for is to make sure that what comes out of the conference committee meets those principles.

Q That's where the fight on principles will be, then, is in conference, not so much in the Senate?

MS. MYERS: We'll continue to make it very clear what our principles are. As you know, Secretary Bentsen is talking with Moynihan, Mitchell and others in the Senate Finance Committee and eventually in the full Senate to make sure that they know what the President's goals are here. But, again, we don't have a vote.

Q -

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tax meet those principles, now that you've had a day to study it?

MS. MYERS: We'll see what proposal the Senate Finance Committee comes back with.

Q As he outlined it, does it now?

MS. MYERS: We're not going to make a judgment on any particular proposal.

Q You seem to have a different phrase that the President used today, and I don't know if it was deliberate, if you can help me on that -

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when he was talking about the principles during the photo op. He said an energy tax as broad-

based as possible, rather than a broad-

based energy tax.

MS. MYERS: No, I think -

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Q And a transportation tax, for instance, is less broad-

based. Was that deliberate new phrasing?

MS. MYERS: The point is, he's still committed to a broad-

based energy tax and -

Q He as not trying to signal that a gasoline tax would be acceptable?

MS. MYERS: No.

Q Or a fuel tax?

MS. MYERS: Again, we'll see what proposal the Senate Finance Committee actually comes up with. They still have a lot of work to do there. I think they're meeting right now. But he wants to see a broad-based energy tax.

Q Is there any administration person meeting with them? The Democrats, I mean.

MS. MYERS: I don't believe so. Not now. I don't believe there's anybody up there.

Q On General Campbell, you said by the middle of June. It's the 10th of June today. Will we have a reaction by next week?

MS. MYERS: Again, that's what the Air Force said. The Air Force is reviewing this, and they have said that they'll have a report by mid-June.

Q Is the President going to meet with the Black Caucus soon, or how was it left last night?

MS. MYERS: The President has met with the Black Caucus periodically. We offered to meet with them this week; they said they didn't think that would be necessary. (Laughter.) That happens to be true. Just the facts, as Helen has asked. I would hold open the possibility that we'll meet with them when they think it is appropriate.

Q On that nuclear question I asked the other day, have you decided -

- have nuclear relations a deterrent to full relations with another country? And is the White House prepared to talk to the New Zealand Prime Minister about his proposals?

MS. MYERS: I don't have an answer for you. In terms of nuclear relations, they're always an issue in our relationships with other countries. We're committed to nonproliferation and so nuclear issues are always a concern.

Q Will you contact him in response to his statement asking President Clinton to thaw relations because -

MS. MYERS: I'll have to take that question.

Q What is Greenspan doing here?

MS. MYERS: He met with the President last night at the Residence -

Q Who?

MS. MYERS: Chairman Greenspan.

Q Babbitt? (Laughter.)

MS. MYERS: Judge Bork. (Laughter.) They had a good meeting. It lasted about an hour. (Laughter.)

Q He was on the list. (Laughter.)

MS. MYERS: Won't rule it in, won't rule it out. (Laughter.)

Q What's it about?

MS. MYERS: They talked, among other things, about the reconciliation plan. And I believe Chairman Greenspan thought that the deficit reduction would help keep interest rates down.

Q Are you ready to make the Mondale nomination?

MS. MYERS: We hopefully -

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there are still diplomatic procedures that have to be completed. We hope to have something on that maybe tomorrow. It won't happen today.

Q Are you still waiting for the Japanese response?

MS. MYERS: The official response, yes.

Q And the Court -

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tomorrow?

MS. MYERS: It is unclear. As soon as I know I'll let you guys know. The President has not made a decision.

Q What's that?

MS. MYERS: This is the Supreme Court, timing on Supreme Court. It could come as early as tomorrow. It could come later.

Q That's pretty well -

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Q Has he met with anyone on the subject yet?

MS. MYERS: Not to my knowledge.

Q Does he have any meetings today?

MS. MYERS: Not to my knowledge.

Q Did he read the Goldwater article in The Washington Post today?

MS. MYERS: I don't know if he read it. I have not talked to him about that.

Q Do you have a timetable for submitting your NAFTA package to Congress?

MS. MYERS: We had hoped to have it wrapped by the end of the year.

Q No, submitting it to Congress with your amendment.

Q What?

Q NAFTA.

MS. MYERS: Do we have a timetable for submitting our NAFTA package to Congress? And my response was simply we had hoped to have it wrapped up by the end of the year. I don't know if there's a specific time line -

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not that I know of, but I can take that and get back to you.

Q Dee Dee, when you said that it might be tomorrow, does that mean the President has made up his mind on who the nominee will be?

MS. MYERS: No, the President has not made up his mind.

Q So if he hasn't made up his mind, how can it be so quick as tomorrow?

MS. MYERS: It doesn't take long to arrange a press conference, once you make a decision.

Q It doesn't take long to make up your mind.
(Laughter.)

MS. MYERS: He's going to pick the best person possible.

Q Back on the Greenspan meeting. It's been widely expected that the Fed was waiting to see the latest round of inflation figures before considering an increase in the discount rate. Did the President get any commitments from Greenspan?

MS. MYERS: No. The Fed is an independent agency and we don't presume to control their decisions. However, I think most of the people here, the economic advisors believe that there is no real inflationary pressure in the economy. Although there's been some up-

tick, we remain optimistic about inflation.

Q On the Greenspan meeting -

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Q Has the President expressed those views to Greenspan?

MS. MYERS: I think they had a wide range of conversations. I wasn't there, I don't know the exact nature. But they did talk about deficit reduction and a variety of other things, and I think, again, Chairman Greenspan said he thought deficit reduction would help keep interest rates low.

Q On the Greenspan meeting, though, in addition to reconciliation, did they discuss the possible -

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or the substantial revision in the deficit as a result of low interest rates?

MS. MYERS: I don't know. I'll have to take that.

Q Dee Dee, on NAFTA. Mr. Perot has asked Mr. Kantor if they want to have a debate, he's willing to put up the time.

MS. MYERS: I would refer you to the USTR on that.

Q Do you have an answer to my question from yesterday about all-

male clubs?

MS. MYERS: I have a sort of slightly related announcement, actually. In keeping with White House tradition, Mr. Gergen is going to resign from a variety of -

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wait a second -

-

Q Ooooh. (Laughter.)

Q What other clubs -

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MS. MYERS: Here it is -

-

with -

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(laughter) -

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now, don't be jumping to any conclusions here. From nonprofit boards, public policy and social organizations, commissions and study group including: the American Committee for Aid to Poland, the American Assembly, the Aspen Institute -

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Q Can you slow down please?

Q Can we have a list?

MS. MYERS: Certainly. Yes, I can give you a list.

Q You're not out of the A's yet. (Laughter.)

MS. MYERS: I know. I know. This is a long list. (Laughter.) He's a busy guy. Duke University School of Public Policy, International Media Fund, National Committee for U.S. -

China Relations, the National Endowment for Democracy, the Smithsonian Council, the University of Maryland Board of Visitors, Very Special Arts Foundation, the Washington Campus, the Bohemian Grove Council. (Laughter.) Council on Foreign Relations, the Trilateral Commission. (Laughter.) The Aspen Institute, the Commission on Strengthening of America, the Nunn-

Domenici Commission, and the Johnson Foundation Committee on Higher Education.

Q And he won't eat at Denny's either. (Laughter.)

Q What is this administration's policy? Was he

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suddenly apprised of it, or was he apprised of it because of Ruth's question?

MS. MYERS: The President -

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Mr. Gergen never discussed this with the President. We have no formal policy, but I think that we take actions consistent with the President's commitment to an inclusive and diverse administration, one that reflects America. And I think we'll act consistent with those views.

Q Dee Dee, he said he wasn't going to resign from the Bohemian Grove.

MS. MYERS: I think, though, that in the broader context, I think a lot of people, when they come in, just as sort of -- it's not a policy, but it is a tradition that they resign from a lot of boards and commissions and other organizations in order to avoid even the appearance of impropriety in the future. And I think Mr. Gergen is acting with that tradition.

Q But having worked here in three previous administrations, did he not know that?

Q Why is the Bohemian Grove on that list?

MS. MYERS: Because he resigned from a variety of social and professional organizations. All of them -

-

all of the ones of which he was a member.

Q Why did he believe it was appropriate to resign from the Bohemian Grove?

MS. MYERS: Because he resigned from all of his social and professional organizations, and in order to be consistent -

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Q They don't make policy.

Q He doesn't belong to any other -

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he belongs to zero clubs?

MS. MYERS: These are all the organizations of which he's a member. Yes. Social, professional

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these are mostly nonprofit organizations. But he resigned from all of them.

Q Dee Dee, on the contrary -

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I really want to follow up on this. There is no White House tradition that I'm aware of for people to resign from country clubs, private organizations, all sorts of clubs. And for you to try to link this to resignations from things like the U.S. China thing or the Aspen Institute is really not an honest way of answering the question.

MS. MYERS: It is an honest way of answering the question. It is the framework in which David Gergen has made this decision.

Q Can you name another White House official who has resigned from a club as opposed to a professional organization?

MS. MYERS: I don't have a list in front of me, but I think there are some, yes.

Q Can you come up with some examples of people who have resigned from clubs -

-

MS. MYERS: I will certainly check.

Q Do any White House officials belong to the Little Rock Country Club?

MS. MYERS: I don't believe so.

Q Did anyone resign from that?

MS. MYERS: Mack McLarty did.

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Q Do you know if he has any expectation of rejoining any of these groups after he leaves?

MS. MYERS: I have no idea, and that's a question I don't feel I have any -

-

is appropriate for me to ask.

Q When you're talking White House tradition you're talking about Clinton White House tradition?

MS. MYERS: I think Dave Gergen is a pretty good judge of White House -

-

much better judge of White House tradition than I am, and I think this is what he feels is consistent with previous White Houses.

Q Why did that change from Monday to now?

MS. MYERS: I think that he considered his memberships in a broader context and decided that it was in the best interest of -

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in his interest and in the White House's interest for him to do that. It was not a decision made specifically in reference to any particular organization.

Q Do you have an answer to my question from yesterday, which was what the President's view is of members of this administration being members of all male clubs?

MS. MYERS: And what I said was that there was no administration policy on it. The President expects members of his administration to act consistent with his view that this is going to be a broad and inclusive administration. And beyond that, I have nothing to say.

Q If the decision was made based on Mr. Gergen's understanding of White House policy going back several administrations, why was it not made until Ruth brought out the membership?

MS. MYERS: Well, I think that given that he had only started on Monday that sometimes it takes a few -

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this was a decision that was done quickly and I think that this is consistent.

Q Are you suggesting that he intended to resign?

MS. MYERS: I think that he always intended to review his membership and to make a decision about that, yes.

Q So are you indicating that there is no relationship between the all

male membership aspects of the Bohemian Grove and his resignation, is that what you're

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MS. MYERS: That's correct.

Q So it has nothing to do with that issue?

MS. MYERS: I don't know the nature of all these -

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I can't answer that.

Q So there's no relationship, his resignation has nothing to do with -

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MS. MYERS: That's correct.

Q -

-

this all male -

-

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MS. MYERS: That's correct.

Q So the President's policy is that people -

MS. MYERS: The President doesn't have a policy, a stated policy.

Q Well, you talked about the inclusive nature of the administration. Yet the fact of the Bohemian Groves all-

male membership was irrelevant in Mr. Gergen's mind.

MS. MYERS: Two separate questions. The President expects members of this administration to act consistent with his views. I think that that has been done. I think when Mr. Gergen came here he reviewed his membership in a variety of non-

profit organizations and social clubs, professional organization and made a determination about how best to deal with that collectively and decided to resign across-

the-

board and he's done so.

Q Has the President resigned from groups of which he was a member?

MS. MYERS: I don't believe the President is a member of many groups. He resigned as Governor of Arkansas.

Q How is the Bohemian Grove inconsistent with his views, Dee Dee?

Q Dee Dee, I appreciate you might not know, but I think the question is fair if you're going to cite a tradition that his Counselor is following, if he has belonged to anything and if he's resigned. I would -

MS. MYERS: I would be happy to -

I just don't know -

I don't know of any that he's resigned from, but I don't know of many -- he may be still a member of the DLC. He's not a member of many organizations.

Q Doesn't he hold some kind of membership in a country club where he played the one afternoon -

MS. MYERS: He sure doesn't. He was never a -

Q

in west Little Rock? He was an honorary membership perhaps, but it was something on paper.

MS. MYERS: As Governor of Arkansas, I think he had an honorary membership out at Chenault. But that belongs to him as Governor of Arkansas, and I believe that Governor Tucker now is an honorary member of Chenault Country Club.

Q That's his only membership, he has no other -

MS. MYERS: I will double-

check. I don't know of any other memberships.

Q So you're saying everyone in the White House is going to resign all memberships in all clubs? Or has already?

MS. MYERS: Well, I think it's -

-

certainly boards and commissions, organizations, different things that a lot of people have resigned, including starting perhaps with the First Lady, who resigned, as you know, from a number of boards and commissions during the campaign. I think that's something that people have done over the years and something that Mr. Gergen has chosen to do.

Q What about clubs?

Q Social clubs.

MS. MYERS: I think it's up to the individual people to judge. And Gergen made a decision that he would resign from all memberships, including social, professional organizations.

Q I don't understand the link still between the social organization, which the Bohemian Grove is, and these various professional organizations and boards.

MS. MYERS: He made a decision to resign from all the organizations of which he's a member.

Q Period.

MS. MYERS: Period.

Q The tradition that you cited that he do that does not apply as a rule informally or otherwise to all White House staff?

MS. MYERS: I think there's a tradition of resigning from organizations. I think a lot of people have done it, consistent with the advice of counsel, on a number of these different things. It's something that I think is very common.

Q Well, then, in that case, let me ask you to find out please whether Mr. Gergen is a member of any Washington club such as the Metropolitan Club or the Cosmos Club. And if he is, is he contemplating resignation from those as well?

MS. MYERS: I don't think so, because I believe this is a comprehensive list of all the social and professional organizations of which he's a member. That was his intention.

Q When did Mack resign -

-

Q But you will take that question, please?

MS. MYERS: At the same time that -

-

yes, I'll take it.
At the same time Webb Hubbell resigned.

Q What other social clubs are on that list?

Q And does Mack have other memberships?

MS. MYERS: I don't know.

Q Is the Bohemian Grove the only social club on the list?

MS. MYERS: Yes, I believe so. I don't know what all these are.

Q Is the Bohemian Grove consistent with President Clinton's views of inclusive organizations?

MS. MYERS: I don't know enough about the Bohemian Grove and I have not spoken to the President.

Q Well, it's all male.

MS. MYERS: But I don't know, is a women's business council something that no one here should belong to? I'm not going to make -

Q You said consistent with the views -

-

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MS. MYERS: Well, maybe. If he was he would have resigned. I'm not going to make a judgment on a case-

by-

case basis from this podium. But I don't know enough about the Bohemian Grove to talk about. I haven't talked to the President about it. Mr. Gergen has not talked to the President about it.

Q A moment ago you used the phrase, "on advice of counsel." Was the White House Counsel involved in Mr. Gergen's decision to quit these organizations?

MS. MYERS: I think he talked briefly to the Counsel about all of these boards and commissions and other organizations.

Q -

-

Mr. Nussbaum's advice to Mr. Gergen to quit?

MS. MYERS: As most -

-

he did -

-

I'm not going to share with you what advice Bernie might have given to David. I think that's privileged. But I will say, as you know, a number of people here have resigned, it's very consistent, from organizations

-

Q But the question was, on Monday Gergen said he wasn't going to quit. Today you say he's talked to the Counsel and on advice of Counsel he's quit.

MS. MYERS: He said he wasn't going to quit. I think he reviewed all of his memberships and made a decision to resign broadly. I know this is a very interesting issue to all of you guys, but I -

-

Q Well, why do you suppose it's interesting to us?

Q But, Dee Dee, you're suggesting that Gergen had always intended to resign all along doesn't seem to jive with Mr. Gergen's -

-

MS. MYERS: I'm not sure that's exactly what I said. I said he intended to review his memberships. Upon doing that, he made a decision to resign. And I think that's all we have to say about it.

Q -

-

what is -

-

between the day he appeared at the podium and said he had no intention of resigning -

-

MS. MYERS: I think he made a judgment that in the broader context it was advisable for him to withdraw, would resign from all the boards and commissions of which he's a member.

Q What is the point? Nowhere in the world does such kind of a policy exists. It doesn't make any sense to force people out of social clubs because they are -

-

MS. MYERS: I think, again, it's a decision -

-

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Q He's going to get -

MS. MYERS: Yes. (Laughter.) The only problem with us not forcing people out of social clubs is that we might be forcing them out of social clubs. It's unbelievable.

Q Dee Dee on another subject, the Oversight Commission on the Space Station apparently seems to be having a report. Do you know when that's going to be released, and it is up to the White House to decide in what form that would be?

MS. MYERS: No. I think that we expect to get it either today or perhaps tomorrow. I think that the head of the commission is going to meet with the Vice President. I think we'll release the report and we'll get back to you as soon as we have details. I think we'll release it in whatever form they've prepared it. But I'll have to get back to you on that. We're still waiting for it.

Q Can you explain the troops to Macedonia and helicopters to Somalia?

Q Gunships, not helicopters.

Q Gunships.

MS. MYERS: Yes. They're fixed-

wing aircraft. In terms of Macedonia, the President has agreed that we would send 300 peacekeepers there to join 700 or so mostly Nordic troops that are currently on the ground. It is consistent with our policy and part of the joint action program we enacted with the allies to try to contain the conflict and to make very clear that further aggression into Macedonia will not be tolerated.

Q Dee Dee, when the President spoke with Congressman Mfume -

MS. MYERS: Somalia. I believe -

Q Wait. You made it very clear -

but they don't participate in any combat. So what is the role?

MS. MYERS: They're in a peacekeeping role. I think it's -

Q As part of the U.N. forces?

Q What's the timing?

MS. MYERS: Correct. The next week or two, and DOD is working out the new details on it.

Q If combat were to erupt in Macedonia for any reason, would these troops be withdrawn, or would they stand and fight?

MS. MYERS: The details of their mission is still being worked out, but they will be there as part of the peacekeeping troop currently on the ground.

Q But they are there is a trip wire in case combat does break out there, which means that they -

MS. MYERS: They're to discourage any aggression or action along the border in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Q Well, what if that doesn't work? What if they fail to discourage aggression and it happens?

MS. MYERS: The broader role of their mission is still being worked out, but they are there to discourage any kind of action and to reinforce our commitment to keep that conflict from spilling over.

Q Don't they have the right of self-

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defense?

MS. MYERS: Again, rules of engagement are being worked out, and I would refer you to the DOD on it.

Q Can you describe for us now, if at all possible, what, if any, policy the U.S. has in the former Yugoslavia?

MS. MYERS: I think it's fairly clear. We have a nine-

point joint action program, which we enacted with our allies. But the broad goals of that are to stop the bloodshed, or at least reduce the bloodshed in Bosnia, and to keep the conflict from spilling over into other parts of the region, and to prevent a broader Balkan war. That's been our goal all along, and I think we're moving forward on that -

-

Secretary Christopher had a press conference a while ago in Athens where he announced a broader agreement on three points: That air support for the UNPROFOR forces in Bosnia protecting the safe havens would include a NATO element. We would probably have French and British support. We will definitely have French and British support for that operation, that the U.S. airlift capabilities will be used to deploy additional UNPROFOR troops into the theater, and that we would deploy 300 additional peacekeepers into the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Q Would the President expect the deployment of troops in Macedonia to increase our influence among Europeans and overall -

-

MS. MYERS: I think it's a further demonstration of our commitment to keeping that from -

-

Q As such?

MS. MYERS: -

-

well, I think we've led this process throughout; I think we're going to continue to lead it. I think the meeting in NATO was a good one, and I think the Secretary is going to continue to press forward.

Q Dee Dee, now that American officials have determined that Iraq was behind the attack -

-

Q Can we go to Somalia first?

Q Can you come back?

MS. MYERS: Somalia. Yes. On Somalia, there are four C-

130 attack, or whatever they are, aircraft that have been deployed to Somalia. Their exact nature and what they're there for is to enhance the ability of the quick response force that's currently there, and exactly how they'll be used is up to the forces on the ground.

Q They're AC-

130s?

MS. MYERS: ACC-

130s.

Q Is there supposed to be some action pending?

MS. MYERS: Obviously that's an option. We supported the U.N. resolution that passed on Sunday. We're still working to determine parties responsible for the attacks over the weekend and we'll react appropriately.

Q But this is in response to the U.N. -

-

MS. MYERS: I think it enhances the capabilities of the quick response team that's there. But exactly how they'll be used will be determined on the ground.

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Q Can you tell us, do you know what U.S. resources are still in Somalia -

personnel?

MS. MYERS: There is about 1,100 or so members of the quick response force and there are 3,000 additional U.S. personnel there as part of the UNISOM II mission. So it's roughly 4,000, 4,200, something like that.

Q What has been their role recently?

MS. MYERS: Assuring the delivery of humanitarian assistance, the ongoing delivery of humanitarian assistance, and protecting troops in that effort.

Q How are they armed?

MS. MYERS: I don't know. I'd have to refer you to DOD for the specific details.

MS. MYERS: Now that the United States has determined, apparently, that Iraq was behind the assassination attempt in Kuwait, what is the President's view?

MS. MYERS: We are still waiting for the final report on that. We have not -

that has not been completed.

Q Does he believe that state-

sponsored terrorism in a case such as this needs to be dealt with, needs to be retaliated?

MS. MYERS: I mean, I think our position on state-

sponsored terrorism generally is clear. We don't tolerate it. But specifically with reference to this case, we'll wait for the results of the FBI investigation which is ongoing.

Q And when do you expect to get -

MS. MYERS: Soon.

Q Soon meaning -

does he have a meeting scheduled?

MS. MYERS: I don't have a -

there's nothing scheduled that

I don't have a specific time line, but it is coming.

Q Can I follow on the -

are you also waiting for the end of the trial in Kuwait?

MS. MYERS: No.

Q You're -

whatever conclusions the FBI draws and the CIA draws is what you will act upon?

MS. MYERS: We're waiting to see what those are.

Q You're not disputing the published reports of what the conclusions are?

MS. MYERS: I'm not confirming or disputing that. I'm simply saying we're going to wait for the complete report of the FBI investigation.

Q Dee Dee, is the United States trying to get Germany and Japan into the United States Security Council -

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-
the United
Nations?

MS. MYERS: We supported that position, yes.

Q Is it proceeding anywhere? We hear that -

-
MS. MYERS: I don't know what the exact status of action
in the U.N. on that is. But it is the position that we support, that
we do support.

Q On campaign finance reform, there's apparently a
threat of filibuster in the Senate, there are some cloture votes
scheduled. What has the administration been doing to support the
legislation that it is now in the proposal -

-
that has been announced
with some fanfare a couple of weeks ago, and do you think campaign
finance reform is dead in the Senate?

MS. MYERS: Well, we obviously we hope that, I think the
cloture vote is scheduled for tomorrow and we hope the that Senate
Republicans won't filibuster it. They say they're committed to
changing the way we do business in this country -

-
political business
-

-
we certainly are; that's why we put forward this plan. We hope
that they don't veto -

-
we've been working with members of Congress
to try to get this thing through, to try to build support for it.
We'll see what happens.

Q Have you called any Senators personally?

MS. MYERS: I don't know if he's spoken to them
specifically about this.

Q Who else, other than Michael, who was here, who is
responsible for trying to get that through the Senate? Give us some
sense of what work the administration has been doing.

MS. MYERS: I'm going to defer this to Mike afterwards
if you guys want to ask him about it.

Q Dee Dee, the President yesterday spoke about a
modified line-

item veto and thought that was a good thing during the
campaign. As a candidate he talked about a line-

item veto. Which is
the President think would do more to help control spending?

MS. MYERS: Well, I think that he supports -

-
would
support a line-

item veto, I'm not sure that that's possible. I think
that he thinks that a modified line

item veto, like the enhanced
recision plan that's been proposed would give him the authority to
line things out and force Congress to vote on specific pieces.

Q Is it fair to say that he thinks a -

-
as he talked
about during the campaign, would be more effective than controlling
spending?

MS. MYERS: Sure. But -

-
Q But he doesn't think it's possible to get, so he's
going to compromise on it?

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MS. MYERS: I don't believe that that's politically possible in this environment, so he thinks that, given that there is a possibility he could get an enhanced recession to the bill through, he'd support that.

Q Dee Dee, can I get you to clarify something that you said earlier about Chairman Greenspan? He said that deficit reduction help keep interest rates low, but you talk about that in the context of a discussion of the reconciliation bill. Are you talking about deficit reduction in the framework of President Clinton's reconciliation bill?

MS. MYERS: Yes.

Q You are?

MS. MYERS: Yes.

Q As opposed to deficit reduction -

-

MS. MYERS: Deficit reduction generally would help keep interest rates low, but he was being specific. He thought that the President's plan contains a disciplined deficit reduction program and that, if passed, it would help keep interest rates low.

Q Dee Dee, a follow on Mark. The President said if he had any kind of line-

item veto authority he'd be able to cut a whole lot more money. Can you give us some examples of programs that he would single out in that way, or can you get us a list?

MS. MYERS: We'll see what Congress passes. I mean, I can't -

-

at this point I'm not going to without seeing what finally comes out of the Congressional process.

Q Dee Dee, on the Supreme Court, is there still more than one candidate applying?

MS. MYERS: Yes.

Q Dee Dee, can I go back to the Mondale appointment?

Q Who are they? (Laughter.)

Q -

-

you said that's going through diplomatic channels. What exactly is happening here?

MS. MYERS: We're waiting to hear back from Tokyo for an official acceptance of our Ambassador.

Q -

-

ambassador?

MS. MYERS: Agreement, to use the diplomatic term.

Q Can I follow up?

Q Will it happen, though, before the Tokyo summit -

-

if I can follow up --

will his appointment be -

-

will the Senate approve it before the Tokyo summit?

MS. MYERS: I think that's unlikely.

Q There's no delay because of who you've chosen?

MS. MYERS: No.

Q If the President goes ahead and indicates his intention to nominate before the Tokyo summit, which you seem to suggest is on track, your agreement comes through, will Mr. Mondale make the trip?

MS. MYERS: The Ambassador-

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designate probably would not
make the trip.

Q Is it a protocol question?

MS. MYERS: I think that's just a confirmation process
question and I don't believe that that person would make the trip.

Q Does that mean he wouldn't have any consultative
role in the G-

??

MS. MYERS: I wouldn't rule that out, but it would be in
the context of what's permissible as a designee.

Q Dee Dee, can I ask for a clarification on two
unrelated issues? On the economy, since the House task version of
the President's plan does appear to meet that what's described as 90
percent of his guidelines, is he assuring House members that he will
push for that bill in Congress?

MS. MYERS: I think he will push for a bill that meets
his -

-

neither version -

-

neither the House version or the Senate
version is going to be the conference version, that's just not
realistic. I think there are certain things in it that he wants.
He's going to push for deficit reduction, his investments like the
earned income tax credit, empowerment zones, immunization program.
There's a lot of things -

-

Q So it's no.

MS. MYERS: Well, no. He's not going to push -

-

it is
unrealistic to expect that the House version will pass conference.
That's just not the way the process works. The President will push
for --

and I don't think any of the House members expect that -

-

what
they want to know is that he's going to push for the principles that
he enunciated throughout the process in the House, and he clearly
will. And there are a lot of specifics, his investments and other
things that he's committed to and he will fight for.

Q On the other unrelated clarification that I had.
Prime Minister Mulroney said that Europe would look more kindly upon
U.S. influence in the Yugoslav situation if it had troops on the
ground. Is the President's feeling of 300 soldiers sent to Macedonia
satisfies that commitment?

MS. MYERS: I think, I'm not sure what Prime Minister
Mulroney was specifically referring to, but our -

-

we have committed
to keeping that conflict from spilling over. However, our position
on ground troops in Bosnia itself has not changed.

Q I understand that.

MS. MYERS: We would only use ground troops there

see,
you have to ask Prime Minister Mulroney if he thinks that this meets
his criteria.

Q Dee Dee, when are those troops going? And will
they be under new -

-

direct U.N. command, or will they be -

-

MS. MYERS: Yes, they will be part of the U.N.

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peacekeeping force -

-

UNPROFOR force in Macedonia. They will be going I believe in the next -

-

they think they can get it done fairly quickly in the next week or two.

Q They would be under the command of a U.N. commander, not their own?

MS. MYERS: Blue Helmet Force.

Q Is that NATO forces that go into Germany?

Q -

-

policy, to put U.S. troops under the command of NATO Blue Helmets?

MS. MYERS: I believe there are peacekeepers in Somalia under other command are part of the Blue Helmet Force. I don't believe that's a shift.

Q Clarify for me, will you, what your answer was on the Yeltsin summit. I know you said not this summer, not Moscow. Were you saying not this year? Is there a Yeltsin -

-

MS. MYERS: There is nothing scheduled. I'm saying that it is conceivable during his presidency that President Clinton will have a summit. I think that's obvious that, at some point he will have one. There are no plans to have one this year, next year; there are no firm plans at this point, period.

Q The idea, I believe, when they left Vancouver was like home and away and that just dates to be settled. Have they backed away from that? Is there some problem?

MS. MYERS: What I'm saying is that there will, no doubt, sometime during his presidency, be a summit between Yeltsin and Clinton. But at this point, none is scheduled. None is scheduled this year. I'm not ruling out this year, I'm just trying to be very clear -

-

Q The Secretary of State was much more specific than that.

Q The Secretary of State says in the next several months.

MS. MYERS: The only point I'm trying to make is that there's nothing scheduled. There's nothing scheduled this year, there's nothing scheduled next year. There is a wire report that says that on the way to or from the NATO summit, there's going to be a Russian summit. I'm saying unequivocally that is not true.

Q You use schedule in the meaning that when we announce it, it's real, but not until that time, but which does not really mean it's not in the works, usually -

-

MS. MYERS: It could be in the works. A lot of things are being planned. There's nothing imminent.

Q The next several months sounds fairly imminent.

MS. MYERS: We're not about to announce something. We're not going to announce something in the next couple of days or the next week. It's not going to happen.

Q On health care reform, on the timing.

Q Dee Dee, another clarification. Yesterday when the President said that the transportation fuel tax has economic difficulties inherent in it, what was he referring to?

MS. MYERS: I'm not going to get into the specifics of that.

Q Today he said that the Btu tax is the best and fairest.

MS. MYERS: Correct.

Q Yesterday he said transportation fuels has economic difficulties. He got briefed on the Breaux plan yesterday. So what was he referring to?

MS. MYERS: I don't think he was briefed on the economic impacts, I think he figured -

-

he understands those implicitly. But the reason he thinks the Btu tax is the best is because it hits all regions of the country relatively equally, it taxes all different forms of energy. He believes it's fair that it raises the amount of revenue he thought was necessary. He believes the Btu tax was the best form of energy tax, but he's willing

the Senate is not going to pass a Btu tax. So we'll look at what they propose. And we'll go back to conference where the Btu tax will be on the table along with whatever the Senate approves and we will fight it out.

Q So the transportation fuel is certainly not the best or the fairest?

MS. MYERS: The Btu tax is the best.

Q What's the foreign policy value of the Space Station?

MS. MYERS: It is something that we'll work on with the Russians. I think that's -

-

Q I'm thinking of the international value -

-

the Europeans and the Russians.

MS. MYERS: I don't have a good answer on the foreign policy value of the Space Station, other than to say it's something we will work on jointly with Russian and perhaps others.

Q Yesterday you said that your goal now is to have the health care plan unveiled by mid-

July, sometime after the Tokyo summit, hopefully before the August recess. Are you saying that that's based on an optimism here that you will have the reconciliation package in conference at that point, and that you can handle the conference and unveiling of a controversial plan at the same time?

MS. MYERS: Basically, yes. We'll see what happens.

Q So you're not anticipating a tough fight in conference?

MS. MYERS: No, I think we are.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

MS. MYERS: Liberated.

END 12:59 P.M. EDT

#84-

06/10

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TO: Katie McGinty (MCGINTY_K) (VPO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Remote Addressee (SALLY J. AMAN@EOP_OVP@CCGATE@EOPMRX) (DEFAULT)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Kukis, Heidi (HEIDI KUKIS@EOP_OVP@CCGATE@EOPMRX) (DEFAULT)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Remote Addressee (JIM KOHLENBERGER@EOP_OVP@CCGATE@EOPMRX) (DEFAULT)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Ethan J. Zindler (ZINDLER_E) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Remote Addressee (1=US@2=COMPUSERVE@3=CSMAIL@*ID\CBS:NET_DIST@MRX@EOPMRX) (DEFAULT)
READ: UNKNOWN

TEXT:

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release June 10, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN PHOTO OPPORTUNITY
DURING MEETING WITH DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL

The Cabinet Room

10:07 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: I want to make a statement now that we have the Domestic Policy Council here about what is going on in the Senate.

First of all, I'm very encouraged that the Senate Finance Committee is working hard in trying to push the process forward. I want to reemphasize that, to me, in the end, we have to have certain basic principles satisfied: \$500 billion in deficit reduction in the trust fund so that all the spending cuts and taxes have to be protected for that; \$250 billion of spending cuts; the taxes have to fall primarily on those best able to pay them. Right now, over two-

thirds of the taxes fall on people with incomes above \$200,000, 75 percent on people with incomes above \$100,000. I want the energy tax to be pro-

conservation and as broad-

based as possible.

And I want the initiatives for growth and jobs in there -

-

the earned income tax credit to encourage the working poor to move out of poverty, the empowerment zones for investment in our cities, the

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incentives to create jobs. Those are the principles that I want.

I want to remind you all, too, that the Senate and House will naturally have some disagreements. But when we wind up in conference, we can perhaps get the best bill of all. The main thing, until the Senate acts, we can't go to conference and get a final bill to continue this progress.

What the final shape of the energy portion of this will be no one can now say because that will have to await the conference. But I am very encouraged that progress is being made, and I do appreciate the fact that the Senate began consultations with the House yesterday, which is consistent with the commitments that were made on that.

Q Where is the progress?

Q Well, what do you say to Democrats in the House who feel like they walked the plank on the budget for nothing at this point?

THE PRESIDENT: They didn't walk the plank on the budget for nothing. Their budget is going to be part of the conference. And they are being consulted now, and no decision has been made by the Senate yet.

You know, Chairman Moynihan and Senator Mitchell started with the senators who are most hostile to the Btu tax. But they have 11 senators on a committee they have to satisfy. And then they have to get a majority in the body of the Senate. So no decisions have been made yet. And most of those House members with whom I talked in the process of passing the bill through the House only wanted to make sure that the House would also be consulted before the Senate committee finally voted. And we took steps to ensure that, and they began the consultative process yesterday.

Q You've got the Black Caucus apparently so upset that they're not coming to a meeting here. What do you tell those people?

THE PRESIDENT: That is not why there's not going to be a meeting here. But the Black Caucus -

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if they want to advocate for the Btu tax -

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you know, I like it. I think it's the best and fairest tax. And I think the Secretary of the Treasury made a very good proposal for a modification of it. But neither they nor I have a vote on the Senate Finance Committee. And so we'll just -

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but it will be -

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the Btu levy will be in the conference, and no decision has been made. I have not signed off on any energy proposal in the Senate yet. I believe that the proposal we made is the best one we have. But neither they nor I have a vote on the Senate Finance Committee.

Let me say, in the end, the most important thing is that we bring the deficit down, that we cut spending, that we raise taxes on the wealthy, and that we invest money to grow this economy. That's the most important thing. We've got to find a way to do that consistent with what has happened already. And I'm very encouraged. I don't think -

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the American people shouldn't be upset by what's going on. And I -

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the House -

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they should go talk to their senators if they have a different view and they want them to take a different view toward these particular taxes. That's what I'm trying to do, is to get the House and the Senate to work together before the Senate Finance Committee even votes.

Q Why are there troops on the ground in Macedonia, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: To limit the conflict. As we said all along, the United Nations -

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we would support the United Nations in limiting the conflict. It's a very limited thing. No combat, but an attempt to limit the conflict.

Q Thank you.
END10:11 A.M. EDT

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (RECONSTRUCTED EMAIL)

CREATOR: Keith Boykin (BOYKIN_K) (WHO)

CREATION DATE/TIME: 11-JUN-1993 09:42:00.00

SUBJECT: fri news summary; sorry it's late

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READ: UNKNOWN

TO: George Stephanopoulos (STEPHANOPO_G) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Heather Beckel (BECKEL_H) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Ricki Seidman (SEIDMAN_R) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: S. Collier Andress (ANDRESS_S) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Dee Dee Myers (MYERS_D) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: David Leavy (LEAVY_D) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Amanda Crumley (CRUMLEY_A) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Jeffrey L. Eller (ELLER_J) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Michael Waldman (WALDMAN_M) (WHO)
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TO: Robert O. Boorstin (BOORSTIN_R) (WHO)
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TO: Ken Chitester (CHITESTER_K) (WHO)
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TO: David Dreyer (DREYER_D) (WHO)
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TO: Lorraine A. Voles (VOLES_L) (WHO)
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TO: Richard Strauss (STRAUSS_R) (WHO)
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TO: Anne F. Walker (WALKER_A) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Eric Berman (BERMAN_E) (WHO)
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TO: Carter Wilkie (WILKIE_C) (WHO)
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TO: Meeghan E. Prunty (PRUNTY_M) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Kimberly Tilley (TILLEY_K) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Eric W. Payne (PAYNE_E) (WHO)
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TO: Marla Romash (ROMASH_M) (VPO)
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TO: Lisa M. Caputo (CAPUTO_L) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Michael R. Lufrano (LUFRANO_M) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: David Kusnet (KUSNET_D) (WHO)
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TO: Jonathan M. Prince (PRINCE_J) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TEXT:

PRINTER FONT 12_POINT_COURIER

White House News Report

Friday, June 11, 1993

Prepared by the News Analysis Staff, Rm 160, x7151

ECONOMIC PLAN -

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Yesterday, Transportation Secretary Pena said the proposal for a tax on transportation fuels leans too heavily on the already troubled industry. (WP A1) In an interview with the Washington Post, he said, "One reason I was able to sell the

(president's) Btu tax was on the basis that it was fair and balanced and not solely based on the transport sector." (WP) Dee Myers said Secretary Pena's views are "not necessarily those of the administration as a whole." (WP)

The Wall Street Journal says the Senate Finance Committee is "scaling back both" the proposed fuels tax increase and cuts in federal health programs. The New York Times says the President's package of "tax increases and spending cuts began to fall into place" yesterday.

In an "emergency" meeting, the President heard pleas from three Hispanic House members for a smaller cut in tax breaks for Puerto Rico. (WP) The meeting was arranged in response to a letter that suggested the President will need all the help he can get for final passage of the package. (WP) The meeting was scheduled in the time slot vacated by the canceled meeting with the Congressional Black Caucus. (WP) Rep. Mfume's (D-Md.) Wednesday letter to the President said, "We will not support a reconciliation package that shifts the burden from the wealthiest Americans and corporations to the disadvantaged." (WP) The Washington Times says negotiations among Senate Democrats over the President's economic plan were bogged down Thursday "as liberals clashed with centrists" over the size of a new energy tax and the breadth of new entitlement cuts.

Senate Democrats are also exploring ways of offsetting revenue losses other than cutting Medicare, such as raising \$4 to \$7 billion by moving up the effective date of the transportation fuels tax and an increase on the income tax of the wealthy. (WP) Sen. Breaux's proposal would become effective Jan. 1, but the White House and Sen. Moynihan prefer raising income taxes on the wealthy on July 1. (WP)

Sen. Baucus (D-Mont.) said he opposes the transportation tax, Sen. Rockefeller (D-W.Va.) said he would oppose the tax unless Democratic leaders abandon efforts to make deeper cuts in Medicare spending, (WP) and Sen. Bradley (D-NJ) said he would fight additional entitlement cuts. (Boston Globe) Sen. Rockefeller denounced Sens. Boren and Breaux saying, "I'm just sick of people putting this on Bill Clinton...David Boren and

John Breaux killed the Btu tax. David Boren and Kerr-

McGee have

been running this Congress for more than a month and a half." The tax increase on fuels was reduced back to 7.3 cent-a-gallon after several Senators objected to a 9.3 cent-a-gallon increase. (WSJ) Several Senators said the committee was likely to scale back the President's proposed increases in food stamps. (NYT) White House officials and Senate Democratic leaders said an agreement on tax increases and entitlement cuts might not be reached until next week. (WP) Sen. Moynihan said the committee would make its changes public on Tuesday and vote to send its package to the Senate floor on Thursday. (NYT)

"Trying to assuage the concerns of House Democrats," the President said, "They didn't walk the plank on the budget for nothing. Their budget is going to be part of the conference. And they are being consulted now." (WP) The President also said he still prefers the BTU tax as the "best and fairest" but also that it does not have a vote on the Senate Finance Committee and repeated that he has not "signed off on any energy proposal in the Senate." (WP) However, Secretary Bentsen said, "We're recognizing the reality" that the BTU tax has no chance in the Senate Finance Committee. (WP) The Washington Post says the President "compromised not only his proposal, but also on his stated aversion to the special-interest horse-trading emblematic of politics as usual.

The St. Louis Post

Dispatch reports that under Sen. Breaux's tax plan as discussed Thursday by Senate Democrats, the nation's towboat and barge industry (a traditional part of St. Louis commerce) would be spared a massive fuel-

tax increase.

A New York Times editorial says the BTU tax passed by the House has serious flaws, that Sen. Breaux's is too narrow, and that the Administration's "retreat could lead to a victory in the larger war if, by adopting a broad-based alternative, Mr. Clinton gets behind a budget plan that cuts the deficit without provoking insurmountable opposition in Congress."

In an editorial with the headline "BTU Tax, Killing it is easy; Agreeing on an alternative won't be," the Detroit Press says "Mr. Clinton's cave-in on the tax is an embarrassment, not a disaster. Contrary to the pronouncements of the Washington press corps, his presidency isn't over yet...The Btu tax may be dead, but the deficit monster is alive and kicking. Senate Democrats need to buckle down and help Mr. Clinton find a way to whip it." (Detroit Free Press)

An editorial in the Atlanta Constitution points out that "The very thing Mr. Clinton begged the nation to avoid -

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the
picking apart of the package by special interest -

-

is
happening."
HEALTH CARE -

Yesterday, speaking at Johns Hopkins Medical School, Hillary Rodham Clinton "promised the nation's leading research hospitals and medical schools...that they will not be financially undermined by the cost-control features of President Clinton's plan to overhaul the nation's health system." (WP) She "offered an olive branch to doctors by suggesting that they are not mainly to blame for high health-care costs." (NYT) She also

said the academic health centers will not have to compete with non-research institutions for patients on the basis of the "lowest common denominator." (WP) Her statement was "welcome to many of the approximately 1,000 Hopkins professors, doctors, and other academics who jammed the...auditorium. But many also wanted more specific information." (WP) The New York Times also notes that her criticism in speech to the Service Employees Union two weeks ago, "seemed to include" doctors.

In her speech to the AMA conference next week, "doctors will be listening closely for hints on who among them -- if anyone -- the Clinton Administration has been heeding as it develops its proposal." (NYT) The New York Times also lists health industries' PACS that gave the most to candidates in 1992.

Surgeon General Novello released a long-

delayed AIDS report

she said the Bush administration refused to release. (ABC)

At a conference of state health care officials Thursday, Senior White House health adviser Paul Starr said he expects it to "take until the end of the decade" for the President's health care reform to be fully implemented. (USA Today) Starr also said that states would have most responsibility for carrying out health care reforms. (USA Today) USA Today reports that Congress is certain to rewrite and perhaps dramatically alter the Clinton plan which is expected on Capitol Hill after Labor Day. USA Today says the President's health care plan will include reforms with a "sliding scale based on ability to pay," a national standard and package of benefits allowing states to decide whether to offer one health plan or several, and a national board to oversee the system. Gov. Campbell (R-SC) said, "We like the flexibility. We are concerned with the fine print." (USA Today)

A front-page Wall Street Journal story describes the popularity of HMOs in state Medicaid programs, saying, "The boom in Medicaid programs may tie in neatly with President Clinton's hopes of overhauling the nation's health-care system."

A front-page Washington Post story describes the effectiveness of AARP's "telephone tree" in New Jersey to lobby their Senators against Medicare cuts. (WP)

SUPREME COURT NOMINATION -

USA Today reports that White House aides say the President would like to announce his nomination for the Supreme Court today. The "betting favorite" according to USA Today is Judge Breyer. Yesterday, Vince Foster, Ron Klain, and Ricki Seidman interviewed Judge Breyer in his hospital room, according to sources. (WP) Last night, Judge Breyer flew to Washington after being released from the hospital. (AP) One source "familiar with the search," said, "It's a done deal." (AP) A White House aide said, "It's his to lose. The president just wants to meet him to make sure." (AP) Several White House officials emphasized that the decision is not final. (NYT A1) "Both Democrats and Republicans told the president and his staff that Judge Breyer, a former Senate staffer, would be confirmed overwhelmingly." (WSJ)

White House staffers say the President has steered away from Babbitt because of concerns that he could not find "a replacement at Interior with Babbitt's star quality." (USA Today)

APPOINTMENTS -

The Administration has decided that FBI Director Sessions should step down, and has begun negotiations to ease him from office, according to government officials. (NYT) "Justice Department officials appear to be operating cautiously, hoping to dislodge Mr. Sessions gracefully and avoid a messy public fight with the Texas Republican and former Federal judge that could erupt into another embarrassing personnel incident for the President." (NYT)

The New York Times says the Administration is close to nominating Carol Bellamy to head the Peace Corps, according to Administration officials.

David Gergen "reversed himself yesterday and announced that he was resigning from the all-male Bohemian Club." (WP) Dee Dee Myers said the move was part of his across-the-board decision to quit 17 organizations. (WP) The New York Times notes that on Monday, he said, "I have no intentions to resign." A New York Times "Topic of the Time" says, "In this case, Mr. Gergen served himself with adroit damage control, but failed to promote the principles of the President he now works for." A Los Angeles Times editorial headline says, "A new flap isn't needed, Clinton aide is right to have quickly quit discriminatory club."

The Pentagon Inspector General's office is investigating whether Graham Allison, the nominee for assistant secretary of defense for plans and policy, had any involvement in promoting the bid of a former academic colleague. (WP) "Defense officials

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say the former academic already has established a reputation for high-handedness and arrogance, and they note that the investigation was triggered by a complaint from a member of his staff." (WP)

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved former New York City Police Chief Lee Brown as director of the White House Office of Drug Control Policy. (USA Today)

The New York Times runs an interview with White House Counsel Nussbaum today.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE -

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Sen. Boren (D-

Ok.) said Senate Democratic leaders are considering scaling back the plan for partial public funding of Congressional campaigns in an effort to pick up enough votes to avoid a GOP filibuster. (WP) Sen. Biden (D-

Del.), said some Democrats would reconsider their support for the bill if public funds are eliminated or reduced to a token amount, saying, "We need more public funding, not less." (WP)
TRAVEL OFFICE -

The Washington Post reports that an internal FBI summary of events in the travel office affair shows that associate White House Counsel Kennedy discussed the possibility of using the IRS to investigate allegations if the FBI did not begin investigations "immediately." The phone call took place on May 13, according to the FBI summary, prepared on May 24 and distributed to top Justice officials. (WP) "Three sources who have had access to the summary" said that it states that Kennedy called James Bourke, an FBI supervisor who heads a unit that conducts background checks on appointees. (WP) Eight days after the phone call, three IRS auditors began an unannounced civil

audit of Ultrair's books with the authority of an administrative summons. (WP) IRS spokesperson Murphy confirmed that the IRS Inspection Service is conducting an internal investigation into the agency's handling of the matter. (WP)

In a floor statement this week, Sen. Dole said, "It appears that agents from the Internal Revenue Service were used as political foot soldiers in a White House damage control operation," and that he intended to "pursue this matter through a hearing, through a congressional investigation, through a special counsel."

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whatever it takes to get all the facts on the table." (WP)

GAYS IN THE MILITARY -

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Yesterday, Joint Chiefs Chair Gen. Powell delivered the commencement address at Harvard. (WP) "For the most part, Powell was politely, even enthusiastically, received by the students, parents, and alumni." (WP) The New York Times reports that the General received "a rousing ovation." He said the Administration and its military leadership are "near a decision" on the new policy, although "he declined to offer details." (WP) USA Today reports that Gen. Powell "all but conceded that the military will soon be open to homosexuals." He told the graduates that gays in the military presented "two conflicting issues" -- the privilege to serve and the effects on cohesion by considering the privacy of "all service members." (USA Today) Powell said "The President has given us clear direction to solve the issue." (USA Today)

"Many graduating seniors wore mortar boards plastered with 'lift-the-ban' stickers, and some turned their backs on the dais where Powell received an honorary law degree." (WP)

Sen. Graham (D-

FL) met yesterday with gay veterans, according to the Miami Herald. Aides said Sen. Graham, who joined the Armed Services Committee last year is likely to be influenced by Sen. Nunn. (Miami Herald)
STUDENT LOANS -

-

The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee approved a modified version of the President's student loan proposal "to put the Federal Government in the business of lending money directly to students." (NYT A1) "The most immediate saving would be to students, who now pay fees of as much as \$80 for every \$1,000 borrowed." (NYT) The bill would cap direct government loans at one-half total student loan volume, and the lending would be introduced gradually so the cap would not be reached until 1997-98. (NYT) The bill also includes a provision in which the IRS would collect a fixed percentage of a borrower's paychecks for 20 years or until the loan is paid. (NYT) The plan is "almost certain to be enacted in some form." (NYT)

BOSNIA -

"Seeking to counter complaints that it has failed to assert leadership," the U.S. is offering to send 300 troops to Macedonia. (WP) The offer was made by Secretary Christopher at the NATO meeting in Athens. (WP) The troops will be authorized to defend themselves, but, "we don't envision them taking direct action," according to Pentagon spokesperson Hall. (NYT A1) Former

Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney appeared on NBC's "Today" Show and said his position all along has been to oppose the introduction of U.S. forces into the Yugoslav area for a number of reasons.

HAITI -

A New York Times editorial says, "Twenty months after a brutal clique overthrew Haiti's first democratically elected Government is not too soon for Washington and the rest of the world to get serious about defending legitimacy, democracy, and human rights."

DEFENSE -

Next week, the Administration will begin consultations with Congress on whether to resume nuclear tests, conduct nine blasts before 1996 and then halt all such testing, according to Administration officials. (WP A1) The President has until the end of June to determine whether to resume underground nuclear testing. (USA Today) Aides to several interested Senators said they believed many legislators would not like the idea of resuming even limited testing. (WP) The President is under pressure from the military and diplomats to do limited testing through 1996. (USA Today) During yesterday's Senate Armed Services Committee hearing, Sens. Levin (D-Mich.), and Exon (D-Neb.), told Secretary O'Leary that they would strongly oppose nuclear tests of warhead safety features that are not deployed. (WP)

A Washington Post editorial on Gen. Campbell's alleged comments says the President "needs to show that there is a price to pay for failing to recognize legitimate authority." (WP)

Defense Secretary Aspin was assured Thursday by key members of Congress that increased US aid to Russia and other federal agencies was unlikely to require billions in cuts in the \$263.4 billion 1994 Pentagon budget.

NATIONAL SERVICE -

Yesterday, about 100 teenagers demonstrated in front of the Capitol in support of full funding of the federal summer jobs program. (WP) The rally was organized by the Consortium of Youth Services. (WP)

WHITE HOUSE PRESS CORPS -

Andrea Mitchell said, "There might have been a tendency by some reporters to jump on the least little problem and make more of it than was warranted." (WP) But she also said, "there were people in this White House who would treat us with contempt." (WP) Last week the President invited the bureau chiefs of the New York Times and the Los Angeles Times to dinner for the first time, "and now the Sunday barbecue." (WP) Mark Gearan portrayed the "hot-dog diplomacy as a first step." (WP)

ARMS Email System

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (RECONSTRUCTED EMAIL)

CREATOR: Jonathan P. Gill (GILL_J) (WHO)

CREATION DATE/TIME:11-JUN-1993 14:35:00.00

SUBJECT: Press Briefing by Dee Dee Myers 6.11.93

TO: (202) 456-6444 (WNS_1) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Christian M. Baldia (BALDIA_C) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Janet Handal (HANDAL_J) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Remote Addressee (1=US@2=TELEMAIL@3=INTERNET@*RFC-822\JGILL(A)NSF.GOV@MRX@EOPMRX) (DEFAULT)
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TO: Liz Bowyer (BOWYER_L) (WHO)
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TO: Jeffrey L. Eller (ELLER_J) (WHO)
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TO: Lisa Mortman (MORTMAN_L) (WHO)
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TO: Ernest D. Gibble (GIBBLE_E) (WHO)
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TO: Patricia A. Enright (ENRIGHT_P) (WHO)
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TO: Jonathan P. Gill (GILL_J) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Richard Strauss (STRAUSS_R) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Maria M. Tio (TIO_M) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Joshua N. Silverman (SILVERMAN_J) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Jess Sarmiento (SARMIENTO_J) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Lavora R. Barnes (BARNES_L) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: C. Patricia Cogdell (COGDELL_C) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

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TO: Kimberly S. Hopper (HOPPER_K) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Lorraine A. Voles (VOLES_L) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Margaret C. Sherry (SHERRY_M) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Elizabeth A. Bernstein (BERNSTEIN_E) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Carolyn Curiel (CURIEL_C) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: David B. Anderson (ANDERSON_D) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Roy Neel (NEEL_R) (VPO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Thurgood Marshall, Jr (MARSHALL_T) (VPO)
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TO: Greg Simon (SIMON_G) (VPO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Remote Addressee (MARLA E. ROMASH@EOP_OVP@CCGATE@EOPMRX) (DEFAULT)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Leon Fuerth (FUERTH_L) (VPO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Jack Quinn (QUINN_J) (VPO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Katie McGinty (MCGINTY_K) (VPO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Remote Addressee (SALLY J. AMAN@EOP_OVP@CCGATE@EOPMRX) (DEFAULT)
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TO: Kukis, Heidi (HEIDI KUKIS@EOP_OVP@CCGATE@EOPMRX) (DEFAULT)
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TO: Remote Addressee (JIM KOHLENBERGER@EOP_OVP@CCGATE@EOPMRX) (DEFAULT)
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READ: UNKNOWN

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READ: UNKNOWN

TEXT:

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release June 11, 1993

PRESS BRIEFING
BY DEE DEE MYERS

The Briefing Room

12:25 P.M. EDT

Q A Supreme Court nominee? (Laughter.)

MS. MYERS: I have that, but I thought I'd wait. You are probably more interested in next week's schedule. No, I have no announcements.

Q What can you say about this IRS business?

MS. MYERS: Well, as you know, Mack McLarty and Leon Panetta are doing a thorough management review of the entire travel office situation and they will have a report on that sometime in the not to distant future.

Q Will it be made public?

MS. MYERS: There will be -

-

some component of it will
be made public.

Q Clarify on thing -

did the White House contact the
IRS?

MS. MYERS: The White House did not contact the IRS and

ARMS Email System

the IRS I think confirms that in The Washington Post story. No one from the White House ever contacted the IRS.

Q Well, Dee Dee, was there an implied threat that they would contact the IRS?

MS. MYERS: No, but -

-

there was no implied threat. But I would just leave the final analysis of this to the management review currently being conducted by McLarty and Panetta.

Q What is the status of Catherine Cornelius right now? Is she still in the travel office?

MS. MYERS: She is.

Q Why does she remain on the job when there are questions about the propriety of her actions in this whole affair?

MS. MYERS: Again, there is a review underway to answer all of these questions in great detail, and I just don't have any more to say about the specifics of it until it's complete.

Q Was Mack aware of Kennedy's role and this IRS issue, or did this just come to him after the Post started making inquiries?

MS. MYERS: Again, I just want to make it clear that -- no one from the White House ever contacted the IRS.

Q No, we're not saying that, we're saying -

-

MS. MYERS: I just want to make that clear.

Q What is your understanding that Kennedy did?

MS. MYERS: I just can't comment on it. The entire thing is under review now, and anything that I say about it will be premature.

Q Who is the President having lunch with, and what for?

MS. MYERS: I don't think it's any secret that the President will be dining with Judge Breyer this afternoon. I believe it's a little later; it has not started yet. He's currently meeting with Senator McCain and Senator Kerry about some issues about Vietnam. They are returning from a trip there. And I think the issue is obvious.

Q Do you expect an announcement this afternoon?

MS. MYERS: I can't rule it out. I don't know. I just can't say one way or another whether it will happen today.

Q What does the President hope to find out during this luncheon meeting with the Judge? What's the purpose of it?

MS. MYERS: Well, I think it's an opportunity for him to meet with a candidate for the Supreme Court and to discuss a number of issues. I don't want to be any more specific than that.

Q Is it important to him to have a personal -

-

Q Why is he not having a companion meeting with Babbitt?

Q Is it important for him to have a personal chance to assess this man? I mean, give us a sense of what the President's desire is.

MS. MYERS: I think it's an opportunity for him to sit down face to face and have a conversation with somebody who he is considering for the high court. I think it's an important part of the process for the President. They have never met, and today will be an opportunity for the President and Judge Breyer to meet.

Q Is he the most likely choice?

MS. MYERS: I won't handicap it, but I will say the President has not made a decision. It's something I've been saying all week and I think news accounts to the contrary are simply just overwritten.

Q -

-

in the Rose Garden been taken away this

afternoon?

MS. MYERS: I don't know.

Q

that at this point there are no other active candidates?

MS. MYERS: I will not handicap, but I think the field has been substantially narrowed. (Laughter.)

Q What about this comment this morning in the paper from an administration official saying it's his to lose?

MS. MYERS: Well, I think that's unfortunate. I think that earlier in the week unnamed sources were implying that another candidate was the front runner, an all-

but-

likely nominee. I think, as the week has progressed, the handicapping has sort of selected a new front runner. I think all of it is premature. The President has been spending a good deal of time on it this week. He's been looking at a number of candidates, evaluating their records and trying and make a good decision about this, which he'll do. And all the stories that suggest he's made up his mind are just not right.

Q Well, you haven't ruled out an announcement today. You mean, he's going to make a snap decision today and then he's going to announce?

MS. MYERS: I think we've been working on this for several months. I don't think anyone is going to accuse us being of snap decision. (Laughter.)

Q Dee Dee, doesn't this process of stretching it out, though, because of the leaks, where one candidate on Monday was declared, at least by some people, as the person, doesn't that have a very bad effect? Isn't this something that this White House has to come to grips with?

MS. MYERS: I think, there's no doubt that that's unfortunate. However, this is the first time a Democrat President has had the chance to make an appointment to the Supreme Court in nearly 25 years. And I think the President had a lot of time to make this decision. And I think it is prudent of him to evaluate as many candidates as he can and to take his time making this decision. I don't think the American people would expect any less under the circumstances. So while I think it's unfortunate, I think the President -- it's in the best interest of the country for the President to take this decision seriously and to take his time making it.

Q Isn't it unfair to the reputation of someone like his Interior Secretary to be left hanging this way -

-

MS. MYERS: Well, I would pose that question back to you all. I don't think it serves the process very well, but that's my opinion. I think I've made that clear to most of you.

Q We didn't make up the quotes from various White House officials.

MS. MYERS: But I think you -

-

the guidance you've been getting from most people has been that the President hasn't made up his mind, that he's in the process of making a decision, and that sometimes people get the wrong impression from conversations, second-

or third-

hand information, and that's always a dangerous thing.

Q Has the President read the work of Judge Breyer?

MS. MYERS: The President has reviewed information about potential nominees in fairly good detail.

Q How much depth? Is it more depth this time than there was with Guinier?

MS. MYERS: I think the standard is different for a Supreme Court Justice than it is for a second-

or third-

level appointment in a department.

Q So he doesn't expect any surprises from what he's been told?

MS. MYERS: Don't expect any.

Q Dee Dee, what has been the contact so far between the President and the Justice? Has he spoken to him by phone? What interaction has he -

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MS. MYERS: I don't believe the President's spoken to him yet.

Q Dee Dee, what about the complaint from some women's organizations that the finalists all appeared to be white men?

MS. MYERS: The President has reviewed a number of candidates. It was a broad and exhaustive search. Obviously, he's narrowed the list down, but I think that there has been a very broad consideration throughout this process.

Q The New York Times says that he's concluded that Sessions should step down.

MS. MYERS: We're still waiting on the report from the Attorney General on that.

Q Back on the travel office affair. You said that the whole matter is under review by McLarty and Panetta. But this is a case of the White House investigating the White House at this point.

MS. MYERS: That's correct.

Q Would the President object to a special counsel, as Senator Dole and others have proposed?

MS. MYERS: I think we're going to wait for the results of this management review. I think it will be thorough. I think it will present the facts clearly, and hopefully will resolve a lot of the questions I know that many of you have lingering. Mr. McLarty is sort of spearheading what is a very thorough review, and I think that the results will be satisfactory.

Q Are you -

-

well, let me try the question another way -- are you against the appointment of a special counsel?

MS. MYERS: I think we'd like to finish this review before we make other judgments.

Q Dee Dee, are there seven people working in the travel office now?

MS. MYERS: I don't know how many are working there. I don't think so, but I don't know.

Q Could you -

-

is there some way we can check on that?

MS. MYERS: Sure, I'll take the question. As has been requested, what we'll do in the future is when I take questions we'll try to get answers and post them. Where do we post them?

MR. LEAVY: Post them back by the bins.

MS. MYERS: Back by the bins every day.

Q Dee Dee, what's the protocol when there is an announcement? Will he contact Senator Biden and others, and would they necessarily come down for an announcement?

MS. MYERS: I don't know. I don't think we've -

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I haven't been party to any discussions where we've talked about the specific protocol for talking to the Senate Judiciary Committee. But I would assume that they would be contacted, sure.

Q If there's an announcement tomorrow, how would you

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you'd just release it in the morning? What kind of timetable would you give us?

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MS. MYERS: It depends on when a decision is made. I mean, we'll try to give you as much advance notice as we can, and that will depend on the circumstances. At the very least, I think we'll obviously put something out here; we'll beep on the all-

call beepers; we'll make sure that the wires have it, so everybody should check the wires. But we'll do everything we can to make sure people have as much notice as possible.

Q Will you give us any readout today?

MS. MYERS: I don't expect to, although I suspect I'll get some calls.

Q At some point today, will you give us some kind of guidance on whether it will be today -

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MS. MYERS: I have a feeling I may have some company in my office this afternoon.

Q What was the question?

MS. MYERS: The question was, do you plan to give any guidance on or a readout from the meeting this afternoon. And I said, I don't have any specific plans, but I expect I'll have company in my office today.

Q Which meeting?

MS. MYERS: The lunch.

Q Can you tell us what time the lunch starts?

MS. MYERS: I believe it's supposed to happen around 1:00 p.m. -

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1:00 p.m., 1:15 p.m..

Q Are you ruling out an announcement to -

could you give us some guidance -

-

MS. MYERS: I can't rule it out. No, I can't rule it out.

Q One more on travel -

-

Q Can we stick on the Court, please? Has the President met with Babbitt about this issue, and if not, why not?

MS. MYERS: The President knows Secretary Babbitt well.

Q Is that the reason he hasn't talked to him personally?

MS. MYERS: I think they may have spoken by phone, and as you know Secretary Babbitt met with some members of the White House Counsel's Office. But I think the President is quite familiar with Secretary Babbitt's background and his work.

Q One more on travel, please. Senator Dole is going to have a press conference this afternoon, and he says he has some information, papers on travel purportedly showing some type of irregularities. Do you know what those might be? And what's your reaction?

MS. MYERS: We eagerly await his press conference.

Q What's your reaction to the continuing dragging out of this story?

MS. MYERS: I think we have initiated a comprehensive review precisely to deal with lingering questions. We really are trying to present the facts in as straightforward a manner as possible through this process so that we can put this thing to rest.

Q Why is the White House doing this investigation, this review? What's the White House's goal in doing it?

MS. MYERS: To get as comprehensive review of the facts as possible to understand exactly what happened, and hopefully, to make sure that the process works in the future.

Q Dee Dee, on Sessions, is the White House pressuring him to resign, hoping he'll get a hint to resign?

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MS. MYERS: No, and as we've said repeatedly, the Attorney General is reviewing that matter. She said it was a high priority of hers when she was sworn in, and we expect a report from her soon.

Q For the record right now, do you want him to resign?

MS. MYERS: I think we'll wait for the results of the Attorney General's review.

Q There's apparently negotiations right now on a settlement with Judge Sessions involving his attorneys. According to all reports, they are negotiating his release.

MS. MYERS: I think the conversations are ongoing, but I would refer you to the Justice Department for specifics. We are -

Q Is the White House familiar with that?

MS. MYERS: We're waiting for a review from the Attorney General. And beyond that, I don't have anything to say. I would have to refer you to the Justice Department for any details about any conversations they might be having. I think what they've said publicly is that they're in the process of finalizing this and the Attorney General will make a recommendation to the President. They're getting close to that point. And beyond that, I don't have any comment on what they're doing.

Q Were officials here not happy when he requested an airplane to go to San Antonio recently?

MS. MYERS: I don't think we had anything to do with it. But I'll take the question.

Q But do you have a reaction to it?

MS. MYERS: I'm not familiar with the request. I know that he ended up flying commercially to San Antonio for his son's wedding, which I think is appropriate.

Q Dee Dee, back on the travel office, how is the White House responding to Republican requests for all pertinent computer files, documents, tapes and everything else that was involved in this? The Republicans on the Judiciary Committee, as you know, have sent a letter formally requesting that.

MS. MYERS: Right. I think that what we're doing right now is conducting a comprehensive review and trying to make sure that we have all the pertinent facts and documents. And beyond that I don't know that we've taken any specific action with respect to those requests, but I'll take the question.

Q Dee Dee, one of the issues here is the appearance of use of the FBI for political purposes. Is that one of the aspects of the review?

MS. MYERS: I think we're looking at all elements of the review -

I mean, of the process. And I think that the comprehensive nature of it really is an honest effort by us to get to the bottom of it and to understand exactly what happened.

Q What is going to be done? I mean, here's the White House -

MS. MYERS: The review is -

Q

passing judgment on the actions of the White House. Why should the American people have credibility -

MS. MYERS: Well, I think we'll take a look at the review when it's done, and I think that there will be a lot of conversation about it. If more action is necessary -

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Q Are you reviewing what happened or how you handled it?

MS. MYERS: Yes.

Q You're not reviewing the actions of the travel staff, that's the FBI?

MS. MYERS: No, that's right.

Q Does your review, though, include how, for example, the IRS would show up at the offices of UltraAir?

MS. MYERS: No, that's something that we would have -

-

I don't think that's being part of the review. We have no control over that. Nobody from the White House contacted the IRS. We didn't know the IRS was going to go to the UltraAir offices in Smyrna. I don't think that's a part of the review. You'd have to check with the IRS about why they went there.

Q You don't think people should just simply take your word for it?

MS. MYERS: Both the IRS and the White House have said that -

-

I don't think anybody is saying, at least nobody here seems to be saying that we did contact the IRS. I mean, if somebody is saying that, please let me know. But both the IRS and the White House have said there was no contact.

Q If the White House contacted the FBI and the FBI contacted the IRS, would that be proper?

MS. MYERS: I'm not going to comment on that. I don't know.

Q But you're not denying that, are you?

Q Does the White House have a policy of not contacting the IRS? I mean, what is the standing policy?

MS. MYERS: The standing policy is that any contact with the IRS would happen through the Treasury Department.

Q Dee Dee, does the White House consider it appropriate for somebody in the Counsel's Office to invoke the name of the IRS?

MS. MYERS: We are reviewing the entire matter, and I just don't -

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I'm not going to comment on every particularly nuance today; I don't think it's appropriate.

Q Is that question being put to Mr. Kennedy and the Counsel's Office?

MS. MYERS: I think the broad spectrum of this is being reviewed.

Q Bob Dole says that he wants an investigation. Would those people who would be the object of that investigation be asked to take leave pending the results of that probe?

MS. MYERS: I think we'll wait and see what Senator Dole has to say later today.

Q Dee Dee, the Consumer Price Index -

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how does the White House feel about the latest figures?

MS. MYERS: Obviously, it's good news. Producer prices did not go up in May, inflation was zero. We think that that will help keep the long-

term interest rates low. We're going to continue to press to get the President's economic plan through Congress. We think that the deficit reduction included in that plan has helped bring interest rates down. And we think if we get the plan passed it will help keep them down.

Q Dee Dee, what is the President planning to do about the problem of Chinese smuggling of immigrants to the United States?

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MS. MYERS: It's something that he's concerned about. He did bring it up yesterday at the Domestic Policy Council meeting. As you know, the National Security Council is sort of overseeing a task force, interagency task force that's looking at that problem now.

Q Is he considering declaring an immigration emergency through to release funds to deal with this problem?

MS. MYERS: We're review it right now.

Q Dee Dee, McLarty's review is taking also a look at the Counsel's Office and its operations, isn't it?

MS. MYERS: The entire episode and all the people within the White House who were involved.

Q Is the Counsel's operation part of the staff review that's also underway in a separate way?

MS. MYERS: McLarty's

Q Continuing staff reorganization.

MS. MYERS: I'm sure he's taking the entire functioning of the White House into consideration. But, again, I would refer you to Mack for any specifics about what changes or adjustments he might make.

Q Dee Dee, do you know the last time the President or any White House staffers spoke with Secretary Babbitt?

MS. MYERS: No, I don't.

Q Could you repeat the question?

MS. MYERS: Do I know when that last time any White House staffers may have spoken with Secretary Babbitt. And if I did know, I'm not sure I would say.

Q What about the President, himself -

do you know
the last time -

MS. MYERS: I don't.

Q Dee Dee, on the budget, do you now anticipate -

do
you still anticipate that there will be a budget agreement passed by both Houses out of the conference, out of the conference and passed by the time the President goes to Japan?

MS. MYERS: No, I think what -

we were hopeful that the
Senate might pass its version of the President's budget before he goes to Tokyo. I don't think we expect the conference process to be complete by then.

Q So you were hopeful and you're now -

Q You're still hopeful?

MS. MYERS: That the Senate might finish its business by the July 4th recess? Yes, I think -

yes. What Senator Moynihan has
said is that he expects to have a vote in the Finance Committee perhaps Thursday. So if things keep moving along -

I don't know
that it will happen, but we'd like -

we're hopeful. We'd like to

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see it happen.

Q Dee Dee, did you have anything on the question I asked yesterday on nuclear matters?

MS. MYERS: No. Where's Don?

Q He went to look for -

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MS. MYERS: I know. I know. I apologize. I thought you talked to Don Steinberg about it yesterday.

Q Somebody else, but there was supposed to be more.

MS. MYERS: I'll take it again, for the third day in a row.

Q Does the White House agree with Secretary Pena's concerns about the fuel tax?

MS. MYERS: I think the President has made his position on that clear. He's not supporting any particular proposal in the Senate Finance Committee. He supports a broad-

based energy tax. He has said repeatedly that he thinks the Btu tax was the fairest, best way to achieve that. Clearly, there weren't votes in the Senate Finance Committee for it, so they're considering other alternatives. The President's not going to take a position on any of those alternatives yet. The Senate Finance Committee hasn't even resolved its position on it.

Q But his Cabinet member is taking a position against it.

MS. MYERS: Well, that's his personal view.

Q But it's not the President's view.

MS. MYERS: It is not the President's view.

Q Is the President -

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do you think that if there is a fuel tax that the airline industry should get some sort of exemption because of its particular difficulties?

MS. MYERS: I think we're going to let the -

-

see if that is actually a proposal first before we make any determinations.

Q Do you know if the President spoke to Pena today?

MS. MYERS: He did not speak to him directly, but -

-

Q Through McLarty?

MS. MYERS: -

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the President's views have been communicated.

Q How were they communicated?

MS. MYERS: I believe he spoke with Mack McLarty this morning.

Q What was the message?

Q Will Mr. Pena be expressing his views again?
(Laughter.)

MS. MYERS: I think that Secretary Pena understands the President's view that we're not taking a position on this particular proposal.

Q Who initiated the call? McLarty?

MS. MYERS: I think the Secretary called Mack this morning.

Q And what was his explanation that he gave the Chief of Staff about expressing his non-administration view?

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MS. MYERS: I think he said that he was expressing a personal opinion and I think he's expressed that quite clearly on the pages of The Washington Post this morning.

Q Dee Dee, I think I understood you to say that the McLarty review would not look at why the IRS descended upon UltraAir, is that right?

MS. MYERS: I don't think so. I think it is -

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it is --
would that qualify as a loaded question, do you think? I don't think that's being considered because what we're looking at is the operation of the White House, the different people on the White House staff who were involved and -

-

Q And who would determine whether the IRS actions were appropriate?

MS. MYERS: I would assume that somebody in the Treasury -- I don't know but I would imagine someone in the Treasury Department if they think there's a problem. I don't think that that is within the White House purview to review the IRS's actions. I don't think that's appropriate.

Q When you closed off the upper press office the reason given was that you all couldn't get a lot of work done with everybody hanging around. Has that been a problem? Are you getting a lot less work done now?

MS. MYERS: That definitely slows my day down a little. I see much more of you guys in person. But it's very pleasant, it's very -

-

it's a great fun. (Laughter.)

Q Have you abandoned your morning and afternoon briefing routine?

MS. MYERS: Yes. We've gone to a -

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because the morning -- the original deal was that since the upper press office was closed, people said, well, we need to get some kind of facts and information in the morning. So the morning briefing was, I think, in exchange for closing the upper press office.

Q Have you abandoned the idea of an 11:30 a.m. briefing? (Laughter.)

MS. MYERS: We can certainly do better on timing. No, but it hasn't worked particularly well this week.

Q Can you give us next week's schedule?

MS. MYERS: I can give you a few things. I don't have much, but for the weekend, he has a 10:00 radio address

Q Are you talking about tomorrow?

MS. MYERS: This is Saturday, tomorrow.

Q Live?

MS. MYERS: Yes, 10:06 a.m. The same time.

Q Subject?

Q Supreme Court.

MS. MYERS: No, I think at this point it depends on what happens. But at this point, we're moving forward with an economic message.

Q What. I don't have any positions today, but stay tuned? (Laughter.)

MS. MYERS: Ann, are you trying to goad me into talking about principles? I'll do it. (Laughter.)

Q I take it back. I withdraw the question. (Laughter.)

MS. MYERS: Okay. And then, Sunday, as you know, is the little bash under the tent, 6:30 p.m. Monday, unclear at this point. Tuesday morning, he'll have a Democratic leadership meeting at 10:00 a.m. On Wednesday morning he will meet with the President of Namibia

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Wednesday morning at 8:30 a.m., and there will probably be some kind of an avail in conjunction with that -

-

the first head of an African country to come to the White House. And also on Wednesday is the CEO lunch at noon.

Thursday -

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Q Do you have the name of the President of Namibia?

MS. MYERS: Yes, I do. President Nujoma.

Thursday he has lunch with the Vice President. Friday he has a lunch meeting and meeting with King Hussein of Jordan.

Q Will we get a photo out of the lunch today?

MS. MYERS: No.

Q Still photo?

MS. MYERS: Possibly. I'll check on that.

Q Dee Dee, might a television address on the economic package be put into that schedule eventually next week?

MS. MYERS:

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I think at some point we'll do one. We don't have any plans to do one next week at this point, but I would reserve the right to add it.

Q What is so special about Monday? Is that being held for Supreme Court?

MS. MYERS: No, there's just a bunch of tentative meetings on here, but nothing -

-

it is Flag Day, which I know is important to all of you. But nothing concrete. It was not being held for anything in particular.

Q Is the Court announcement going to be done as soon as it's available, or were you going to wait until Monday? Are you going to do it tomorrow?

MS. MYERS: No, I think it will be done as soon as it's made.

Q So if it's not today, it very probably will be tomorrow?

MS. MYERS: I think that's a reasonable assumption.

Q Sorry to hear that.

Q Are you going to be discussing next week the possibility of resuming nuclear testing, as the paper suggested?

MS. MYERS: As you know, that's under review. I don't know if it's something that we'll be discussing with Congress. At this point, the President supports a phased approach. But I will take that question and see if we have any plans to talk to Congress.

Q Do you have any new guidance on Somalia?

Q -

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clarifications on your week ahead. Tuesday, Democratic leaders, is that House and Senate?

MS. MYERS: Yes, House and Senate.

Q And Friday, what kind of visit is that for King Hussein?

MS. MYERS: It's a working visit.

Q Will they have a press conference afterwards?

MS. MYERS: I haven't seen the tentative schedule, but I would assume so.

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Q On Yeltsin, does what you said yesterday still hold?

MS. MYERS: Yes. I'm a little confused about the confusion, to tell you the truth, but -

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Q So are we.

MS. MYERS: Yes, I guess that's clear. Let me just make this as clear as I can. At Vancouver, President Yeltsin and President Clinton agreed to meet regularly at the summit level. President Yeltsin invited President Clinton to Moscow, President Clinton accepted. As Secretary Christopher said in Athens yesterday, the details of that visit have not been formally confirmed or announced. And I was simply responding to an erroneous wire report that suggested otherwise.

Q So you're not ruling out a meeting in Moscow either before or after the NATO summit in Brussels in December?

MS. MYERS: It's not -

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the point I was trying to make was that a report suggesting that that had been confirmed is just wrong.

Q Well, the report didn't say it had been confirmed, it said that it was planned.

MS. MYERS: It was planned. There are no specific plans at this point for that, or anything else. But, yes, we will meet regularly with Yeltsin.

Q Again, you're not ruling out a meeting between the President and President Yeltsin on that time frame?

MS. MYERS: I guess I can't rule that out, no.

Q Is this your report, Gene? (Laughter.)

Q Dee Dee, didn't the President receive President Mubarak of Egypt here earlier this year?

MS. MYERS: Yes.

Q Isn't he from Africa?

MS. MYERS: I guess that's right.

Q Ooooooh. (Laughter.)

Q How many countries -

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MS. MYERS: That's right. (Laughter.) I apologize. My mistake.

Q One last thing on the IRS. The White House is not looking into this story at all, or whether it's true or not. Who is?

MS. MYERS: No, no, no. We are looking into -

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what The Post reported today, I think will be part of the review. Whether or not it was a -

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Q It will be part of the review?

MS. MYERS: Let me just be clear. Whether or not it was appropriate for the IRS to investigate or not investigate UltraAir is something completely outside of our purview. We did not have any contact with the IRS. I don't know why -

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I'd have to refer you to them for why they made a decision to go there.

Q But the White House isn't curious as to whether it was done or not?

MS. MYERS: Well, it's not something that we have any control over.

Q You would acknowledge, I would assume, that it's certainly at the very least, a large coincidence that you'd have one official apparently threaten to bring the IRS into the travel office thing, and the IRS suddenly auditing an outfit that hadn't even filed a tax return yet.

MS. MYERS: No one here, unless you guys correct me -

no one here is suggesting that we had contact with the IRS.

Q And I'm not suggesting that, either.

MS. MYERS: I want to make that clear. We didn't contact them; they say that we didn't contact them. If you want to know why they decided to investigate UltraAir, I would suggest that you contact them directly. I can't answer that.

Q But that's something you're not curious about?

Q But it's against the law for them to answer that question unless the government and the person audited or company audited agree to waive the privacy laws. Would you perhaps work with the IRS to get the privacy law waived so that they could answer the question of why they showed up in Smyrna?

MS. MYERS: I'll take that. I don't know what the IRS's process are.

Q I'm just asking because you keep saying contact the IRS about why they did that. The only way they could answer is if they violated the law.

MS. MYERS: Again, I'm not familiar with the IRS process; I don't know how they handle questions about why they do investigations. All I'm saying is that it had nothing to do with us.

Q Does the President think it's appropriate for a senior official of this White House to call the FBI and say, if you don't come in and don't come in immediately we'll bring in the IRS?

MS. MYERS: Again, we're conducting a thorough review to determine exactly what happened.

Q Dee Dee, the problem is that Mack McLarty is the action officer both on the case itself and the after-

action investigation.

MS. MYERS: The action that we've taken here is we've launched this investigation. It is ongoing. It will be completed relatively soon. We think it will provide a thorough review of what happened and we will make appropriate recommendations at the time in the meantime. I just am not going to comment on all of the specific details.

Q Dee Dee, if it appears that in conference even a very scaled-

back broad-

based energy tax does not have sufficient support, would the administration consider supporting in lieu of that an increase in the corporate rate, individual rate, back up to 36 percent -

MS. MYERS: I'm not going to -

Q

in spending cuts to make up the difference which would still meet your basic principles?

MS. MYERS: I'm not going to comment on hypotheticals.

Q Dee Dee, a couple questions please. One, first on the travel office. What is the White House understanding as to the status of the FBI involvement in this case? Is it your understanding that they are conducting an investigation into the original travel office case?

MS. MYERS: You all have it very clear to me that it's not appropriate for me to comment on FBI investigations. I would refer you to them.

Q And could you tell us why a marine amphibious ready group with 2,200 Marines is headed toward Somalia? Is that at the request of the United Nations? And what is the status of that? Has

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Boutros Ghali told the U.S. his determination of what happened in Somalia last week and what steps he wants to take?

MS. MYERS: My understanding is that the decision was made by General Hoar in consultation with the Joint Staff. They're in the process of packing up and will be heading for the Straits of Hormuz, and what exactly their role will be is, I think, unclear at this point. But for operational details I would refer you to the Pentagon.

Q You don't know whether Boutros Ghali has told the U.S. what his determination has been regarding the -

-

MS. MYERS: No. I mean, the decision to make this action was obviously a U.S. decision there under U.S. command.

Q Dee Dee, do you have any idea when the United States will be ready to show a reaction to the alleged assassination plot against former President Bush?

MS. MYERS: At this point we're awaiting the results of the FBI investigation.

Q Any idea of when you will have the results?

MS. MYERS: My understanding is that it's wrapping up, but it's not done.

Q And one other question on that subject. Is there a sense in the White House that there has, assuming the reports are confirmed in some way, that there has to be a reaction, that you can't let this sort of thing slide without doing something? I'm not asking you to tip your hands as to the attack, but you've got to do something, don't you?

MS. MYERS: Well, I think we'll take whatever action we deem is appropriate based on the information in the report.

Q Would you be guided by history in such a decision?

MS. MYERS: We're always guided by history in this administration.

Q Where did you say these Marines are coming from?

MS. MYERS: They were part of a joint action in Kuwait.

Q Dee Dee, the filibuster or the cloture, the failure to get cloture on the Senate Finance Committee -

-

on the campaign finance reform last night, does that mean that your proposal for campaign finance reform is in trouble?

MS. MYERS: No. I believe Senator Boren and others are working to try to work out some kind of compromise. Obviously, we're disappointed that Republicans have chosen to filibuster this bill. The President proposed it. He believes it reflects the will of the American people to get real campaign finance reform to make races more competitive, to open the airwaves. And we're going to continue to push for it. We'll see what happens. But it's unfortunate that the special interests have forced the Republicans into this filibuster position.

Q Dee Dee, what's the status of the Air Force general who was bad

mouthed the President?

MS. MYERS: No change. No change.

Q Are you still waiting for something from the Air Force?

MS. MYERS: Yes.

Q Any indication as to how soon?

MS. MYERS: No. As I said before, they said mid-

June, which is coming up. But I don't know specifically when.

Q There have been different accounts of whether Mrs. Clinton is involved in looking at the Supreme Court candidates. Has she been involved, and has she been reading what Babbitt and Breyer have been writing?

MS. MYERS: She may be familiar with them, but she's not involved in the process, no.

Q Is she at the luncheon meeting?

Q She's not actively -

MS. MYERS: No.

Q She's not?

Q Who was at the lunch today?

MS. MYERS: Just the President -

Q Just the President and the Judge?

MS. MYERS: Yes.

Q Nobody else from the Counsel's Office?

MS. MYERS: No. Although, as has been reported, he met with some folks yesterday and he may talk with others. But the lunch will be the President and the Judge.

Thank you.

Q -

on the Durenberger amendment, the alternative to

MS. MYERS: The President proposed what he thought was the best solution, which was to eliminate the deduction for lobbying to pay for more competitive airwaves. I haven't seen

I don't know
if the President's taken a position on it.

Q The briefing is over with. (Laughter.)

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END 12:58 P.M. EDT

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06/11

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (RECONSTRUCTED EMAIL)

CREATOR: Jonathan P. Gill (GILL_J) (WHO)

CREATION DATE/TIME: 15-JUN-1993 13:36:00.00

SUBJECT: President's Press Conference 6.15.93

TO: (202) 456-6444 (WNS_1) (WHO)
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TO: Christian M. Baldia (BALDIA_C) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Janet Handal (HANDAL_J) (WHO)
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TO: Liz Bowyer (BOWYER_L) (WHO)
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TO: Jeffrey L. Eller (ELLER_J) (WHO)
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TO: Lisa Mortman (MORTMAN_L) (WHO)
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TO: Ernest D. Gibble (GIBBLE_E) (WHO)
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TO: Patricia A. Enright (ENRIGHT_P) (WHO)
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TO: Jonathan P. Gill (GILL_J) (WHO)
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TO: Richard Strauss (STRAUSS_R) (WHO)
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TO: Maria M. Tio (TIO_M) (WHO)
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TO: Joshua N. Silverman (SILVERMAN_J) (WHO)
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TO: Jess Sarmiento (SARMIENTO_J) (WHO)
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TO: Lavera R. Barnes (BARNES_L) (WHO)
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TO: C. Patricia Cogdell (COGDELL_C) (WHO)
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TO: Kimberly S. Hopper (HOPPER_K) (WHO)
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TO: Lorraine A. Voles (VOLES_L) (WHO)
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TO: Margaret C. Sherry (SHERRY_M) (WHO)
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TO: Elizabeth A. Bernstein (BERNSTEIN_E) (WHO)
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TO: Carolyn Curiel (CURIEL_C) (WHO)
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TO: David B. Anderson (ANDERSON_D) (WHO)
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TO: Roy Neel (NEEL_R) (VPO)
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TO: Thurgood Marshall, Jr (MARSHALL_T) (VPO)
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TO: Greg Simon (SIMON_G) (VPO)
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TO: Jack Quinn (QUINN_J) (VPO)
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TEXT:

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release June 15, 1993

PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE PRESIDENT
The Briefing Room

12:00 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thanks for the introduction, Wolf.
(Laughter.)

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to make a couple of opening remarks. First, let me say that this morning I had a good talk with Judge Ginsburg, complimenting her on her very moving statement yesterday. And I assured her that we were moving ahead with this confirmation process. I spoke with Senators Biden and Thurmond and Hatch and asked them to work with me to assure the speediest possible confirmation consistent with the Senate doing its duty. At any rate, I am confident that she will be ready to assume her position on the Supreme Court when the fall term begins in October.

With regard to the economy, we've had, since last Friday, very good reports on low inflation in terms of both producer prices and consumer prices. And in a larger sense, over the last few months, we've seen a continuing reduction in long-

term interest rates, which have given us a 20-

year low in mortgage rates, a seven-

year high in housing sales, and have mightily contributed to the introduction into this economy of 755,000 new jobs, well over 90 percent of them in the private sector.

I am confident that the continuation of this trend depends on our ability to pass a strong economic program through the Congress, which reduces the deficit, increases investment in our future, and is fair in terms of requiring a fair apportionment of the burden. The plan that the House passed, that the Senate Finance Committee is now dealing with, for every \$10 that the deficit is reduced, \$5 comes from spending cuts, \$3.75 from upper income people, \$1.25 from the middle class, and families with incomes under \$30,000 are held harmless.

I hope that the principles I have outlined will be honored as this program moves through the Congress. The Senate Finance Committee has some tough decisions to make. I don't expect to agree with all of them, but I think they will produce a bill. I think the Senate will produce a bill. And then we can go on to conference and see what the final shape of the economic plan that the whole Congress will vote on will be.

I'm encouraged -

-

quite upbeat -- by the reports I've received from Senator Moynihan, Senator Mitchell and others about the progress being made there, and I just want to encourage the Senate to move forward.

Finally, let me say that the Senate is dealing with another very difficult and very important issue now, and that's campaign finance reform. I have believed for a long time that we can't get thorough going economic reform in our country until we have political reform. That requires the lobby reform legislation that is moving its way through Congress; but, very importantly, campaign finance reform to lower the cost of campaigns, reduce the influence of special interests and PACs, and open the airwaves to more honest debate.

The troubling thing, obviously, is that the Republican senators have announced that they may yet again filibuster a bill. And the thing that particularly troubles me about this one is that several Republicans voted for a bill not unlike this last year, which contained public financing. If, in fact, this filibuster occurs, it will be the second time that Republican senators who voted for a piece of progressive legislation when there was a Republican in the White House have now voted against it and have filibustered it. The first was on the motor voter bill where eventually we were able to work out the problems and get a bill passed.

But I think this is very, very important. And I very much hope that the senators will reconsider and let this bill go forward. We need to pass a strong campaign finance reform bill this year. Political reform and economic reform in my judgment over the long run must go hand in hand, and time is long since past when we should have campaign finance reform.

Now having said that, I think I ought to give Brit his follow-

up. (Laughter.)

Q I hope you don't mind if I follow-

up on another subject, sir. In the House -

-

THE PRESIDENT: You know what I'm really upset about? You got a honeymoon, and I didn't. (Laughter.)

Q Yes, sir, but you got to end it. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, let's extend it then, go ahead.

Q The House liberals in particular, Black Caucus in particular, seem in a some what mutinous mood as they watch the deliberations in the Senate on your economic program, and I'm wondering, sir, what do you say to them to assure them that the tough vote they felt they cast for your program was not in vain and that you haven't really cut the rug out from under them.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I've not cut the rug out from under them at all. I have not agreed to any provision that the Senate Finance Committee is deliberating. There's been no agreement on any issue. I have set out principles -- \$500 billion in deficit reduction; a deficit reduction trust fund for all the tax increases and spending cuts; at least \$250 billion in spending cuts, although I would like some more cuts and some less taxes. Seventy-

five percent of the burden has to fall on upper-

income people, and we ought to keep the incentives for growth and for empowerment of the working poor and the incentives to move people from welfare to work.

Those are the things that I want to see in the final

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bill. And what I have assured the Black Caucus, and let me say, I have talked to, oh, probably 15 of the members in the last week or so just in that Caucus and many other members of the House, is that the principles that I outlined are still there and that we'll do our best to articulate those as the Senate deals with this bill.

But the real test will be what happens in the conference and what the final bill looks like that the House and the Senate will vote on. And, again, I'm quite encouraged that we'll get a bill out that they'll feel good about. They made it clear to me what they felt most strongly about. And the two things above all were the earned income tax credit for the working poor, which is an important part of our welfare reform incentive, and the empowerment zones for the depressed urban and rural areas.

And there are all kinds of parliamentary issues that, as you know, the Senate has to consider in all this, but I'm confident that in the end the bill that they vote on in the House to send to me for signature will have those things in it.

Q Mr. President, do you perceive a loss of public confidence in your presidency because of wavering domestically and in foreign policy? And what do you plan to do about it if -

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THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q -

-

there is such a thing? You don't -

-

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there is no wavering. If somebody had told you at Christmastime, Helen, that by June the 1st we'd have unemployment under 7 percent for the first time in a year-

and-

a-

half;
755,000 new jobs; a 20-

year low in interest rates; a seven-

year high
in housing sales; that the United States would have led a global effort to support Boris Yeltsin; sign the global warming treaty -- that actually happened on -

-

I mean, the Biodiversity Treaty -

-

that
actually happened on June the 4th; pass family leave and pass the motor voter legislation; repeal the gag rule and the ban on fetal tissue research to allow more science and less politics in medical research. I'd say most people would think that was a pretty decisive record; that we would have moved this budget through the House of Representatives, sent it to the Senate -

-

much tougher decisions than
were required in the Reagan budget in 1981, on a faster track -

-

on a
faster track -

-

I think people would have said at Christmastime,
that's a pretty good and decisive record.

We haven't solved the problem in Bosnia that has plagued everybody. I concede that. The Europeans wouldn't go along with my proposed resolution. I still think they may be compelled to do that or something very near like it if they want to get anything done over there. And I think we're going forward. I like the Supreme Court judge that I picked. I don't think it shows any wavering at all on that.

Q You don't think there is a public feeling that
you're indecisive? I mean, on the -

-

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THE PRESIDENT: Well, all I'm telling you is -

Q

highly touted issues -

the budget, Bosnia.

THE PRESIDENT: Let me tell you something about Bosnia. On Bosnia, I made a decision. The United Nations controls what happens in Bosnia. I cannot unilaterally lift the arms embargo. I didn't change my mind. Our allies decided that they weren't prepared to go that far at this time. They asked me to wait, and they said they would not support it. I didn't change my mind.

And as far as the budget, I don't -

how can you say that? No President's budget has been taken seriously in this town for a dozen years. Three-

quarters of the Republicans in the House of Representatives voted against President Bush's last budget. I sent a budget up there that passed -

a budget resolution passed on time for the first time in 17 years. And we're out here fighting for these tough decisions. How could anybody say -

this is the most decisive presidency you've had in a very long time on all the big issues that matter.

And I might say, all the heat we're getting from people is because of the decisions that have been made, not because of those that haven't.

Q Mr. President, since the United States began bombing in Somalia, the Pakistani peacekeepers on the ground opened fire on civilians. There have been reports that civilians have died as a result of our action. We haven't heard from you since Saturday on this subject. What is your assessment of the U.N. action there? And how much longer is the U.S. bombing going to go on?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the action that we took was, I think, appropriate in response to what happened, which is that Pakistani peacekeepers were ambushed and murdered. There's no question about that. The action that we took was designed to minimize as much as we possibly could any damage or any injury or any death to civilians.

What happened with the Pakistanis is in some doubt in the sense that they're saying the first time they were ambushed, they were ambushed by people who stood behind women and children and used them as a defense. And as I understand it, the U.N. is trying to get to the bottom of that. I expect them to do it and to take appropriate action and to take every appropriate step to make sure that U.N. peacekeepers do not -

do not -

cause injury or death to innocent people in Somalia. That is the United Nations' job and the United States expects them to do it.

Q We've also gone from being the heroes in Somalia now to apparently a feeling in the towns themselves of "yankee, go home." I mean, are you concerned that this action is sort of becoming counterproductive?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that on balance, I still believe that most people in the country think that we came in there, we ended starvation, we ended brutalization, we ended violence, we opened up the country again to the beginnings of civilization. I am very sorry about what happened this last week. But we cannot have a situation where one of these warlords, while everybody else is cooperating, decides that he can go out and slaughter 20 peacekeepers. And so, yes, there have been some tensions as a result of that. But we had to take appropriate action. And I hope very much that we can get back to the peacekeeping function as soon as possible.

Q Mr. President, the attack against the peacekeepers in Somalia raises questions about the safety of U.N. forces everywhere. As you send American troops into Macedonia, how much risk are you exposing them to and will the United States take action when U.N. peacekeepers are attacked?

THE PRESIDENT: The United States has made it clear that we would take action if U.N. peacekeepers were attacked in Bosnia. And obviously, we're going to protect our own soldiers. I believe that the Macedonian deployment carries minimal risk and carries maximum gain in terms of the statement that we don't intend to see this conflict widen.

But I think that all Americans know and have to know that whenever we send people around the world, even if they're on peacekeeping missions, there is some risk to them.

Q Mr. President, getting back to Judge Ginsburg for a moment. I know that you're familiar with her Madison lecture and her rather provocative statements about the judicial reach of Roe versus Wade. Can you tell me how comfortable you are with her challenge to the whole theoretical construct to that landmark ruling, and whether you feel confident that she will, once on the Court, meet what you had said during the campaign was your concerns about continuing -

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THE PRESIDENT: I think if you read the lecture, she is clearly pro-

choice in the sense that she believes the government should not make that decision for the women of America. She disagrees with the rationale of the decision. I'm not sure I agree with her, as a matter of fact, on that issue, but I thought it was a very provocative and impressive argument. And she, as a matter of fact -- I have always thought that Roe v. Wade was the most difficult case decided in the last 25 years because it was such a difficult issue and that the Court would have had -

-

did the best it could under the circumstances. She made a very interesting alternative suggestion, but there is no suggestion in any of her writings that she's not pro-

choice. And that was to me the important thing.

Q How much -

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can I follow? How much did you actually discuss legal theory with her? Can you give us some sense of -

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THE PRESIDENT: I didn't discuss that with her

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I'd read the writings and they'd been widely discussed. I talked to her

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when we -- we talked for about an hour-

and-

a-

half, I talked to her a little bit and asked her about a couple of cases that she had been associated with in the business law area and a couple of the cases she fought for women's rights on, just to sort of talk about them, to get a feel for it. And we talked a little bit about one of the religious liberty cases she dealt with involving the right of a soldier to wear a yarmulke. Again, I just wanted to hear her talk about that. That whole issue of religious freedom is a very big issue in my judgment and I wanted to hear her discuss it.

Q Did you discuss homosexual rights with her?

THE PRESIDENT: Not at all. It never came up.

Q And are you at all concerned about some of her rulings in that area?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, we understand you're about to make a decision on the future of the space station, one way you could

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quickly cut some government spending. Could you let us in on your thoughts? We know there are various proposals -- big, medium, little, none at all. And also, the supercollider, since there's a considerable amount of opposition to that as well.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I'll have statements on them in the very near future. If not today, in the next few days. Let me just make one comment about the space station generally. As you know, I have supported both projects in the past. The thing about the space station, first of all, I want to say is a word of compliment to the Vest Commission that just completed its review. And not only of the space station, but of the management structure of NASA and how they interrelate. And they make some very provocative and thought-

provoking and I thought very important recommendations and suggestions about how not only this project should be dealt with, but about how NASA should operate the project and should proceed. So I have them under review.

I do think it's important to recognize that the space station offers us the potential of working with other nations and continuing our lead in a very important area and having a significant technological impact; and that in the aftermath of all the cutbacks in defense and what they mean for science and technology, it is something that we should, in my judgment, consider very carefully. Keep in mind, a lot of the people who say, well, I don't like the space station, or I don't really think the supercollider is the best use of our investments in physics, they may be arguing about other investments that they think ought to be made. We're talking here about reducing America's investment in space and science and technology. And that's something I think we need to think about a long time before we do.

Q It sounds like you're going to continue -

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THE PRESIDENT: Well, wait and see what I say. I'm going to issue a very careful statement to the Congress in the next few days, which will outline my position.

Q In regard to Judge Ginsburg, do you have any regrets about the process which led to her nomination -

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THE PRESIDENT: I have one big regret

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Q -

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Mr. Babbitt and Mr. Breyer's -

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THE PRESIDENT: First of all, I strongly dispute that I hung them out. I regret the leaks. But it's not fair to say I hung them out. Any senator I talk to will tell you, when I called to discuss Judge Breyer, I also said, I've got someone else I'm looking at. Anybody will tell you that. I told Bruce Babbitt the first day I called him, I want to know if you agree to be considered. I don't know if the country can afford to lose you as Interior Secretary. The truth is

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and I said this yesterday; I will say it again -

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I've never seen such an outpouring of support for any public official in my adult lifetime as we got for Bruce Babbitt to continue as Interior Secretary while we work through the issues in the Northwest and deal with a lot of these other issues.

I think -

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I will say again -

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I think Steven Breyer is superbly qualified to be on the Supreme Court. I think both of them would have been confirmed by very large margins. I have no doubt in my mind of that. I really believe that she was the best candidate at

ARMS Email System

this time. I was immensely impressed with the kind of inner strength and character that she demonstrated out there in the Rose Garden yesterday, and that's why I picked her. But do I regret the fact that there were leaks and that that may have exposed them more than they would otherwise have been? I certainly do. And I'd be happy to -

-

you know, we ought to do better with that. And if somebody's got any suggestions about how I can, I'd like to have them.

Q Sir, we have not had the opportunity to ask you your reaction to the derogatory remarks about you that were reportedly made by the Air Force General in Europe. How did you feel when you heard about that? And why have you tolerated it the way you have?

THE PRESIDENT: First of all, I have not tolerated it. I have simply permitted the Air Force to handle this in the ordinary course of business, as I thought was appropriate. The Air Force is dealing with this issue. I have been fully briefed on it. I had two feelings about it, frankly. For me personally, I didn't care; people say whatever they want to say about me personally. It had no impact on me. And I thought, well, here's a guy who's served his country and, you know, so what if he doesn't like me and he doesn't know me from Adam -

-

so, you know, he's just repeating something he's heard. But for a general officer to say that about the Commander-

in-

Chief is a -

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if that happened - is a very bad thing. And so we are -

-

the Air Force is investigating it. They're going to make a report once they have all the facts, and then they will -

-

there will be some action taken. But I don't think that I should personally intervene as long as the Air Force is doing what is appropriate.

Q You say you've been briefed on the situation, and we've been told by your folks that this would be resolved by the middle of June. We're at that point now. What have they told you so far?

THE PRESIDENT: Just what I told you -- that the Air Force felt very strongly that someone should go to Europe, find out exactly what happened, get all the facts, and take appropriate action.

Q

-

confirmed, though, to you that he said it?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know if the fact-

finder has come back from Europe. And I have not gotten the final report yet. All I've gotten so far is second-

hand stuff.

Q Mr. President, on Bosnia, could we take your earlier remarks here today to mean that you are now revisiting a tougher policy on Bosnia and that you might go back to the Europeans to sell them -

-

try to sell them once again on bombing the Serbs?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, let me -- I wouldn't characterize it quite that way, but let me restate what I said before. I just want to make it clear that I don't think an unwillingness to move alone in Bosnia on arms embargo issues, and we supported bombing to support -

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if you will, if you remember -

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the position we had was that we would support the use of air power to back up a freeze of heavy artillery in place while the arms embargo was equalizing the opportunity that the sides had to work out their business. We thought that would lead, frankly, to a cease-

fire and ultimately to a peace agreement.

From the beginning, even after the British and French said we don't want to do this right now and we will not vote for it or support it in the United Nations, and the Russians said the same thing, they all agreed to leave the option on the table if their other efforts failed. What I want to reaffirm to you is that that is still my position. I still think that they may be the only way we can them to have a real meaningful cease-

fire and a real meaningful peace agreement. And that option was never taken off the table. The British and French and the Russians never said to me flat out they would never go along. They said they thought they could do better. It seems to me that the political situation has deteriorated since then. And my position has not changed. But I am willing to work with them to do what we can do.

Q Sir, the NAFTA, the agreement with Mexico, you're going to take jobs down there and plants down -

-

they'll leave the jobs vacant here and take the plants down there. How will -

-

how do you figure that they can make enough goods in Mexico at those low rates and the U.S. brought in plants -

-

how do you figure that they can buy goods up here? We won't have anybody up here to sell -

-

we won't have anybody up here to make goods in our plants -

-

our plants

-

-

gone to Mexico. We won't have anything to sell -

-

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that's the argument against NAFTA, but I don't believe that will happen, and I'll tell you why.

Q -

-

you see it?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I can see it. Look what's happened in the last five years. There have been any number of plants that have moved into Mexico; they can continue to do that now under the present law. The Maquiladora Line has been extended well beyond the Rio Grande River. There are lots of plants down there. But just a few years ago we had a \$5-

billion trade deficit with Mexico; now we have a \$6-

billion trade surplus. Last month, they replaced Japan as the second biggest purchaser of our manufacturing products. There are over 80 million Mexicans. As their incomes go up, they will buy more from us. If we can work out an agreement with them, we will then be able to move to similar agreements with countries even further from us, but in our region in Latin America, like Argentina and Venezuela and other countries, and I believe that that will create far more jobs than it will cost. There will be some changes, but I believe that NAFTA will help us to create jobs.

Now, I promised to hear from you, and then I've got to go. Go ahead.

Q On the budget, although you are committed, as you say, to a \$500-

billion deficit reduction package, it appears that you seem to be giving an indirect endorsement to continuing the space station and the superconductor collider. If that be the case, then

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in a final budget bill are you willing to accept a final reconciliation package that includes a scaled-

down energy tax and some elimination of certain corporate tax incentives, such as suggested by Senator Bradley -

-

specifically a minimum tax, elimination of VAT tax, elimination of expensing provisions in a final bill, particularly if interest rates remain low?

THE PRESIDENT: The most important thing is to get the deficit reduction -- have the tax burden be very progressive, fall 75 percent on the wealthy and have at least as many spending cuts as you do tax increases.

Let me answer very specifically your questions. And let me just tell you that in general, first of all, I have an enormous respect for Senator Bradley; and I think the '86 tax reform act did an awful lot of good in eliminating a lot of loopholes, deductions and things that it's very difficult to argue for and in trying to get rates down.

Now having said that, I still believe that there is a distinction to be made between investment and consumption by businesses and individuals; and that the tax system of this country should at the very least not penalize investment. I have favored some changes in the alternative minimum tax because I believe the way it operates now you put people in a very difficult position when they want to go invest in plant and equipment if it triggers the alternative minimum tax burden, even when they're just investing. So, I would like to see some modification in that.

He may have some ideas about how we can have a better modification or maybe he says we don't need as much money, but I think conceptually important. The second thing, the small business community is the major generator of jobs in America. has been for the last 12 years. Their job generating capacity has slowed recently because it costs a lot of extra money to hire an employee and because of uncertainties in the economy. I believe if we increase the small business expensing provision from \$10,000 to \$25,000 that for millions of small businesspeople out there who are the backbone of this economy, they will then see the wisdom in continuing to invest, continuing to expand, and a lot of people might hire one more person, two more people, three more people in ways that will create jobs for the economy.

In the end this is a jobs package. So, there is an expensing provision in the tax code right now for small business; I just think it ought to be bigger and I think it's a job generator.

I'll see you in a couple of days.

Q In a couple of days?

THE PRESIDENT: A couple of months. (Laughter.)

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END12:28 P.M. EDT

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (RECONSTRUCTED EMAIL)

CREATOR: Jonathan P. Gill (GILL_J) (WHO)

CREATION DATE/TIME:16-JUN-1993 13:33:00.00

SUBJECT: Remarks by the President at CEO Lunch 6.16.93

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TO: Christian M. Baldia (BALDIA_C) (WHO)
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TEXT:

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release June 16, 1993
REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
DURING LUNCH WITH CEOs

Old Family Dining Room

12:40 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: I'd just like to make one comment to reinforce the importance of passing this economic plan. We've got interest rates now down to a 20-

year low and home mortgage rates. And this new headline: "Inflation Slows, Rates Holding." That's the direction we want. We want a steady recovery. And we have got to pass this economic plan and do it in the near future to ensure that that goes on.

Let me just mention one statistic. In the first four months of this administration, we had 130,000 new construction jobs in this country because of low interest rates. That is the largest increase in nine years in a four-

month period. We can bring this economy back if we pass the plan, get the deficit down, keep the interest rates down, and keep the investment flowing to create jobs in the country.

And I think it is terribly important. And I just wanted to emphasize that to impress upon the country the importance of what the United States Senate is grappling with now. They simply have to pass this plan and go forward.

Q Do you think that there will be a deal? And will it have a significant enough -

-

THE PRESIDENT: I'm encouraged.

Q

-

energy tax to make it worthwhile?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it depends on what the

-

let's
look at the final plan. I think -- you know, the Senate is going to
change the energy tax, but if they have enough deficit reduction and
they go to the conference committee, I think that they will come out
ultimately with a bill that I'll feel good about.

Q Mr. President, on another subject, were you
influenced by the letter-

writing campaign on behalf of Judge
Ginsburg? Did that help persuade you to take another look at her?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Did you read any of the letters?

THE PRESIDENT: I read some of the letters that came in
on behalf of many candidates. But I was unaware of any big letter

writing campaign. I saw seven or eight letters for her.

Q

-

influence your decision at all?

THE PRESIDENT: No, only that a lot of people thought a
lot of her. There were also good letters for I would say 10
candidates that I read. I read a lot of letters that came in

Q The Marines that are now heading

Q

-

campaign financing

-

the vote on the Hill?

THE PRESIDENT: Excuse me?

Q On the campaign financing, have you heard anymore
about a possible compromise?

THE PRESIDENT: Just what you have

-

that they're
working on it, and that they may adopt one which we would find
acceptable. But I want to see what they do

Q

-

been in communication with

-

THE PRESIDENT: A little bit. We know they're trying to
work it out. And I'm encouraged. What I said in response, I think,
to Andrea's question this morning, is that I think those five
Republican senators who voted for campaign finance reform last year

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must surely want to do it again. They know that special interests, financing, and excessive spending have really undermined the public's faith in the political process. So I think we've got a chance to get one.

Q Mr. President, 2,200 Marines en route to the Somali coast. Can you shed any light on that?

Q Thank you.

Q Enjoy your lunch.

THE PRESIDENT: Lunchtime.

Q We don't get any.

THE PRESIDENT: You know I don't believe that.
(Laughter.)

Q This is true.

END12:45 P.M. EDT

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (RECONSTRUCTED EMAIL)

CREATOR: Jonathan P. Gill (GILL_J) (WHO)

CREATION DATE/TIME: 17-JUN-1993 21:19:00.00

SUBJECT: The President's Press Conference 6.17.93

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TEXT:

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release June 17, 1993

PRESS CONFERENCE BY THE PRESIDENT

The East Room

8:02 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good evening. Ladies and gentlemen, first I want to speak with you about a situation that all of us have followed very closely in the last week, and that is the United Nations' action in Somalia.

General Powell reported to me this afternoon that this operation is over and that it was a success. The United Nations, acting with the United States and other nations, has crippled the forces in Mogadishu of warlord Aideed, and remains on guard against further provocation. Aideed's forces were responsible for the worst attack on U.N. peacekeepers in three decades. We could not let it go unpunished.

Our objectives were clear: The U.N. sought to preserve the credibility of peacekeeping in Somalia and around the world, to get the food moving again, and to restore security. I want to congratulate the American and the United Nations' forces who took part in this operation. In this battle, heroism knew no flag. And in this era, our nation must and will continue to exert global leadership as we have done this week in Somalia.

Here at home, America is on the move. These past few days have been an impressive and important series of victories for the American people. Congress has taken major steps to limit the influence of special interest and their money in our lawmaking and in our campaigns. Congressional committees have also approved my plan for more college loans for the American people and to enable tens of

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thousands of them to pay their loans off by community service through their states and nation.

But the most important thing I want to discuss is the progress that is being made, the remarkable progress, on the economic plan. Last month the House of Representatives passed the plan to reduce the deficit, the first step toward creating jobs and increasing incomes. Yesterday, the Senate Finance Committee cleared the way for action by the full Senate.

Make no mistake about it, this means that we are putting our economic house in order. Getting the economy back on track depends upon Congress passing this economic plan. It's necessary; it's fair; and it will work.

I propose, indeed, I have insisted upon \$500 billion in deficit reduction to be locked away in a deficit reduction trust fund. We will be making historic cuts in the deficit by making historic cuts first in government spending, then by making high-

income Americans pay their fair share so middle-

class Americans will be treated fairly in the tax burden, for a change.

Seventy-

five percent of the new taxes proposed fall on the top six percent of the American people -

those with incomes above \$100,000. Now, some of the critics of this plan in Congress prefer instead to cut Social Security or health care or tax benefits for elderly people just above the poverty line, or working people just above the poverty line so that the wealthy won't pay so much. I'm here tonight to say to you and to the American people that I will draw the line here. We have to reduce the deficit by reducing the unfairness of the tax patterns of the 1980s and, once again, asking all Americans to do what is right and fair. We can't simply balance the budget on the backs of the old, the sick, the veterans and those who work hard, but are just barely making ends meet. It's not right.

Let's look at what's at stake here. First of all, this chart shows that if we do nothing, the inherited deficit, what we found when I came into office, will go up by 1998 to about \$400 billion a year. If this deficit reduction plan is passed, we will cut \$500 billion out of the deficit. That's the difference in this line and that.

As all of you know, and as you've pointed out in various ways in the last few weeks, I just got here. And I may have a lot to learn, but I didn't create the red line. What I'm trying to do is to change the red line and bring the yellow line in. And let me say, to get the yellow line down here, we have to bring about an affordable health care plan for every American. And that's the next big step.

But look what this deficit reduction plan alone will do. I want to emphasize once again, because there's been so much talk about taxes, that this is the most progressive tax plan this country has seen in decades. Two-

thirds of the money will be paid by people with incomes above \$200,000. Seventy percent of the economic gains of the last decade went to the top one percent of the American people. They are in a position now to pay more to help make this economy move again, and they will.

This is the monthly payment, if my full economic plan is passed, by people with incomes above \$200,000. And you can see what happens here to the plan with an actual modest break for people at the bottom end of the income scale. This is a very progressive and fair plan.

Now, finally, let me say there's been a lot of talk about spending cuts here. If you look at this plan, for every \$10 in deficit reduction, \$5, half of it, comes in spending cuts; \$3.75 of the \$10 comes in tax increases on the highest income Americans, the upper six percent; and \$1.25 comes in taxes from the middle class, people with incomes below \$100,000 but roughly above \$30,000. Families with incomes below \$30,000 are held harmless in this program.

Now, that's the way this program works. Five dollars in spending cuts, \$3.75 in taxes from the wealthiest Americans, \$1.25 in taxes from the middle class. It's fair and it's balanced. And I hope that the Congress will adopt it.

Let me say that as I open the floor to questions, the real issue here is whether we will reverse the pattern of the last 12 years where Presidents send budgets to Congress that are never seriously considered and everybody is afraid to talk about taxes because they're afraid, no matter what happens, that will dominate the agenda, nobody will know about spending cuts, nobody will know about deficit reduction, nobody will know about fairness. I've tried to tell the truth to the American people. And if this plan passes, you will see a continuation of what's happened already in the last five months. Low interest rates, increased housing sales, more jobs

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coming into the economy.

In the four first months of this economy alone we had a bigger growth in construction employment, 130,000 people, than we have had in nine years. Why? Because we're serious about bringing the deficit down. That's what this last week means. It means continued victory for the American people if we can stay on this road.

Q Since Vance-

Owen is dead, will the United States approve of a partition of Bosnia if the three factions meeting in Geneva actually approve it? And also, isn't NATO really obsolescent now? I mean, hasn't it outlived -

-

it can't stop the slaughter in Europe, it won't be the policeman in Europe?

THE PRESIDENT: There's two separate questions. First of all, as you know, my preference was for a multi-

ethnic state in Bosnia. But if the parties themselves, including the Bosnian government, agree -

-

genuinely and honestly agree to a different solution -

-

then the United States would have to look at it very seriously.

Secondly, I do not agree that NATO is dead. NATO was limited in what it could do in this instance because there was no agreement among the NATO partners, first of all, and because any organization of states was limited by the rules that the United Nations imposed in the former Yugoslavia -

-

on the arms embargo, for example.

The clearest example I know to give you that NATO is not dead was provided by the leaders of all the Eastern European countries that used to be communist that aren't anymore. When they came here a few weeks ago for the Holocaust dedication, every one of those Presidents said that their number one priority was to get into NATO. They know it will provide a security umbrella for the people who are members. And I think we need to continue to be involved in it.

Q Who's the enemy?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there will be different enemies. The enemy will be anybody that threatens the security and the peace of the member nations, the values that we hold important. There are all kinds of possible problems in the years ahead, from terrorism, from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, from yet unforeseen developments in countries around NATO. So I don't think it's time to dismantle NATO. I think it's very, very important.

Q Mr. President, doesn't this plan for carving up Bosnia send a dangerous message to separatists around the world, particularly in the former Soviet Union, that military aggression pays?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that this plan shows that a civil war which has roots going back centuries -

-

literally centuries

-

based on ethnic and religious differences has not been resolved in the way that I certainly would have hoped. I think Serbian aggression has been rewarded to the extent that the United Nations resolution permitted the Serbs to send arms to the Bosnian Serbs and permitted the Croats that were next door to Croatia to have access to more weapons than the Bosnian government, predominantly Muslim, had. And I think that was a mistake. But I don't think that anybody should overlearn that lesson. Everyone who looks at this concedes that this is perhaps our most difficult foreign policy problem.

Q Mr. President, getting back to your pie chart, you said that a \$1.25 from the tax increase will hurt the middle class. During the campaign -

-

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THE PRESIDENT: I don't think it will hurt the middle class. I think that it will help the middle class because it will be a way of bringing the deficit down.

Q A dollar and a quarter out of that tax bite will hit the middle class. In the PBS debate during the campaign, you said the only thing Paul Tsongas has recommended that I haven't is a three-

to five-

cent-

a-

year gas tax increase, and I'll be darned if I understand why we should do that without giving some offsetting tax relief. Then, in Putting People First, which was your campaign manifesto, you said you opposed a federal excise gas tax -

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I quote
-- "instead of a back-

breaking federal gas tax, we should try conservation."

Why are you now willing to go along with the Senate plan to keep it moving through the Senate for a gasoline tax? Do you think you can defeat it in conference, and if you do, will you try to restore the Btu tax, as your Budget Director suggested today? And if so, won't you then lose Senators Boren and Breaux and all the other opponents when it gets back to the Senate? Isn't it a no-

win
situation?

THE PRESIDENT: First of all, I think it is a win-

win
situation if the Senate passes a budget that has \$500 billion in deficit reduction, locks the spending cuts away in a trust fund, and asks the highest-

income Americans to pay their fair share. I think that's a win-

win situation because I think we'll go to conference and we'll get a plan that will meet those criteria and will also be fairer to middle-

class people and to the working poor. There's also a lot of important provisions in there that I care about that will help to encourage people to move from welfare to work.

The Senate bill is very different. It does have a 4.3 percent fuel tax in it. That is very different from \$.03 a year which is \$.15 over five years; or 5.05 cents a year, which is \$.25 over five years. A 4.3 percent tax flat is not nearly as onerous as that. I wish we didn't have to do that. But I would remind you that after the election and before I took office the aggregate deficit over the next five years was written up by \$165 billion. I'm doing the best I can to use very conservative, hard-

headed revenue estimates to get the deficit down, keep interest rates down, so that people in the middle class can save more money than they'll pay if they refinance a car loan or a home loan or take out a business loan with lower interest rates.

And tonight, there will be millions of people who will either watch us or hear about this tomorrow who have refinanced their homes just since November -

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with interest rates dropping, they'll save more money in one year than they'll pay in five years under this program. So I still think, on balance, it is the right thing to do.

Q You say this Somalia operation has been a success. Does that mean that the United States and U.N. forces have captured the Somalia warlord, General Mohamed Farah Aideed, and his associates including Colonel Omar Jess? And if you haven't captured them, what are you planning on doing with them if you do capture them? Are they going to be put on war crimes tribunal or anything like that?

THE PRESIDENT: No, they have not been arrested. The purpose of the operation was to undermine the capacity of Aideed to wreak military havoc in Mogadishu. He murdered 23 U.N. peacekeepers. And I would remind you that before the United States and the United Nations showed up, he was responsible for the deaths of countless Somalis -

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from starvation, from disease, and from killing.

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The back

-
the military back of Aided has been broken.
A warrant has been issued for his arrest. If he is, in fact,
arrested, then the United Nations will have to determine what
appropriate action to take. That is the decision the United States
is leaving to the United Nations, and one I believe we should.

Q Mr. President, the original deadline for the
unveiling of your -

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THE PRESIDENT: I'm sorry, that's a great tie. I just
lost it for a moment there. (Laughter.) I wish the American people
could see this tie. (Laughter.) Go ahead. I'm sorry.

Q Some people believe that that's what the White
House press corps is all about, Mr. President, Mickey Mouse.
(Laughter.)

The original deadline for your -

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the unveiling of your
health care reform plan has come and gone. When will the plan be
unveiled? What are the prospects for congressional passage this
year? And if you don't get it done this year, won't it be very
difficult to do so next year because of the congressional elections?

THE PRESIDENT: Let me answer the first question. The
task force has made its report to me. They have given me a number of
options from which I must choose before I can finalize a bill. The
White House is continuing to consult with people who know a lot about
this issue. My wife, as you know, went to speak to the American
Medical Association just a few days ago.

Is he trying to give me some water? (Laughter.) Let me
answer the question first. Thank you. John. He always wanted to be
on television. I hope his mother -

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(laughter.)

The American -

-
my wife talked to the American Medical
Association recently. We are consulting regularly with both the
Democratic and Republican members of Congress. She also had a long
meeting with several Republican House members just a couple of days
ago.

We have determined that -

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first -

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and I, personally,
am getting quite close to making the final choices from among the
options there. I do not believe we can make any serious attempt to
go forward with this until the economic plan and the budget is in
place; then we will go forward with it.

I think because of all the consultation which has been
done and all the work that's been done, there's a real shot we can
act on it this year. I do not share the view that there's no chance
Congress will act next year, although I believe we can do it this
year, because I expect a lot of Republican as well as Democratic
support for this.

And I think that this issue affects the American people
so deeply -

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there are millions of families out there who are
terrified they're going to lose their health insurance, who are
terrified they can't afford it, who are terrified because somebody's
been sick in their family, if they have to change jobs they'll be
without it; as well as all those who are working for a living without
health insurance; as well as all the businesses that are afraid
they're going to go broke, that the impetus behind doing
something will be very great. I think it will be good, not bad, for
the American political system to act on this.

So I think whenever the debate really begins in
earnest, you will see the prospects of passage intensify, not
diminish.

Q If that does go over until next year, sir, will that become the issue in congressional elections?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that and the condition of the economy will be the big issues. And whether we are actually facing up to our responsibilities in this new global economy. But that wouldn't be the worse thing in the world, except I hope and believe that the plan will pass before all that political season starts.

Q Mr. President, Mrs. Clinton recently said that she hopes to tackle welfare reform as her next priority. Will she head the administration's welfare reform effort? And do you expect to get that done this year, too, or is that something that will have to wait until 1994?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that, again, is a subject that I expect we'll have broad bipartisan support on. And I would expect that all of us will be involved in it. My wife is very interested in this because it affects children.

But let me say that the first big block of the welfare reform package is now being considered by Congress, and that is the earned income tax credit. Most Americans don't know what that is, but basically it is a change in the tax code that will permit us to say to working families if you work 40 hours a week and have a child in your house, you can be lifted out of poverty. That will remove all the financial incentive to prefer welfare to work if we can then pass in the health care reform health coverage for all children, like every other country does, so we remove that incentive.

But we expect to have a welfare reform package that will literally end welfare as we know it -

that will put a time limit on welfare and, after that, people who have been through the education and training programs will have to work. And I, again, would like that if it could be done this year. That will depend on how warmly embraced it is by Congress.

Let me just make one other point. The national service bill, which will provide more college loans and the opportunity to work them off with service, is moving through Congress more quickly than most people thought because we were able to get good bipartisan support and work out a lot of the details. If we can do that on welfare reform, I think we can do it this year.

Q Mr. President, going back to the budget for a moment, if you manage to get the budget passed, as it seems to be heading, you will have achieved two major objectives: deficit reduction and getting the wealthy to pay a larger share of the cost of government. But there was a third major objective that you talked about in the campaign and early on in your administration as crucial for the health of the economy, which was your investment package, your new spending that you proposed, which does not seem to be faring well in Congress at all. So you seem to be in a position where you've managed to overturn Reaganomics, but not enact Clintonomics.

So let me ask you two things about that. One is why? What's your analysis of why your spending programs have not been successful? And, second, what do you propose to do about it?

THE PRESIDENT: If you look at the budgets, if you look at where we're going with the budgets, we had to cut back all spending in the first two years of this five-

year budget period to deal with the fact that the deficit was higher than we thought it would be. And I had to do that as well. But this is a five-

year budget for long-

term growth of the American economy.

Over the long run, we do have to increase investment. Let me also say that just because we are freezing all domestic discretionary spending for five years doesn't mean there aren't changes within those categories. We're cutting a lot of stuff so that we can increase investment in things like Head Start for children and job training for workers and new technologies to help convert from a defense to a domestic economy. A lot of that new investment is in there.

Secondly, I expect this bill to treat the other part of my investment budget, that is, the private sector part, quite well. I think there will be an increase in the expensing allowance for small business, which will really help small businesspeople to hire more workers. I think there will be an empowerment zone proposal in the final bill which will finally test whether free enterprise can go into depressed cities and rural areas and put people to work and invest and start businesses. I believe it can.

I think those are the kinds of things that you will see there. I think the earned income tax credit again will pass so that we can lift the working poor out of poverty. So I expect a big portion of the investment program to pass and I'll be surprised if it doesn't.

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Q Mr. President, I'm surprised that for the first four months you came into office you were saying how bad the economy was and how important it was for your program to be enacted to grow the economy. Now, we hear you in the last week or so talking up the economy, saying how well things are going, and yet, your program hasn't passed. What are we to make of this? Why have you changed your mind about the economy?

THE PRESIDENT: First of all, I think the economy is still bad for most Americans. But the trends are good and the trends are plainly tied to the determination of this administration to bring the deficit down. We began to see a substantial drop in long-

term interest rates after the election when Secretary of the Treasury Bentsen announced that we were going to have a serious deficit reduction plan that would include entitlement cuts, other budget cuts, tax increases on the wealthy, and an energy tax. We saw that. And every student of this, starting with the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, who's testified before Congress to this effect, has said that if we continue and pass this, we will get interest rates down. So those things have been coming down.

That's why the Home Builders Association of America -- not a Democratic group, presumably largely a Republican group --

came from all over the country to Maryland a few days ago to endorse the economic program, because it is already beginning to bring interest rates down

So are most people affected by the economic recovery? No. But is it a good thing that you have 755,000 private sector jobs in the first five months; that you have 130,000 jobs in the construction industry, the biggest gain in a four-

month period in nine years? Yes it is. So the point I'm trying to make is we're taking the right direction, but we've still got a lot of changes to make.

Q Mr. President, you said a few minutes ago that you've broken the back of the Somali warlords in Somalia. However, Mohamed Aided is still at large. This brings to mind the same problem that happened with the previous administration with Saddam Hussein. How can you assure the American people that you're not going to get sucked into an ever-

growing vortex of war in Somalia?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there's a big difference there. Aided is not in control of the government of Somalia. The United Nations force is there, they're still promoting peace. They're now going to be able to deliver food, medicine, do their work and try to help engage in the long-

term process of nation building. And we never, ever, the United Nations and the United States never listed getting rid of Aided as one of our objectives. In fact, as long as he was willing to cooperate with the United Nations, he was able to live and work in peace right there in Mogadishu.

So what happens from now on in will be a function of, number one, what the United Nations thinks is appropriate for his conduct to date, and, number two, what he does in the future.

Q Mr. President, I have an easy problem for you, and it's domestic, too.

THE PRESIDENT: There are none. (Laughter.)

Q This one's very easy. A lot of Americans are not wildly pronuclear and thought the U.S. may have overreacted in past years in its very heavy-

handed treatment of New Zealand. Would you consider meeting now with a New Zealand leader and discussing the situation? Isn't there some way that a compromise can be reached so you can agree to disagree, but still restore the political and security relationship?

THE PRESIDENT: I've given absolutely no thought to that question. (Laughter.) And I'm afraid if I give an answer to it, I'll be in more trouble tomorrow than I can figure out. (Laughter.)

Q Mr. President, as you point out, your economic plan would reduce the budget deficit by \$500 billion over five years, which is a significant improvement over what we've seen in the past. But your critics would point out that the budget deficit would continue to mount by hundreds of billions of dollars a year; and that your attack on the deficit is limited to lowering projected spending increases, rather than taking the much harder tack of making real cutbacks in the budget. Can't you do more to deal with the problem of this deficit and runaway spending?

THE PRESIDENT: Let me have the chart again. The answer to that question --

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first of all, let me answer it. You asked two questions, not one. It is absolutely true that if this whole thing is adopted or any other deficit reduction plan that has been presented to date is adopted, by the fifth year the deficit starts to inch up again and you don't get down to zero.

Now, that is true, but why is that? That is because primarily of the projected exploding costs in medical care through Medicare and Medicaid. And because we have programs like Social Security and other retirement programs where people are given cost of living increases year-

in and year-

out, something that most Americans support. But the prime culprit here is Social Security -

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I mean, is medical costs, not Social Security. The prime culprit is medical costs. They've been going up way faster than inflation.

Now, I want to make two points. Why do we reduce the deficit only \$500 billion over five years, even though that's a huge amount? Because it was the considered judgment of the economic team -

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Secretary Bentsen, Mr. Panetta, Mr. Rubin -

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that in a recession there was a limit to how fast you could contract the deficit. And that this would be a very rapid reduction of the deficit in a time where there's very slow economic growth around the globe. We think it will actually lead to some expansion of the economic activity. Why? Because there's so much debt built into our system at high interest rates that if people just go refinance all their homes and their business loans, it will give them a lot of cash in their pocket and that will stimulate the economy to grow.

Secondly, it is our considered judgment that we cannot get the deficit down to zero, which is where it ought to be, until we do something about health care costs, which is why the next big piece of this administration's work is to provide a comprehensive health care plan that will bring health costs in line with inflation.

If you do that, then this yellow line here, instead of going up, will keep going down. And since there is no historic precedent in America, let me ask you to go back and look what happened in Japan in the mid-

'70s to mid-

'80s. They had about the same size deficit we do in the mid

'70s. They decided they were going to wipe it out. They took 10 years to wipe it out, not five. But they did it. And today, in spite of all their economic problems, they are the only major nation in a surplus position.

We can do it, too, if we do this, then tackle the deficit. And let me remind you of one other thing, in September, the Vice President's task force will make it's report on reinventing government and reorganizing the whole way the government operates. That will give us another whole shot to deal with this issue.

Q Mr. President, John F. Kennedy once said that the coverage he'd been getting as President, that he'd been reading it more and enjoying it less. And many other Presidents have expressed similar sentiments. Lately, sir, there have been some indications, at least, that you may be experiencing those feelings as well. Can you give us your analysis of that?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I could say it any better than President Kennedy did. (Laughter.) But let me say this: You have to do your job as you see it. And I'm going to do mine the best I can. Everybody in America knows, as I said, that I did not live and work in this city until I became President. I knew when I came here that there would be things that I would need to learn about the processes and the way things worked. I believe then and I believe now that if I do the big things right and deal with the big issues, that eventually the other things will also work themselves out.

In the meantime, I think the most important thing that we attempt, you and I, to create an atmosphere of trust and respect, and that you at least know that I'm going to do my best to be honest with you. And I think you're going to be honest with me, and I expect you to criticize me when you think I'm wrong. The only thing I ever ask is, if I have a response and I have a side, let that get out and we'll watch this conflict unfold. I mean, this is nothing new. President Jefferson got a rough press, too.

Q Sir, on Haiti, the Security Council of the U.N. has

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stated that they're giving Haiti until the 23rd of this month before they put real tough petroleum and economic sanctions. Do you think that will solve the problem, or will we see a multinational force in Haiti as we do in Somalia?

THE PRESIDENT: As you know, since you asked the question about Haiti, the United States is pushing for the U.N. resolution to strengthen the sanctions to include not simply a freeze on assets and lifting visas, but also to include oil. I think it will make a difference. And the members of Congress who are expert in Haitian affairs and who talk to people in Haiti believe that it will make a difference.

Secondly, I have always assumed that to really facilitate the restoration of democracy in Haiti, there would have to be some sort of multinational force there. But I would remind you that, recently, when that was proposed with the support of the United States, both sides rejected it. President Aristide rejected it and the de facto government rejected it, which was a disappointment to us. So we decided to go back to the drawing board, look for tougher sanctions.

In the end, since both sides distrust each other to treat each other civilly, even to keep from shooting each other, there, in my judgment, will never be a resolution of that, as long as the main players are who they are, unless we have a multinational peacekeeping force.

Q Mr. President, what have you been told about the plot to assassinate George Bush in Kuwait? How definitive is the chain of evidence against Iraq and what do you plan to do about it?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not received the final report from the FBI, and until I do I don't think I should say what I will or won't do.

Q Mr. President, in Bosnia the Europeans did not want to take action because the United States did not have troops on the ground. In Somalia, although we turned over operations to U.N. peacekeepers about a month ago and it was Pakistani soldiers who were attacked, the forces that went into action were largely American; most of the firepower was American. You were just talking about a multinational peacekeeping force in Haiti. Is the United States now being put in the role of enforcer for the United Nations? And what principles or thoughts do you bring to the table when you consider committing U.S. troops to enforce not something that may be strictly a U.S. interest, but something that is the will of the international community?

THE PRESIDENT: I think we have to ask ourselves, first of all: What are the interests of the American people? Secondly: What are the values and humanitarian concerns at stake? And, thirdly: What is the price of doing what we might be asked to do?

I think -

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let me just say on Bosnia, it's not so simple as that. We didn't have an agreement -

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ever -

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about what troops would do. I pledge to the American people in the campaign last year

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and I reaffirmed repeatedly -

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that I did not think we had any business sending troops into combat in Bosnia. I also said if there were a cease-

fire and a genuine peace agreement and the United Nations had to guarantee the peace agreement that the United States would participate. I don't think we should minimize the importance of leading the way, but also setting an example.

Let me tell you, a lot of other countries -

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the President of Namibia was here, a fairly small country. They sent people to Somalia. There are people from all over the world who sent people to Cambodia in very dangerous circumstances. The Pakistanis are the people who were murdered in Somalia. So I think this is a very good thing.

Yes, America can lead the way. But it is very moving to me to see all these other countries -

Ireland sending people, putting themselves on the line. Not just government employees, but people working through other organizations to try to help solve these problems. There is a remarkable confluence of people trying to promote democracy and human rights and freedom and market economics. And I think that if we can leave that at an acceptable price, that is in our narrow interest and it is certainly in our broader human interest.

Q Mr. President, now that you've made your decision about the Space Station, are you going to appoint a new NASA administrator? And if you are, when?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't have any plans at this time to do that. Let me just make a point about the Space Station, if I might. As you know, I have always supported the Space Station; I realize that some people don't. The United States indisputably leads the world in space. It is an important area of science and technology. I think it would be a mistake, after all the work we've done, to scrap the Space Station.

There is a \$4-

billion budget cut in my budget for the Space Station because we're going to redesign it and redesign the management system of NASA. We've brought in all of these scientists to look at it, to tell us exactly what ought to be done and exactly how this thing ought to be run and we're going to have to make some changes. But I want to tell the American people: We need to stay first in science and technology, we need to stay first in space. We're going to be able to get more people to come in and invest with us, and we're going to have to make some very tough management decisions at NASA to get that done.

Q Mr. President, many African American leaders have expressed their anger or extreme disappointment with the way you handled the Lani Guinier nomination and with the way you handled the Haiti situation. In addition, the Congressional Black Caucus has said it is very angry with the fact that they voted for your budget package and cast some very politically difficult votes, only to have you negotiate a watered-

down package in the Senate. How would you assess your relationship right now with blacks? And what are you doing to mend fences with the Congressional Black Caucus so that they will not vote against the conference report on the budget package?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, first of all, I did not negotiate that bill that the Senate passed. That is just inaccurate. I did not do that. And I think you know what I liked about the House bill and you know where I have been on the issues and you know what the principles are I've enunciated.

I think Senator Moynihan did a remarkable job to get a bill out that does have \$500 billion in deficit reduction, more spending cuts and tax increases and taxes falling primarily on upper-

income people. I think to that extent we ought to give him credit. But there has been no negotiations.

Secondly, and quite to the contrary, when members of the Black Caucus came to see me and asked me to pursue sanctions in the United Nations against Haiti that included oil, I examined it and I agreed to do it. They were the first people who asked me to do it. And very shortly after the meeting I agreed to go forward. But they know, the ones who follow the Haitian developments, that even before that I offered to have the United States participate in a multinational peacekeeping force to restore democracy and to restore President Aristide and that he rejected that. They know that's a fact.

Thirdly, I don't think my commitment to civil rights is very much open to question. And I think my actions as President and the appointments I've made, and the things I've stood for document that. And I believe that over the long run the Black Caucus and the Clinton administration will continue to be very close. And I've talked to any number of them personally, recently.

Q On campaign finance reform, now that most of the public financing provisions have been removed from the Senate bill, how do you convince people that this is truly meaningful campaign finance reform? And also, will you seek at some point in the future, perhaps, to put that public financing back into another measure?

THE PRESIDENT: First, let's see what the House does. Again, this is a bill you're going to have to watch come out of conference. The House will probably adopt a somewhat different bill.

But let's talk about what the Senate bill does do. The Senate bill reduces the influence of PACs and special interests; it limits the cost of campaigns; it spends public funds, if necessary, if one party violates the spending limits then the other party can get public funds in the form of communications vouchers so that the airwaves will be open to both parties and people can hear both sides.

So this is a vast advance over the present law in breaking the back of special interest domination of politics and elections. So I like it in that regard. Let's see what the House

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does. I think we can get a good bill out and I hope both sides will vote for it.

Q Mr. President, will you support the Senate's ten percent increase in the capital gains tax?

THE PRESIDENT: They imposed a ten percent surcharge because there's now a difference between the capital gains rate and the income rate. And, as you know, the theory of the Tax Reform Act of '86 was to level them. Let's see what comes out of the conference report. What I want is a tax system where 75 percent of the burden falls on the top six percent of the American people -

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at least that
progressive. And if it is that progressive, then I'm open on the details. But I want to see what the final bill is. That's the key thing: Will the wealthy pay their fair share? Will it all be in a trust fund to reduce the deficit? And will the ratio be at least as good as the one I showed -

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\$5 of every \$10 in spending cuts; \$3.75
in tax increases on upper income people; \$1.25 on the middle class.

Thank you very much.

THE PRESS: Thank you.
END8:41 P.M. EDT

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release June 22, 1993

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
LEON PANETTA

The Briefing Room

1:05 P.M. EDT

MR. PANETTA: What I would like to do is to basically follow up on

the briefing that we provided following the House action on reconciliation was to kind of outline some of the specifics that each of the committees did. And I would like to kind of summarize again what the Senate did to indicate that the President's plan is well on track with regards to adoption.

Deficit reduction, the incentives for growth, helping families -

that was the key behind the President's economic plan. And we feel that we're very much on track to getting those provisions enacted. Most of these are contained in the provisions of the 12 committees on the Senate side that reported pursuant to their instructions of reconciliation. And while the administration did not embrace all of the changes made by the various committees, we do commend the Senate and each of the committees for achieving \$500 billion in deficit reduction.

The key elements of the President's plan are pretty much

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presented here and you have a good sense of what, in fact, were maintained through the House and through the Senate versions of each of these. Let me just kind of summarize the plan.

Obviously, \$500 billion in deficit reduction. We started -

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the administration was slightly below \$500 billion, it was about \$496 billion; when proposed in the House it was about \$502.9 billion; and in the Senate, according to OMB estimates, it's about \$516 billion; according to CBO it's about \$507 billion.

On the entitlement, each of the key areas on the entitlements, we have achieved the savings that we've been after here. The first on agriculture, it's \$3.2 billion, and that's true across the board

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the House and the Senate. On veterans, we wanted \$2.6 billion -

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that's true across the board. We achieved that in the House and we've achieved it in the Senate. On Medicare savings, we achieved \$50.4 billion, roughly about \$50 billion in Medicare savings in the House. And obviously that's the one area where the Senate has increased the savings there by an additional \$19 billion. We're looking at \$67 billion on Medicare savings there.

On Medicaid we've got approximately \$8 billion; the Senate's slightly higher at about \$9 billion on Medicaid savings. And on Social Security, that was the one area where the House did about \$32 billion. The Senate did \$26 billion, and that was because they increased the thresholds with regards to those who would be paying on the benefits under Social Security.

Discretionary cuts

this is about \$102 billion across the board. Those cuts, obviously, are reflected in the caps -

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hard freeze caps that are adopted by the House in their version and that will be adopted by the Senate as well.

The energy tax -

-

there is a major difference there as well. We had about \$72 billion, obviously, in the energy tax in both the administration as well as the House. The Senate adopted about \$25 billion as a result of going to the gas tax.

Taxes on the wealthy are roughly in the -

-

about \$114 billion, in terms of increased taxes on the wealthy. That's the increase in the rate as well as the surtax.

And on the investments, that's probably where the major difference is with regards to both the House and the Senate as well as the administration. There we have identified the principal investments -

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the earned income tax credit, hunger prevention, immunization, family preservation, and empowerment zones. The House basically included all of those in their version of reconciliation. In the Senate we do have the EITC, although it's been reduced. We do not have the hunger prevention bill. We have a version of immunization that was included. We do not have family preservation or empowerment zones. And that's obviously the key difference with regards to investments.

We have tax incentives included in all three packages, a little less in the Senate than what was in the House. And obviously the deficit reduction trust fund was included in the House and we expect that it will also be included in the Senate as well.

Those are some of the key elements that obviously reflect the President's economic plan and the fact that this economic plan, as I said, is well on track, both through the House and the Senate. I want to just mention some specific spending cuts in each area. We've provided a package to each of you that goes into each of the committees. But again, understand that each committee had to enact specific savings with regards to cuts. This is not a situation where they basically tried to grab a number out of a cap or what have you. They basically had to identify specific savings.

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In agriculture they reduced efficiency payments, specifically with regards to what's called the Pay 92 Program; they've increased assessments by ten percent on sugar and peanuts and also lowered payments with regards to honey, wool, and mohair.

Arms Services Committee -

just to give you a sense of what we're looking at -

there is a delay on cost-

of-

living increases for the uniformed services, the retired, all of the uniformed services, by nine months from January through October and delays in -

COLA by eight months. Very significant savings there and a tough vote, I'm sure in the Armed Services Committee.

In commerce we were able to retain the spectrum auction, which is the ability to auction that part of the radio spectrum. That's going to produce almost \$7 billion in savings right there. Hard rock mining fees were increased in energy. In the Finance Committee -

obviously, I referred to the Medicare cuts -

those are all specific recommendations on Medicare cuts that are included in that committee.

In the Foreign Relations Committee there was a three-

month COLA delay for foreign service retirees. Another cost-

of-

living hit from '94 through '96. In the Government Affairs Committee there is a three

month cost.

of-

living delay for civilian retirees for '94 through '96, and it permanently eliminates the lump sum retirement option as well.

We have a modified version of the President's direct student loan program -

the direct student loan program on the Senate side, but obviously, a significant savings could be achieved with that change. And on veterans affairs, there were significant changes made, particularly with regard to GI benefits.

So in each of these committees the recommended cuts are specific, they're real, they affect everyone from farmers to the elderly, from doctors to hospitals to veterans to federal, civilian, and military retirees. Anyone who says there aren't real spending cuts in this package ought to ask the tens of millions of Americans who will be directly affected by them.

Now, let me speak to an allegation that's been made over the last few days about whether or not the counting on the \$500 billion is real or not. First of all, there's the allegation that we're taking discretionary spending cuts, we're using user fees and interest payments, and that those should not be counted. When President Bush and the Congress negotiated the 1990 budget agreement, savings from the five-

year discretionary spending caps that were included in that provision were included -

the numbers were included in the total. So were the fees, and so were reduced interest on the debt.

And let me just say, when you have the savings on the discretionary caps, those are real. You've locked them in. If you

don't achieve those savings there is a cut across-

the-

board that takes place on all spending programs. So there are teeth here, there is an enforcement mechanism. And the fact is from the '90 agreement we've achieved every year savings on discretionary savings by virtue of having that tool in place. So those are real. And they were counted in the '90 budget agreement and we count them because they are real.

The same thing is true for interest savings. I mean, to assert that somehow interest savings ought not to be counted as savings -

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most corporations and businesses. when they reduce their debt, they obviously reduce their interest payments and those are savings. We do the same thing. If we're not paying on the interest. That's a legitimate savings in terms of the federal government. And, again, it's been counted in the past.

And on fees, when you offset federal spending by having individuals that either go to parks or what have you pay the fee, it reduces the amount of spending that you have to then contribute. So it, too, has been -

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and has always been scored as a spending savings.

Bob Dole, as you know, when he was speaking on the '90 budget agreement, basically defended the fact that there were \$500 billion in deficit reductions using exactly those same score-

keeping methods. John Kasich with the Republican alternative in the House -- his plan counts interest savings, it counts fees, and it counts discretionary savings as well.

And regarding the discretionary spending caps -

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for anyone who doesn't think that those are real, let me indicate to you that I have sent a letter out to all of the heads of departments and agencies at the end of last week asking them to begin the process of planning how to meet the caps in the 1995 budget. We estimate that we're looking at approximately a 10 percent reduction in most of those departments in order to reach those caps. Those are tough caps. This is a hard freeze. And everyone who is going to have to work through those savings understands that these discretionary savings are very real.

Lastly, let me also indicate -

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I mean, I think we've always indicated the tests that we abided by in presenting the President's economic plan to the country in terms of deficit reduction, the fact that it was real and progressive and what have you. I want to establish the same tests, if I could, for whatever Republican alternative might be offered with regards to this deficit reduction effort.

The first test is it should achieve \$500 billion in deficit reduction in real terms. That's the goal. That's what we feel is necessary if we're going to put this country on the right track with regards to deficit reduction over these next five years -- \$500 billion in deficit reduction.

Secondly, that it should be progressive, with the wealthy bearing their fair share of the burden. At least 75 percent of the tax increases that we have in this proposal come from those earning incomes over \$100,000. And, as you know, under the Senate version, it approaches almost 80 percent that comes from those at the upper income brackets. So it must be progressive.

Now, if, by chance, the Republicans decide to eliminate all tax increases on the wealthy, that means that those who would carry the primary burden of deficit reduction would be the veterans, the farmers, the doctors, the hospitals, the elderly, working families, and the wealthy would bear no share of that burden whatsoever.

Thirdly, there ought to be no gimmicks. There ought to be specific spending savings proposals. We did it in the proposal that we submitted in our budget, the House has done it, and the Senate has done it. There are no gimmicks here. What you see is what you get in terms of the proposals for spending savings. It's easy to try to grab a gimmick like some kind of entitlement cap and say, look, ma, no hands-

type of approach to deficit reduction. The tough part is to do it in specific policy terms. And so what we want

and what we expect -

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and I think what the American people expect -

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is that if they're going to produce

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if they're going to provide additional spending cuts, tell us specifically how it's going to be achieved. Senators Boren and Danforth, in their alternative, were specific, and I give them credit for that. Surely, if there are to be alternatives from the Republicans, those two ought to be very specific about where the cuts are going to come from so that everybody understands where the pain is going to take place.

Lastly, it must be fair. Programs protecting low income Americans must not be placed in jeopardy. And, in our view, agriculture, veterans, Medicare, Medicaid must not bear an unfair portion of the responsibility for deficit reduction.

Let me read a quote if I can, which I think is very appropriate to the debate that we're now having. This was a quote from October of 1990. "I think a lot of people forget what this is all about. It's about deficit reduction. It's not about the gas tax or the cigarette tax or Medicare. In the long run, it's about deficit reduction and our children and our grandchildren." That quote was from Bob Dole in October of 1990, and I think it applies now. This is not about all of the tough choices that have to be made. Yes, the tough choices are there. But the bottom line is it's about deficit reduction and trying to improve the future for our children and our grandchildren. What he said then is also true today. And that's what this effort is all about: our children and our grandchildren.

I'll be happy to answer any questions.

Q Mr. Panetta, in terms of tough choices, there's a draft report from the Department of Energy's Inspector General on the supercollider, which has found that 40 percent of the costs are excessive or unwarranted, including a \$35,000 Christmas party and \$56,000 for potted plants. In light of this report, do you still believe that the supercollider should be funded and that the taxpayers should foot the bill for it, with the House is considering it later this week?

MR. PANETTA: Our approach in the budget was, I think, the correct approach, because we saw some of the problems with cost overruns. And our approach and our recommendation is that we ought to stretch out the costs to ensure on a year-

by-

year basis that they, in fact, are spending the money correctly, and that, in fact, the science associated with it is doable. And so that's why we proposed essentially what is a stretch-

out, and I think that's what the committee has supported and the President supports.

Obviously, it's going to be debated on Thursday. It's going to be, I think, a good debate. I think it's going to be a close vote. But from the President's perspective, the proposal we put in to basically stretch out that funding gives us a chance to continue to oversee it to make sure that that kind of waste doesn't go on.

Q How does that deal with the waste that's already taking place, and how does it deal with the waste that will take place in the coming year if it's -

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MR. PANETTA: I can't answer for the waste that took place in the last administration, but we do have to answer for any waste that takes place in this administration. And I can tell you, one of my goals will be to very closely oversee spending in that area.

Q Let me ask you the same question I asked the Secretary of the Treasury yesterday, for which he had no answer. And that is that you are so far -

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your x's there disguise the fact that on many of these issues, the energy tax, in particular, and on some of the investments, you are so far apart between the liberal Democrats in the House and conservative senators in the Senate. What strategy do you have or what middle ground do you see to bring these people together besides -

and the only thing he offered yesterday was that the alternative is worse, the idea of having nothing is worse, and that was basically the administration's argument it seemed.

MR. PANETTA: First of all, look, you're getting \$500 billion in deficit reduction here. I recognize that, obviously, some of these pieces are high profile and they draw a lot of attention. But when you look at the work of all of the committees here, and you look at even the work of Ways and Means and Finance, overall, these committees have done one hell of a job getting the \$500 billion in deficit reduction.

Are there some differences? Sure, there are differences. In the energy area, there's going to be a major difference between the House and the Senate that's going to have to be resolved in conference. In some of the committees, on Medicare there will have to be a major difference resolved in conference. And in some of the committees there will be some differences that will ultimately be resolved. But the fact is they're taking the step. They're moving this forward. I mean, what you see here is happening. There isn't any other game in town right now. This is it.

The President's made this proposal, the House is moving it forward. They've made modifications on it. The Senate is moving it forward -

moving the plan forward. And the Senate has made modifications. That's the nature of the legislative process. But I am fully confident, and I think the President shares this confidence, that ultimately we are going to be able to resolve this in the conference committee, and the end result is going to be very much what the President presented to the country in his economic plan. I don't think you're going to see a lot of differences in the final product.

Q One of those differences is in the energy tax. Administration officials have said that the President still wants a broad-

based energy tax. The Btu tax is dead. So what shape would the energy tax take? Would it be a combination of what kind of broad-

based tax in conjunction with a gasoline tax? Could you describe to us what exactly you think that will -

MR. PANETTA: No, I don't really think I should at this point. I think, basically, this is going to be a conference item. The President has made very clear what his test is. He wants a broad-

based energy tax for the country. He's made that clear. That's what he presented to the country; that's what the House enacted. The Senate has enacted an energy tax, but at least it kept an element of an energy tax alive. And ultimately, it's going to be resolved in conference.

But our primary goal right now is to get this package adopted by the Senate. This is going to be a tough vote. I don't think we ought to assume that somehow the Senate vote is going to be an easy vote. We've got a lot of work to do. And Senator Mitchell and Senator Moynihan are working it now. But ultimately, we're confident that we can get it passed. And in the conference that difference is going to have to be resolved. But I feel confident that the end result is going to, in fact, have a broad-

based energy component to it.

Q But are you shooting to raise that \$24 billion energy tax that the Senate passed? Do you want to raise more money than that, or are you going to try to reach a middle ground between the 72 -

MR. PANETTA: From my perspective as Director of OMB, the bottom line is we want \$500 billion in deficit reduction. And so it obviously depends on what is done with the spending cut portion of it. If, in fact, on Medicare cuts those are brought down, you've got to be able to make up that loss of revenues in other ways. That's the balance you're going to have to work out in a conference.

Q What about the length of time you think it will take the House-Senate conferees, assuming the Senate passes it, will they resolve their differences and come up with a compromise before the August congressional recess, or will it go into September? And how, secondarily, will that affect the release of the health care reform package?

MR. PANETTA: I have every confidence that the differences will be resolved in August before the August recess. You understand here, for those of you that have not been through a reconciliation process in the past, you've got 13 committees on the House side, 12 committees on the Senate side. Some of these issues involve multiple conferences because they involve different committee jurisdictions. So you could have as many as 60 to 70 different conferences on different issues that are going to have to be tracked.

We hope to begin that process, assuming it passes the Senate, begin that process next week. And then have the staffs work on it when members come back, really go into a crash program to get it enacted before the August break. Obviously, I think the President's interest is to try to get this done before the August break, and our primary focus is getting the economic plan done and then turning to the health care proposal.

Q So that would delay the health care until September?

MR. PANETTA: I think the primary focus remains getting the economic plan done. There hasn't been a decision to formally delay the health care bill because, frankly, that continues to be worked on. But our primary focus right now is to get this economic plan done.

Q Are we to assume from what you've said that the administration strategy essentially, when it gets to conference, will be as it is now with the Senate, as it was with the Senate Finance Committee -

- let them do their work; we're not publicly expressing any position on any of this as long as they reach \$500 billion?

MR. PANETTA: I think you will find the administration engaged in the conference.

Q Along those lines, from the point of view of the economy, would the administration prefer to see more done on the spending side or more done on the revenue side to reach that mix that gets you to \$500 billion? I know that the House measure which does a little more than the Senate does on revenue and a little less on spending cuts is closer to your original measure. But as you get down to it now, would you rather see more done on the revenue side, more on the spending side -

- something more like the balance that you discussed originally?

MR. PANETTA: Bottom line for me is deficit reduction. And if it -

Q I understand that, but do you have -

- a way to do it?

MR. PANETTA: I don't tie it to any magic formulas. I think the key here is if it's dollar for dollar, I think that's approximately what we're looking at in the House version, approximately what we're looking at in the Senate version. And if we can have 50 percent of this come from spending cuts and 50 percent from revenues, that I think is doable.

Q Have you done an estimate of what would happen -

I mean, under the Senate plan, they strip out many of the business incentives that you had fought for and wanted. Have you done an estimate, adjusted your estimates of what would happen to the economy by taking those out?

MR. PANETTA: Obviously, a primary focus in the conference committee will be the restoration of investments, both the investments that we talked about here as well as restoring some of the business investments as well. I think that's going to be a primary focus of the conference.

Q Have you made any effort to hold back efforts to amend in the Senate and have the real work of compromise done in conference? In other words, to shorten the Senate floor debate process, have you asked anyone to hold off on that and save it for conference?

MR. PANETTA: God, anything that will shorten the Senate debate would be a welcome event. I think the reality is that you're going to see a lot of amendments offered on the Senate floor. Our

goal here is to work with the leadership to do whatever we can to move this process through the Senate. And we are working with them in that effort.

The key right now, fundamental point is that we've got to pass this through the Senate to get it to a conference and to get it done. And I think the American people are really looking to our leadership to get that -

-

to make that happen. This is a good plan. I think it's a good plan for the country. It's an essential plan for our economy. And ultimately, the American people realize that our ability to keep our economy on the right track depends on passing this economic plan. And there isn't any other game in town. That's the problem.

Everybody can throw grenades at this and they can all make their criticisms and they can all find their own little magic way to solve the deficit problem. But the fundamental problem is that those proposals and those attacks don't result in a plan happening. We have the responsibility to make this happen. We've got it through the House. I think we're on the threshold of getting it through the Senate. And we can get it done. And I think the American people understand that that's ultimately what has to be done here if we're going to avoid gridlock and deal with our economic problems.

Q On that note, a lot of the talk recently has been how Republicans have been shaping this whole debate and how they've been winning. Do you think you're gaining ground? Do you think you're now winning how this really looks and it isn't realistic?

MR. PANETTA: I think the reason we're winning at this point is because every time you focus on the opponents and say to them, be specific, tell us how you're going to do this -

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I mean, everybody can make criticisms about any plan. I've made criticisms about plans -

-

that's the fun part is to criticize deficit reduction plans. The tough part is to put a package together that can get you the votes to get it done.

As these opponents try to do that, then the public is going to have to focus on just how do they get there; what are their simple answers to dealing with the problems of deficit reduction. And I think what you're going to find is they're going to use gimmicks. Gimmicks have been used in the past. They're going to say, oh, we'll do some kind of entitlement cap across-

the-

board. We won't tell you what that means in terms of cutting benefits for the elderly, or cutting benefits for the poor, or cutting benefits for doctors or hospitals. We're not going to get into those specifics. We'll just do a cap across-

the-

board.

Frankly, that's not good enough anymore. And I think the public can read through that. So I think you're going to find over these next few days that the debate is going to change a great deal here because I think what we've presented is credible. I think what you're going to find our opponents presenting is not going to be credible.

Q Mr. Panetta, your charts suggest that there isn't a lot of disagreement over this plan between the House and the Senate anyway, and you sounded very confident today and Mr. Bentsen sounded confident yesterday. I don't really understand why you're so confident given the confrontational rhetoric coming from the Hill. What is changed to lead you to believe that the House and the Senate are going to agree on this package?

MR. PANETTA: Because, look, number one, the process and the plan is moving forward. Everybody has complaints about portions of it. That's the nature of the legislative process. But we are working through those problems. We worked through them on the House side, the Senate is working through those problems and ultimately the conference is going to work through those same problems.

If you look, as I said, at the overall package, you know, again, a good 80 percent of this package is going through without much change. We're looking at about less than 20 percent where the main controversies are. Well, you know, again, that's understandable -

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everybody has different positions and reflects

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different feeling from their constituencies. But ultimately in this give-

and-

take process, it's working, we're getting it done. And that's what makes me confident.

Look, at this stage of the game we're on probably the fastest track we've ever been on with regards to getting a budget resolution done and getting reconciliation accomplished. The fact that we're on that track tells me a lot about the hope that it can be done.

Q If I could just follow up. While you're trying to get this through the Senate, are you also talking with key members of the House to bring them on board?

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MR. PANETTA: Yes.

Q -

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so that they don't vote against this -

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MR. PANETTA: Yes, we've communicated -

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I've been communicating with both the House leadership as well as the Senate leadership on this issue and that's almost on a daily basis.

Q Mr. Panetta, as long as you're here, why is it taking so long to find out who did what in terms of the summary firing of the travel office staff? One month or more.

MR. PANETTA: Mr. McLarty and I are -

-

we have an on-

going investigation within the White House now and we're hoping that that will be brought to a quick conclusion within these next few days.

Q Until when?

Q

Q Are you holding off the release of the report until after the debate this week for political reasons? Don't want to mix your messages?

Q In the next few days?

MR. PANETTA: No. No, no, it's -

-

I mean, it's a continuing, you know, it's an investigation that's ongoing.

Q Is it anywhere near done?

MR. PANETTA: Pardon?

Q Anywhere near done?

Q Can we have one last budget question?

MR. PANETTA: Frankly, I don't know whether it's -

-

I mean, my understanding is that it's continuing and that it should be completed, hopefully, within these next few days.

Q Well, have you been briefed on the substance of it, Mr. Panetta?

Q I thought you were doing it.

MR. PANETTA: We basically wanted -

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they're doing the

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- investigation and we're going to be -

-

Q They're doing it for you, you're not doing it
yourself -

-

you and Mr. McLarty -

-

Q Who is they?

Q Who is they?

MR. PANETTA: I've been involved with the budget process
and we've identified people within the White House that are doing the
work and they're going to be presenting briefing to us.

Q Whose doing the work, because we keep being told
that it's Mr. McLarty and you?

Q And Gearan.

Q Who is doing the work?

MR. PANETTA: It's basically people within the White
House that are doing the main work.

Q -

-

accountability.

Q What happened? Last week we were being told that
it would be in the next couple days. Why is it now a week -

-

what's
caused the delay?

MR. PANETTA: Believe me, I'm very confident that we're
going to get that report out to the people; we have to.

Q Not this week?

Q Maybe Dee Dee or Mark can tell us, on the record,
whose in charge of this investigation.

Q Thank you. It's the only game in town.

MS. MYERS: We never said it would be done in a couple
of days.

Q Yes, it was.

END1:35 P.M. EDT

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TO: Lisa Mortman (MORTMAN_L) (WHO)
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TO: Ernest D. Gibble (GIBBLE_E) (WHO)
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TO: Patricia A. Enright (ENRIGHT_P) (WHO)
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TO: Jonathan P. Gill (GILL_J) (WHO)
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TO: Richard Strauss (STRAUSS_R) (WHO)
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TO: Maria M. Tio (TIO_M) (WHO)
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TO: Joshua N. Silverman (SILVERMAN_J) (WHO)
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TO: Jess Sarmiento (SARMIENTO_J) (WHO)
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TO: C. Patricia Cogdell (COGDELL_C) (WHO)
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TO: Kimberly S. Hopper (HOPPER_K) (WHO)
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TO: Elizabeth A. Bernstein (BERNSTEIN_E) (WHO)
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TEXT:

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release June 22, 1993

PRESS BRIEFING
BY DEE DEE MYERS

The Briefing Room

1:43 P.M. EDT

MS. MYERS: (in progress) -

-

there are a number of
senators coming today. I don't have a -

-

is there anybody -

-

Q Mike, mike -

MS. MYERS: Is it on? I'll post a list. I think there
are five -

-

four or five coming in today.

ARMS Email System

Q On the budget process or on something else?

MS. MYERS: On budget process. Senator Lautenberg,
Senator Deconcini -

-

I can't remember the others.

Q Separately?

MS. MYERS: Separately.

Q About what time will they be here?

MS. MYERS: I think some of them may have already come.
I think they've been coming -

-

yes, Deconcini was here earlier, and
they'll be coming sort of -

-

Q Do they have specific concerns or -

-

MS. MYERS: Yes, I think they do have specific concerns.

Q And that's why they're coming.

MS. MYERS: Yes -

-

about what specifically their
concerns are, but -

-

Q They're meeting with the President.

MS. MYERS: They're meeting with the President in sort
of 20-
minute blocks.

Q Dee Dee, do you, in fact, plan to put out some kind
of Travel Office probe this week?

MS. MYERS: I don't think we have a hard timeline on it.
But, yes, we will make the results of the internal investigation
public.

Q And who is -

-

we thought that McLarty and Panetta
were just doing this. Who, in fact, is conducting the -

-

MS. MYERS: They are -

-

I think Mack is much more
involved in it day to day than Leon, since Leon's been very
preoccupied with the budget process; although both Mr. McLarty and
Mr. Panetta will review the results before they're made public. And
any questions that they, they might send staff back to get better
answers.

Q But he's presumably not doing all the nitty gritty
work -

-

MS. MYERS: He's not doing the interviews, no.

Q Who's doing that?

MS. MYERS: John Podesta, among others.

Q Didn't you announce that Podesta and Todd -

-

MS. MYERS: Todd is also working on it. Todd works for Tony Podesta -

-

I mean, for John Podesta. Tony, John, the Podesta brothers. (Laughter.)

Q -

-

go back to the senators. Whose initiation are these meetings? Is it on the President's -

-

MS. MYERS: Well, I think that each of the senators who's coming in today expressed concerns about some aspect of the process. I don't know whether they specifically initiated it or whether somebody on the President's staff responded to those concerns. But I think we identified them as having particular concerns.

Q Would you be able to characterize -

-

Q What other concerns specifically, do you know?

MS. MYERS: I don't want to get into the details of the meetings.

Q Has the President called other members of this family to try to sort out what they think about the brother, or the half-

brother?

MS. MYERS: He has spoken to his mother. And I don't. I don't know whether he's spoken to anybody else. I know he talked to his mother. He placed a call to Leon -

-

the other Leon -

-

Ritzenthaler yesterday. He called him both at his home in California and tried to reach at his hotel in New York; has not heard back from him. I think he said in the photo op that he might try to reach him again in a couple of days. And if he does talk to him, he'll put out a statement of some kind.

Q Well, two questions. One, we have always heard throughout history here how wonderful the White House operators are, they can find someone anywhere. Is he trying to make these calls himself, not through a White House operator?

MS. MYERS: No, I don't know for sure, but I would imagine that the calls were placed through the White House operator. But I think that Mr. Ritzenthaler just was not in his hotel room. And I don't know whether the White House operators have ever been able to track down people on the streets of New York City.

Q But he obviously has seen him, hasn't he? He's seen him on television.

MS. MYERS: But, no, he left a message for him, and I think expects to speak to him -

-

Q Let me follow up, what is his operating assumption at this point?

MS. MYERS: I think -

-

I don't know that he has one. I think that's something that's personal to him. And if at some point he feels comfortable expanding on it, he'll do that. I don't think it's appropriate for me to say anymore.

Q -

there's skepticism that this person is his half-

brother, is that true?

MS. MYERS: Well, I don't -

-

I mean, I don't know that the facts in this are completely clear, but certainly this gentleman has presented a birth certificate and other things. I think the President would like to talk to him. And I think his feelings about that beyond that are personal. And if he feels comfortable expanding on it at some point, I think he can do that. But it's not really my place.

Q Based on what he knows, does he think that this guy is his half-

brother?

MS. MYERS: Again, that's something that you'll have to ask him.

Q He saw him on television, did he?

MS. MYERS: I don't know whether he saw him or has just read accounts of it. But as he said during the photo op, he's sort of been impressed by his humility and the way he's handled this whole episode.

Q Dee Dee, this morning, Mr. Ritzenthaler said that he had written to then-

Governor Clinton during the campaign. Do you know whether he had actually seen those letters or -

-

MS. MYERS: No, I don't believe the President ever saw the letters, although they were received at the campaign. I think it was just one letter.

Q Do you know why he didn't see them? And what other similar type letters did the President get, people claiming to be family members?

MS. MYERS: Yes, I don't have a specific accounting, but it was -

-

there were a number of letters received by the campaign from people claiming to be relatives of the President. I don't think that's uncommon for people who become well-

known, and particularly in a short period of time. But I don't know all the specific details. You know, of course, the President -

-

or then-

candidate and Governor Clinton didn't see all the mail that was received at the headquarters. We were receiving literally thousands of pieces of mail a week. So I don't know the exact chronology of what happened with this letter.

Q Did this letter include the birth certificate or marriage license? And did any other letters -

-

MS. MYERS: Mr. Ritzenthaler said it did; and I haven't seen the exact document.

Q If that's the case, do you know that wouldn't have been forwarded to the candidate if someone actually -

-

specific -- sends him documentation of his claim?

MS. MYERS: I don't. I don't know.

Q Who made that decision in the campaign? Was that Betsy Wright?

MS. MYERS: I think Betsy's commented on it. I'd have to refer you to her for specifically how she handled it. Again, I don't know of the exact tick-

ARMS Email System

took. I do know that the letter was received. I don't who saw it. I know the President did not see it.

Q There was talk about how -

during the campaign
there was talk -- of other relatives coming forward -

do know if
this has been a Clinton family thing that they have talked about -

whether they had relatives -

(laughter).

MS. MYERS: What are you saying? No. I do think there was some

this is obviously a very personal issue. And it's a very difficult issue, I think, particularly under the circumstances. And it's a -

and now to have it unfold in such a public way, I think, is difficult. And so I think the less said about it -

I mean, I think at some point we'll try to find out the details of the letter. I think there's clearly some interest in that and what sort of course it may have taken at the headquarters. But beyond that, in terms of the President and how he feels about it, I think we'll just leave those untouched.

Q Dee Dee. Gene Weingarten's article sort of laid this out seemingly without question. But he seems to have made some contacts at the White House before. Were his questions to you and to

MS. MYERS: Who?

Q Gene Weingarten -

treated seriously? Was his approach treated seriously? And was the President responsive to that?

MS. MYERS: Sure. I think that the Post let us know that they had done some very good reporting on this. And I think that the facts certainly hold up. I think the President chose not to comment on it. But we were certainly informed

Q But he knew about the story -

MS. MYERS: Yes, we were informed that he -

that Gene was working on the story last week.

Q And he chose to not make an effort to find this brother until after the story was printed, even though he knew for several days all the facts in the story.

MS. MYERS: He learned of the facts over the weekend. I found out on Friday -

Friday afternoon.

ARMS Email System

Q Not before that?

MS. MYERS: No. I didn't, no. And I don't believe anybody else did, although I can't say for sure.

Q So he was briefed on this then, or -

-

MS. MYERS: He was just let know what was coming in the story, and he chose not to -

-

he declined to comment and saw the story on Sunday and tried to reach this gentleman on Monday.

Q His first nod to this was not the story.

MS. MYERS: No.

Q Dee Dee, there was another aspect of the story that was very touching, if you will -

-

the first, the eyewitness account of how his father died. Were these facts unknown to him, and did he have any -

-

did he read the story? Did he have any reaction to that?

MS. MYERS: I don't know how carefully he read the story and I have not talked to him about any of the details beyond those concerning Henry Leon Ritzenthaler.

Q Do you know why he -

-

again, he just finds out that he has this half-

brother; he's curious enough yesterday to place a call. Why now the comment that he -

-

it might take a couple days? I think most people's first reaction would be to try to find him today.

MS. MYERS: He left a couple of messages, and Leon did not -

-

has not called back. I think the President -

-

he's in transit. I think that the Ritzenthalers are a little overwhelmed by the amount of tension this has generated. I think -

-

I don't think they could have possibly known what was in store for them, and I think the President just wants to give them a little time.

Q You don't think they knew what was going to happen when he flew across country to New York to do some interviews?

MS. MYERS: I just don't think -

-

people who don't deal with this on a day

to

day basis have any idea what it's like.
(Laughter.)

Q Who is it, though, that's looking for a little -

-

who is it that's looking for a little calming in this -

-

the Ritzenthalers or the President?

ARMS Email System

MS. MYERS: I think the President would just as soon see some of the -

I mean, I think give these folks a little space here. But, again, I think he said clearly that he would -

may try to reach him again in a couple of days and we'll let you all know if he does.

Q Do you know -

wait a couple days, and why not today?

MS. MYERS: It's a very personal issue, and I think the President would just as soon handle it personally and let you know when he reaches him.

Q One more question. Does the President consider it automatic that he is his half-

brother just because he has a birth certificate and marriage license? Does he see that as irrefutable proof?

MS. MYERS: I just am not going to comment on that. Again, if the President feels comfortable at some point commenting on the specifics, I will leave that to him.

Q Does the President want to find out if this is his half-

brother, or is he simply content to talk to the gentleman and leave it lie? I mean, what -

MS. MYERS: Again, on the personal what does he want, how does he feel questions, I just am not prepared to answer them.

Q And are there any plans to have the President meet this gentleman?

MS. MYERS: I think we'll let them speak on the phone and see where it goes from there. There are no plans at this point.

Q Dee Dee, two questions -

these phone messages -

Q Dee Dee, have you got any travel coming up this week?

MS. MYERS: No.

Q -

the President made, you said, a couple of phone messages now to him, unreceived on the other end. Not to make light of it, but what exactly does a President say when he's leaving a message on an answering machine?

MS. MYERS: I think that somebody left it for him.

Q Saying what?

MS. MYERS: Saying I'm calling on behalf of President Clinton. Please give us a call, here's the number. The President wants to talk to you. I don't know exactly, but I would imagine it was a pretty straightforward message.

Q What's that phone number? (Laughter.)

MS. MYERS: 555-

1212.

Q Dee Dee, a follow-

up question. How does he feel about this person being in New York doing a couple of TV interviews?

MS. MYERS: Well, I actually think the President

commented on that. He thinks that he's handled himself very well. I think the President said he was impressed by his humility and just this sort of nature of the way he's handled it. And beyond that he's said very little.

Q Dee Dee, back to the budget process, Mr. Panetta was indicating that the administration is expecting a lot of amendments on the Senate floor. Up to this point, there's been a hands-

off attitude towards the process and looking towards conference. Is the President prepared to weigh in on either Republican or Democratic amendments, either pro or con, as that unfolds?

MS. MYERS: No. I think our position toward the Senate process has not changed. I think the President has made clear what he'd like to see come out of this. We'll wait.

-
the most important thing is moving the process forward and getting something into conference. But I don't think you have to be too involved in the process to know that there's a lot of amendments coming.

Q -

-
in talking to these Democratic senators who might be meeting with him who have concerns who may be looking forward to the amendment process to change or shape the bill to their benefit, are -

-
is the President prepared to tell them I support this or back them up in any way?

MS. MYERS: I think the President is prepared to tell them what he's going to.

-
what he wants to work for in conference and to listen to them -

-
to listen to their concerns. I think -

-
I can't speak to the specific nature of every conversation, but obviously they'll present their concerns to the President, talk to him about what they'd like to see come out of this; then President will talk to them about what he wants to see come out of the conference process. And I think he's very interested in seeing this move forward. And that's important. You know, we need the votes to get this thing to the conference process, and certainly the President would like to see it get there.

Q Do you know where you are on that, vote-wise?

MS. MYERS: No, I don't have a specific head count.

Q Do you there will be this week?

MS. MYERS: A vote? I think we expect it Thursday or Friday. I mean, they'd like to wrap up by Thursday. I don't know if

-
Senator Mitchell doesn't know whether they'll be able to get it done.

Q Dee Dee, on finding a middle ground on the energy tax in conference. Director Panetta indicated that any scale

back of that tax would have to be considered in conjunction with any additional entitlement savings that you might find acceptable. Senate Finance has \$19 billion more in Medicare savings than your package. Is it accurate to conclude, then, that you're willing to scale back energy -

-
a broad-

based energy tax -- to \$19 billion if entitlement savings end up to be \$19 billion?

MS. MYERS: I think the point that Leon tried to make was that what he wants to see is \$500 billion in deficit reduction;

Q Do you have anything on the White House Chef?

MS. MYERS: No, other than that we can't comment on it. I guess it's being handled by Counsel. I told people earlier I would get back to you on the specific process. I don't know if it's OPM or White House Counsel, but it is -

Q So he's on the job -

MS. MYERS: He's on the job, enjoying full benefits.

Q At what rank? At his lower rank or -

MS. MYERS: No, I think it's unchanged.

Q You mean he's doing lettuce and carrots.
(Laughter.)

MS. MYERS: I think pots and pans comes to mind. No, there's been no change in his duties or his status.

Q Is he doing broccoli.

Q Can I ask you on Haiti. Tomorrow's the deadline of the U.N. And General Raul Cedra, reports are coming out of Haiti, that he's willing to meet with President Aristide to discuss the situation. Does the White House have any comment on that?

MS. MYERS: Obviously, yes. Sanctions are scheduled to take effect tomorrow. I think it's -

we welcome General Cedras's invitation to meet with President Aristide. And we would hope that -- we've been encouraging talks all along and we had hoped that they would go back to the negotiating table and work out a settlement. We remain committed to full restoration of democracy and President Aristide's return.

Q Dee Dee, on the G-

7 just can I ask you, do you have

traditionally there's been a briefing for G-

7 countries. Is Clinton going to do that?

MS. MYERS: Yes -

I'm sorry? We'll do some kinds of briefings.

Q Yes, but a briefing for the other press from the

G-

7 countries.

MS. MYERS: I don't know what the -

we haven't made any arrangements yet for foreign press. We're in the process of finalizing arrangements for you guys.

THE PRESS: Thank you.
END 1:55 P.M. EDT

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6/22

ARMS Email System

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (RECONSTRUCTED EMAIL)

CREATOR: Jonathan P. Gill (GILL_J) (WHO)

CREATION DATE/TIME: 24-JUN-1993 13:49:00.00

SUBJECT: Press Briefing by Dee Dee Myers 6.24.93

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TEXT:

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release June 24, 1993

PRESS BRIEFING
BY DEE DEE MYERS

The Briefing Room

11:37 A.M. EDT

MS. MYERS: Any questions? I have no announcements.

Q What's the President doing about the budget today,
and how do you foresee the day?

MS. MYERS: He'll spend some time today on the phone,
calling various senators, helping to ensure final passage of the
budget package this evening. I don't know exactly when the vote will
be, but will probably be sometime this evening.

Q Will he make a statement after that?

MS. MYERS: If it happens, yes, at a reasonable hour
he'll make a statement about it.

Q How about tomorrow?

Q The last time it was 11:00 p.m. -

-

Q Is there a possibility of a news conference?

MS. MYERS: Last time it was at, like, 9:30 p.m.

ARMS Email System

Q News conference tomorrow?

MS. MYERS: Possible. We don't have anything totally scheduled at this point, but I think that's possible. He'll have something to say about it tomorrow as well.

Q Can you tell us what the President's involvement has been on the subject of the terrorist group and how he was briefed and when he first learned about it and anything that he's ordered?

MS. MYERS: No, he's aware of it. He was informed about it yesterday and is continued to be kept informed about the operation. As you know, the suspects will have their preliminary appearance in court this afternoon, and then there's going to be a news conference at 2:00 p.m. with the various law enforcement agencies who are involved. Beyond that, I can't say much.

Q Did he have any decisions to make, such as the timing of the arrest? Did he have any operational role?

MS. MYERS: He was informed about it, but beyond that I can't say.

Q Is Judge Sessions the main -

-

is he the main person running this, given his situation?

MS. MYERS: I don't know exactly what Judge Sessions' role specifically is. Obviously, the FBI is one of several law enforcement agencies who are involved in this.

Q So that would mean yes, he is?

MS. MYERS: Yes. The FBI clearly is playing a major role in this.

Q Has the President called President Mubarak, or has anyone from the administration, to brief President Mubarak?

MS. MYERS: No, not that I know of. The President has not.

Q Dee Dee, on Haiti -

-

Q Can we stay on this issue?

MS. MYERS: Sure.

Q Did he say who informed him? Was it a meeting or a phone call? Can you talk a little bit about how that worked yesterday?

MS. MYERS: Through the normal national security channels, and he's being kept informed through national security channels.

Q So did Tony Lake do it?

MS. MYERS: Yes.

Q And was he aware before yesterday about this was generally brewing or in the works, or was yesterday the first that he was apprised of what was happening?

MS. MYERS: I don't know the specifics about prior to yesterday what -

-

obviously, the contents of those briefings are something that we don't discuss.

Q But you can discuss when he first learned that there was a terrorist -

-

and that they were being investigated.

MS. MYERS: All I can say is that he was informed about this operation yesterday. Beyond that, I am not prepared to discuss the contents of those security briefings -

-

Q Has Sessions been in touch with Lake? Is that how it -

-

MS. MYERS: Tony gets his information from a variety of

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channels. I don't know whether he's spoken directly to Director Sessions or not.

Q Is the Attorney General involved?

MS. MYERS: Operationally, she's -

-

the FBI reports to the Attorney General. And Justice is certainly sort of providing -

-

they're involved in it. They're not providing a lot of details at this point, other than to say there is this news conference today at 2:00 p.m.

Q Is that in Washington or New York?

MS. MYERS: New York.

Q The President's briefings have been from Tony Lake, they haven't been phone calls from Webb Hubbell or phone calls from Janet Reno?

MS. MYERS: Through the normal national security channels.

Q Do you know about when Tony Lake -

-

do you know about when the briefing -

-

MS. MYERS: It was in the morning, during his normal national security intelligence briefing.

Q Can you tell us what Judge Sessions' status is? He met with Reno this morning again. Is that a final meeting or where is -

-

MS. MYERS: No, I would refer you to Justice for the specific details of that meeting. I mean, the President continues to wait for a report from the Attorney General on the status of Judge Sessions. I know that the Attorney General is working hard to resolve this.

Q Dee Dee, can you tell us -

-

changing the subject for a second -

-

on this latest standoff between U.N. weapons inspectors in Baghdad and the Iraqi government, is the President being kept informed of this? How concerned is he about this latest standoff?

MS. MYERS: The President's being kept informed. Beyond that, I don't have any comment.

Q Are you familiar with it? Do you know the details?

MS. MYERS: I know the broad outlines of the issue. I don't know the details.

Q Does he have a final report from the FBI yet on the assassination attempt and -

-

MS. MYERS: No, we're still waiting on that.

Q Dee Dee, going into the budget vote, what's the outlook from your standpoint? What's your vote counting looking like?

MS. MYERS: Well, I think there's going to be a lot of people working very hard throughout the day, but we expect that it will pass.

Q To follow up on that, how worried are you about this dispute with liberal Democrats on Medicare? Do you think that's going to be much of a setback?

MS. MYERS: I think clearly there have been -

senators
across the ideological spectrum have raised concerns. And it's been something that the Majority Leader and others have worked very hard to reach a consensus. I think we'll see that, and then we'll go into the conference process where a lot of those details will be hammered out between the House and Senate versions. I think that's going to be -

that's going to be a good, vigorous debate.

Q Dee Dee, earlier this morning, you were quoted as saying the votes weren't there for passage. Are they there now?

MS. MYERS: I think they'll be there by the end of the day. I think that's what Senator Mitchell has been saying throughout this process, is that we're working very hard on it, but he has been optimistic throughout this.

Q Are they there now?

MS. MYERS: You'll have to check with Senator Mitchell. They'll be there when -

they're not voting yet. They'll be there when the final vote is taken.

Q Dee Dee, is the President calling any Republicans?

MS. MYERS: I don't think so. I don't think the -

the
Republicans have made it pretty clear they're not going to support the President's package.

Q What about Senator Hatfield or Jeffords?

MS. MYERS: I don't know. To my knowledge he has not yet contacted them, but he may very well. If they're willing to discuss this, then I think it's entirely likely the President would call.

Q What happy medium is acceptable to the President between the Senate gas tax and the House Rtu tax? And if you won't say, why not?

MS. MYERS: Obviously, there's going to be some compromise worked out on an energy tax. And I think that we'll leave that to the conference process. The reason that we can't comment on it yet is because the process hasn't started. I think it's safe to say the administration will be very involved in the conference process. We'll sit down and work very hard to resolve the areas where there are questions between House and Senate members and make sure that the President's principles are maintained.

Q Will the President publicly take a position on conference?

MS. MYERS: I think we'll wait and see how the conference process unfolds. At this point we won't.

Q Could you tell us about the compromise which is being worked out by the Pentagon on gays in the military? Where do you stand on that, please?

MS. MYERS: As you know, Secretary Aspin is supposed to present a report to the President by July 15th. He has not yet completed that. I believe he's in consultation process now. We expect the report soon, but we don't have it yet.

Q Is The Post story fairly accurate this morning about the compromise?

MS. MYERS: We haven't seen the report yet, so I certainly can't comment on the details of what might be in that report.

Q Well, let me ask you a question. A federal judge in California said that the military could not deny gays a constitutional right to serve in the military. Now, if the White House is negotiating with the Pentagon a kind of compromise, isn't the President bargaining away the constitutional rights of a substantial segment of the population?

MS. MYERS: First of all, the President is not bargaining with the Pentagon on this issue. We're certainly monitoring progress, but we're not bargaining with the Pentagon. The President asked Secretary Aspin to present a draft executive order by July 15th. Secretary Aspin is going to comply with that. And we'll take a look at what he recommends. And the President will make a

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decision from there.

Q But isn't the process which you're now undertaking a considerable step backward from what he said in the campaign on this issue?

MS. MYERS: Again, I can't emphasize enough, the President hasn't made any final decisions at this point. What he said during this process and during the campaign was that he does not believe anyone should be denied the right to serve in the military on the basis of status alone.

Q Does that mean serve openly?

MS. MYERS: The details of it are yet to be worked out. I think it's clear that there are certain obstacles. Members of Congress don't support an entire lifting of the ban. I don't think that's a possibility. But I think that the President continues to support his goal. He does not believe people should be denied the ability to serve based solely on status. He has also said that he doesn't believe there should be any changes in the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Q But having a federal judge in California ruling -

-

setting a very clear precedent on matter, saying what the military can and cannot do. Why doesn't he just not -

-

MS. MYERS: I think that -

-

I don't know what the status of that decision is. I'm familiar with it, but I think we're going to move forward with this policy and we'll deal with the -

-

I mean, I can't comment on the courts.

Q You have been stating for the past few days that the White House approves or would like to see a dialogue between Aristide and General Cedras. But the news reports have been all over the place. First, Aristide says, yes, he is imposing conditions --

MS. MYERS: No, we've been in contact with Father Aristide, and he has accepted a meeting without conditions.

Q Without conditions?

MS. MYERS: Without conditions.

Q Today?

MS. MYERS: As of my last checking on that, he'd accepted a meeting without conditions, which obviously we think is a good thing. We continue to hope and push for a negotiated settlement and the restoration of democracy there.

Q Do you know where it will take place?

MS. MYERS: I don't have any of the details. I'm not sure they've been resolved.

Q Has Goldin been told he can stay at NASA?

MS. MYERS: I've seen that account. I will have to take that question.

Q Dee Dee, the Russian Foreign Minister has postponed his visit to the United States. Is that because he's upset about U.S. pressure to stop selling high-

tech weapons to Third World countries?

MS. MYERS: I think at the agreement of both governments, Deputy Prime Minister Chernomyrdin's visit has been postponed until after G-

7, and it will give both countries a chance to work on the summit and to work out some unresolved issues.

Q Is the issue of their sale of high-

tech weapons to Third World countries one of the issues that needs to be worked out?

MS. MYERS: It's certainly something that the two countries have talked about. As you know, President Yeltsin and President Clinton talked about it at the summit. President Clinton followed that up with a letter emphasizing our concerns about nuclear

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weapons proliferation, and it's something that we continue to discuss.

Q Are they irritated at our insistence that they stop?

MS. MYERS: Well, you'd have to check with them. But I think our laws and our views on this are very clear.

Q Dee Dee, do you have a reaction to the arrests in New York?

MS. MYERS: Not yet.

Q Did we disinvite him?

MS. MYERS: No, both countries agreed to postpone it until after G-

7.

Q Who initiated the postponement?

MS. MYERS: There's been an ongoing dialogue, and both countries agreed to it.

Q I don't understand. You say they're postponing this until after the summit so they can work on summit business?

MS. MYERS: Before the summit. Both countries are very busily -

-

Q Oh, they're working on summit business separately

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MS. MYERS: Separately.

Q -

-

so they don't want to meet, even though they're going to meet at the summit, until after the summit?

MS. MYERS: The countries are working individually on preparations for the summit. They're discussing a number of issues, including technology issues, which I'm sure will come up when the two presidents sit down.

Q Usually, meetings are a good way to prepare for a summit.

MS. MYERS: There's additional details that need to be discussed, and the meeting has been postponed until after G-

7.

Q I'm sorry, I'm lost.

MS. MYERS: The meeting wasn't scheduled to discuss issues -

-

Q I know, but I'm completely lost, Dee Dee. Help me out here. I gather that they're not going to have the meeting before the summit so that they can better prepare for the summit, and then they're going to have the meeting after the summit?

MS. MYERS: The meeting was not scheduled to deal with summit issues, specifically.

Q What was it scheduled to deal with?

MS. MYERS: It has to do with energy and space related issues.

Q Dee Dee, to what extent does U.S. aid for Russia, U.S. support for G-

7 aid to Russia linked to this weapons proliferation issue?

MS. MYERS: To what extent is G-

7 -

-

Q -

-

is aid for Russia linked to the weapons proliferation issue, and our concerns about Russian sales to India and elsewhere?

MS. MYERS: I mean, we've made very clear our position with reference to the MTCR. We're moving forward at the same time with aid for Russia. We have made it clear that that is a high priority for the U.S., and we're going to continue to press for Russia aid.

Q There's no linkage? That means there's no linkage?

Q Even if you don't get progress on weapons proliferation?

MS. MYERS: At this point, we're moving forward on talks about the MTCR, as well as Russia aid. We're going to continue to press for Russia aid. It's something we'll talk about at G-

7. We expect to make good progress on that. As you know, it's passed the House.

Q Why are the two issues not linked?

MS. MYERS: That we're moving forward on both issues.

Q Why are they not linked and why is the missile control regime not to be an issue at the summit?

MS. MYERS: I didn't say the -

-
there's two separate issues here, or slightly separate issues here. (Laughter.) Chernomyrdin was coming to the United States to talk about energy and space technology issues, and also an ongoing discussion about missile technology and weapons transfers. Obviously, President Clinton and President Yeltsin discussed those issues at the summit in Vancouver. The President sent President Yeltsin a letter reiterating his concerns about those issues. It's something we'll continue to discuss. Chernomyrdin's visit has been postponed until after the summit. Both sides will prepare for the summit. Technology issues will clearly be discussed, and after the summit we'll look toward rescheduling Chernomyrdin's visit here to meet with Vice President Gore and talk about energy and technology issues.

Q Can I repeat my question? Why, since we've had what is ascribed as a very serious incident where we tracked this material into the Ukraine and finally managed to stop it there, why is this issue not linked with U.S. and, in fact, G-

7 aid to Russia?

MS. MYERS: Because we're moving forward on aid to Russia and we're going to move forward on our talks on missile technology.

Q That describes what you're doing. His question is why you're doing it that way instead of having it be an issue.

MS. MYERS: It's something that -

-
again, technology issues will likely come up at G-

7, there's no -

-
it's something that they discussed in Vancouver; something that they'll discuss in Tokyo.

Q It's a security issue.

MS. MYERS: It is a security and a technology issue.

Q Then why is it not linked with aid to Russia?

MS. MYERS: Because we're going to move forward with aid for Russia. It's something that we're working on.

Q We understand that. The question is, why would this not be linked to that? Why is it okay to go ahead with aid to Russia at a time when we've caught them red

handed in what appears to be a serious breach of international arms regimes?

MS. MYERS: We have, in the past, imposed sanctions on Russian companies that violate the Missile Technology Control Regime. If we determine there have been further violations, we will not hesitate to impose further sanctions against Russian companies who are in violation. Make no mistake about that. At the same time -

-

Q We have the Russian free enterprise sector running amuck and we wouldn't want to punish the government for it? Is that the idea?

MS. MYERS: I will reiterate. If we determine that there have been violations of the regime, we will not hesitate to impose sanctions. At the same time we're going to move forward with Russian aid and we're going to move forward with preparation for discussions with President Yeltsin in Russia.

Q So we do not care to link these issues

-
is there
a reason for that?

MS. MYERS: I think I've said all I can say on this.

Q It's my understanding the Russians are not signatories to that international technology regime.

MS. MYERS: U.S. law requires that violators be punished, that there be sanctions.

Q Even if they haven't signed onto it?

MS. MYERS: U.S. law requires it, and we're certainly going to abide by U.S. law.

Q Does the United States government hold the Russian government responsible for these weapon sales?

MS. MYERS: Well, we're discussing it with them.

Q Or is it only the companies?

MS. MYERS: We take it very seriously. I think President Clinton has communicated his concerns to President Yeltsin. It's been communicated at a number of levels. And we're going to continue to push for enforcement.

Q Let me try linkage in a different way.

MS. MYERS: You're not going to get me to say it, so -

-
Q Well, I'll try it in a different way. To the extent that there is difficulty making progress on the weapons issue, would that reduce the U.S. government's interest in, enthusiasm for, lobbying for aid to Russia?

MS. MYERS: I will -

-
at the risk of sounding redundant,
let me say that we're going to continue to move forward on Russian aid. We're going to continue to -

-
we look forward to meeting with President Yeltsin to discuss a number of issues. And we'll continue to make it very clear that we will not tolerate violations of the Missile Technology Control Regime.

Q Do you think you'll end up moving more slowly on aid if you're forced to move more slowly on weapons?

MS. MYERS: That's hypothetical.

Q Dee Dee, back on New York. Do you have a sense that this crowd has now been rolled up or are there more people out there that are still posing a threat to the U.S.?

MS. MYERS: I just can't comment beyond -

-
you'll have to wait for the press conference at 2:00 p.m. after the preliminary court appearance.

Q Does the President have a reaction to the arrests this morning?

Q Can I follow that? Are there -

-
MS. MYERS: Not yet.

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Q Are there additional precautions that the President now needs to take in light of evidence that this crowd is still active?

MS. MYERS: I just don't have anything else to add to that until later.

Q Any changes in security here, Dee Dee?

MS. MYERS: Not that I know of.

Q Dee Dee, Senator D'Amato said a few hours ago that he had heard about this quite a few days ago and he had extra protection.

MS. MYERS: I just can't comment on the specific details. There will be a press conference at 2:00 p.m., and we'll go from there.

Q Is the President going to announce his decision on nuclear testing tomorrow?

MS. MYERS: I don't believe that will happen tomorrow.

Q Do we know yet whether Chelsea is going to Japan?

MS. MYERS: No. No decision.

Q Do you have any -

-
I mean, advance party's going out this weekend.

MS. MYERS: I don't think it would mean -

-
would require a dramatic change if Chelsea was to go.

Q Who is going to Pat Nixon's funeral?

MS. MYERS: Don't know yet.

Q You don't know yet?

Q Well, you'd better decide soon. It's going to be over.

MS. MYERS: It's Saturday. I think we'll have a decision on that by the end of the day.

Q Dee Dee, has the White House quietly been informing gay and lesbian groups that the President is not going to be able to deliver fully on the campaign promise he made about lifting totally the ban on gays?

MS. MYERS: No, although we've certainly been open to hearing their opinions on this. We haven't signaled anything other than what we've said publicly.

Q Dee Dee, the Federal Reserve yesterday said that -- put out a report that said that businesses are reluctant to hire people because they're worried about the taxes and worried about health care reform. And this administration is on record as saying it wants to create jobs. Aren't you concerned that some of the proposals out there are discouraging businesses from hiring people?

MS. MYERS: I think the best thing we can do to encourage businesses to hire people is to get the President to break gridlock and to get the President's budget passed. That will signal serious commitment to deficit reduction, it will help keep interest rates low, it will stimulate growth. And we remain committed to that. I think that is the best way we can reassure business that we're serious about breaking gridlock and turning this economy around.

Q But the concern, though, was on taxes and health care reform. They're very worried about it.

MS. MYERS: A big part of the concern is uncertainty, and if we get this budget passed I think that it will be clear what the road map looks like for the next few years and that the President is serious about reducing the deficit as well as investing in things that will help create jobs.

Q When will it become clear on health care reform?

MS. MYERS: We're working on it.

Q Hasn't this President set a dangerous precedent in negotiating with the military under Article II, Section II of the Constitution? He's the Commander-

in-

Chief. Hasn't he diluted his constitutional powers by negotiating this issue with the Pentagon?

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MS. MYERS: Once again, the President is not negotiating with the Pentagon or with the Joint Chiefs on this. He's, as you know, had conversations about it. He will review Secretary Aspin's proposal when it arrives and he'll make a decision. I think it is absolutely appropriate for the President to seek input of the Joint Chiefs and others on issues related to the military. However, he is not negotiating with anybody.

Q Every news story in the country then is incorrect by describing this as a process of negotiation and compromise. You have the President not negotiating or negotiating

MS. MYERS: He's consulting, clearly. And again, it is not only his right, it is his responsibility to consult with members of the Joint Chiefs and others on issues that relate to the military.

Q But you have a federal judge saying exactly what the law is and you have the President stating what his policy is and you have him stepping back from that policy and consulting, if you will, on both --

stepping back from his campaign promise and negotiating on something a federal judge has decreed.

MS. MYERS: I don't think that the federal --

again, I'm not a lawyer, but I don't think that the federal judge's decree makes anything crystal clear. But six months ago the President's --

or almost six months ago, the President set forward a process for dealing with this issue. He said --

he directed Secretary Aspin to take six months to look at this issue. And he started two studies; one was a Pentagon study, one was a independent RAND study. Based on that, the Secretary was to report back to the President. That process is moving forward. We expect a report from the Secretary soon and the President will make a decision.

Q Has he got a RAND study on this?

MS. MYERS: The Pentagon did.

Q Where does Congress interfere in this? Can he issue an edict after he makes his decision?

MS. MYERS: Obviously, Congress will have the ability to vote up or down on this.

Q I misunderstand, I think, maybe your answer over here to this question. You were saying the White House is not discussing with gay groups a variety of different language possibilities?

MS. MYERS: We're certainly listening to their opinions about it.

Q Wait a minute, Dee Dee, I mean, that question is fairly --

are you not discussing the language that might be used?

MS. MYERS: I think that they

that the groups were in to meet once last week with George. They certainly communicated their concerns about it.

Q And he sat mute through this meeting?

MS. MYERS: I think he was there to listen.

Q Was language discussed that might be applied in this situation?

MS. MYERS: I don't know exactly what was discussed. I think a lot of things were discussed.

Q So it might have been and you don't know?

MS. MYERS: I think that they raised a number of concerns.

Q All that's fine. We're just trying to determine

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whether this is -

whether the answer is yes, or no, or you don't know.

MS. MYERS: What? I don't know exactly, specifically the entire agenda of what was discussed.

Q Thank you.

Q Do you have any quarrel with what's reported in The Washington Post today?

MS. MYERS: I'm not going to comment. I mean, I think I already said we weren't going to comment on -

the President hasn't made a decision. Secretary Aspin has not submitted a final report. George did meet with some of the gay and lesbian leaders last week. Beyond that, I have nothing to say.

Q Is Aspin still scheduled to be in here tomorrow?

MS. MYERS: No meeting has been officially scheduled. He's going to come in here at some point and it hasn't been scheduled. It has not been worked out between the President and the Secretary.

Q Will this decision be made prior to the summit?

MS. MYERS: It depends on when the Secretary gets his final recommendations. And if the -

I wouldn't assume that if the Secretary meets at the end of this week that it signals that he's finished his report. I don't think that that's clear.

Q Dee Dee, speaking of the summit, has President Clinton had any contact with Miyazawa or anyone else in Japan?

MS. MYERS: No.

Q Does he plan to?

MS. MYERS: I don't know. We'll let you know if it happens.

Q Back on the New York arrests, has the President called Boutros-

Ghali or Hasni Mubarak or will he today?

MS. MYERS: No.

Q Will anyone from the White House?

MS. MYERS: I don't know. The President has no scheduled plans to at this point.

Q Why wouldn't he?

MS. MYERS: He just has no plans to.

Q

D'Amato?

MS. MYERS: I wouldn't rule it out.

Q Dee Dee, when the budget was taken up in the House, there were certain Democrats that pretty much agreed only to support it if their vote was necessary in order to have sufficient votes to move the process forward. And you said this morning you don't have the votes now, but you expect to have them by the end of the day. Does that mean you're pretty confident that you'll be able to garner support from some wavering Democrats and possibly empathetic Republicans who will only agree to vote -

MS. MYERS: Yes. We think that by the end of the day we'll have the votes to pass the package.

Q But are you trying to garner votes from those that won't support it unless it's an official swing vote, and otherwise they won't support it?

MS. MYERS: I'm not privy to the intentions of the various senators other than to say that by the end of the day we expect to have the support of enough senators to pass the package.

Q Director Panetta indicated even last night that he felt there were certain friends on the Republican side of the Senate that share his concern for deficit reduction. And if that's the case, wouldn't it be logical that some of them might be willing to support this plan if their vote is essential in order to get the 51 votes?

MS. MYERS: I think we'll get to 51. I hope it includes Republicans. We'll have to wait and see.

Q Dee Dee, anything on the Ritzenthaler situation?

MS. MYERS: The President has not spoken to him.

Q Is he still trying, or is he waiting -

MS. MYERS: He has not placed another call to him.

Q Dee Dee, back on Russian aid. Is the President optimistic, confident that the G-

7 nations will endorse the \$4-

billion package for Russia now, or something less?

MS. MYERS: I think that the details about exactly how it's structured and how much money is in it are being worked out. I think there will be some kind of a fund to support privatization and restructuring of the Russian economy, which is a major step forward. I think Secretary Christopher said yesterday that he thought that was an important achievement and something that will certainly be discussed at the summit. But again, the final details on the size and the exact structure of the fund are still under discussion.

Q There were reports that \$4 billion is just way out of sight at this point, as far as -

MS. MYERS: Yes. Again, even if it's less, which I think it may be, than \$4 billion, I think, it is still an important achievement and something that we think will help as the Russian economy tries to restructure and move toward a market economy.

Q You're backing off the \$4-

billion figure?

Q Where did you ever get that idea?

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END 12:02 P.M. EDT

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (RECONSTRUCTED EMAIL)

CREATOR: Jonathan P. Gill (GILL_J) (WHO)

CREATION DATE/TIME: 25-JUN-1993 13:36:00.00

SUBJECT: Press Briefing by Dee Dee Myers 6.25.93

TO: (202) 456-6444 (WNS_1) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Christian M. Baldia (BALDIA_C) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Janet Handal (HANDAL_J) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Remote Addressee (1=US@2=TELEMAIL@3=INTERNET@*RFC-822\JGILL(A)NSF.GOV@MRX@EOPMRX) (DEFAULT)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Remote Addressee (JIM KOHLENBERGER@EOP_OVP@CCGATE@EOPMRX) (DEFAULT)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Liz Bowyer (BOWYER_L) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Alan J. Stone (STONE_A) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Thomas O. Levenberg (LEVENBERG_T) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

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TO: Remote Addressee (1=US@2=TELEMAIL@3=INTERNET@*RFC-822\HES(A)AI.MIT.EDU@MRX@EOPMRX) (DEFAULT)
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TO: Remote Addressee (1=US@2=TELEMAIL@3=INTERNET@*RFC-822\USIA01(A)ACCESS.DIGEX.COM@MRX@EOPMRX) (DEFAULT)
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TO: Remote Addressee (ALEXIS BYRNE@1=US@2=ATTMAIL@3=GOV+USDA.SIES@5=SIESNET@MRX@EOPMRX) (DEFAULT)
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TO: Remote Addressee (1=US@2=TELEMAIL@3=INTERNET@*RFC-822\JPOLEY(A)ESUSDA.GOV@MRX@EOPMRX) (DEFAULT)
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TO: Remote Addressee (1=US@2=TELEMAIL@3=INTERNET@*RFC-822\DLYTEL(A)NSF.GOV@MRX@EOPMRX) (DEFAULT)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Jeffrey L. Eller (ELLER_J) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Lisa Mortman (MORTMAN_L) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Ernest D. Gibble (GIBBLE_E) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Patricia A. Enright (ENRIGHT_P) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Jonathan P. Gill (GILL_J) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Richard Strauss (STRAUSS_R) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Maria M. Tio (TIO_M) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Joshua N. Silverman (SILVERMAN_J) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Jess Sarmiento (SARMIENTO_J) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Lavera R. Barnes (BARNES_L) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: C. Patricia Cogdell (COGDELL_C) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

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TO: Kimberly S. Hopper (HOPPER_K) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Margaret C. Sherry (SHERRY_M) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Elizabeth A. Bernstein (BERNSTEIN_E) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Carolyn Curiel (CURIEL_C) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: David B. Anderson (ANDERSON_D) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Laura D. Schwartz (SCHWARTZ_L) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Roy Neel (NEEL_R) (VPO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Thurgood Marshall, Jr (MARSHALL_T) (VPO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Greg Simon (SIMON_G) (VPO)
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TO: Remote Addressee (MARLA E. ROMASH@EOP_OVP@CCGATE@EOPMRX) (DEFAULT)
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TO: Leon Fuerth (FUERTH_L) (VPO)
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TO: Jack Quinn (QUINN_J) (VPO)
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TO: Katie McGinty (MCGINTY_K) (VPO)
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TO: Remote Addressee (SALLY J. AMAN@EOP_OVP@CCGATE@EOPMRX) (DEFAULT)
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TO: Kukis, Heidi (HEIDI KUKIS@EOP_OVP@CCGATE@EOPMRX) (DEFAULT)
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TO: Remote Addressee (JIM KOHLENBERGER@EOP_OVP@CCGATE@EOPMRX) (DEFAULT)
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TO: Ulrich, Christopher R (CHRISTOPHER R. ULRICH@EOP_OVP@CCGATE@EOPMRX) (DEFAULT)
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TO: Ethan J. Zindler (ZINDLER_E) (WHO)
READ: UNKNOWN

TO: Remote Addressee (1=US@2=TELEMAIL@3=INTERNET*PFC 822\KIM.WINN(A)SCC.SENATE.GOV@MRX@EOPMRX) (DEFAULT)
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TEXT:

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release June 25, 1993

PRESS BRIEFING
BY DEE DEE MYERS
The Briefing Room

11:40 A.M. EDT

MS. MYERS: Just one quick announcement that everyone already knows; the President will be stopping at the NEA Convention in San Francisco on the way to Tokyo. He will speak at 10:45 a.m. on Monday, July 5th.

That's it.

Q What time does he leave Washington?

MS. MYERS: I don't have the specifics on that. We'll have a schedule, a briefing schedule, hopefully by Monday which will outline the briefings that we'll be able to provide pre-

Tokyo.

Q When did you say you'd have that?

Q When does he leave San Francisco?

MS. MYERS: There will be a couple hours to file in San Francisco, and then we'll go from there.

Q When did you say you'd have it?

Q -

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have an advance text?

MS. MYERS: We're going to try real hard. We'll have an advance text. (Laughter.)

Q For whatever that's worth.

MS. MYERS: Right.

Q When did you say the schedule would be available?

MS. MYERS: We're going to try to brief on the logistics either Monday or Tuesday. That will be a backgrounder, but it will at least give you a sense of what we're doing for planning purposes.

Q When will Bentsen and Christopher brief?

MS. MYERS: Latter half of the week.

Q Can I ask a question about the budget situation?

MS. MYERS: Sure.

Q How can the President accommodate these two varying sides of the Democratic Party in order to come up with enough votes to get something that will pass?

MS. MYERS: Well, I think the two versions, while they have some very obvious differences, are closer together than I think people have given them credit for. Both of them meet the President's principles, including \$500 billion in deficit reduction; they're both progressive and they both have a roughly an equal amount of tax increases and spending cuts. The conferees will have to sit down and hammer out the details on the other differences, but I think the President feels good.

We've gotten through -

-
cleared two very high hurdles in this process so far. The President is asking for big change and he's gotten big change from both Houses. They've shown a lot of courage, the members have, in making these votes.

Q Does not a 49-

to-

49 vote mean that any concessions you make to the House conferees will result in something that will not pass the Senate?

MS. MYERS: No, not necessarily. I think this is something that can be worked out. It's going to take some work. But I think this process has been difficult all along, and I think that we feel very good about the victory the President enjoyed last night and I think we look forward to passing it through the conference.

Q Beyond the general principles, now that he's moved through the Senate, what are the key elements that he will insist on in conference? Not just the principles, but what specifics is he now going to fight for in the conference from either side?

MS. MYERS: That's something that we're working on now. I'm not ready to announce our conference strategy at this point.

Q Has he accepted the idea of a gas tax?

MS. MYERS: I think there's going to have to be some

-
I think what we're hearing from -

-
what the President believes is that there will be some compromise, that the two sides are going to have reach an agreement somewhere between a Btu tax and the transportation fuels tax. We'll have to wait and see how that gets worked out.

Q You're not neutral on this argument.

MS. MYERS: No, we won't be neutral. I'm just saying I'm not prepared to announce our conference strategy yet. This package just passed last night at 3:00 a.m. in the morning. I don't think we're -

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Q

-
need a nap.

MS. MYERS: Yes, exactly. And I would point out that we were good enough to let the pool go home at 8:30 p.m.

Q Dee Dee, how does the President feel about the Senate's version on the capital gains version that the Senate approved?

Q The Bumpers and -

-

MS. MYERS: Well, but the Senate didn't -

that would be that the Senate didn't approve. I think the President had part of that, the expensing provision, in his original package. But I'm not going to comment on all the specifics other than to say that we'll be very involved in the conference process. We think we can reach a compromise that meets the President's principles. And we'll have more to say about it after we've had some time.

Q How could you have a -

-

I'm just trying to see what kind of a compromise you could have between a gas tax and a Stu tax. And I'm not trying to tie you all down. I just can't see what you could have in between there.

MS. MYERS: No. I mean, it's something that's going to have to be worked out. And I just can't

-

the details aren't there yet.

Q I'm really not trying to tie you all down with this, but could have like both? A small amount of both? Or what -

-

MS. MYERS: I think there are a number of options. And, again, that's something that we'll have to work through with the conferees. We'll have more to say about it later. But I think there's a number of options that are somewhere -

-

that fall somewhere between a Stu tax and a transportation fuels tax.

Q Understanding that you're not endorsing anything at this point, what would some of those options be? I'm just trying to get some sort of idea of what you would have to go to.

MS. MYERS: I'm just not prepared to discuss that from here.

Q During the evening, I mean, what kind of a head count -

-

were you shocked that it was a tie?

MS. MYERS: No, we knew it was going to be close.

Q You knew it would be a tie?

MS. MYERS: Well, fortunately, we have the silver bullet in the Vice President. (Laughter.)

Q Is that a wooden bullet? (Laughter.)

Q But, I mean, did you really see that coming?

MS. MYERS: No, no. I think we always expected it would be one or two-

vote margin and so I don't think that we were surprised at all. I think that there were a number of people who were prepared -- there were a number of senators who weren't allowed -

-

who would not be willing to let the package go down.

Q Would the President really -

-

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does he approve of
the gas tax going into the highway fund?

THE PRESIDENT: The President approves of the Senate
getting through this process so we can go back to conference and work
it out. And again. I'm not prepared to discuss the details of the
conference strategy.

Q When is he going to buckle down and know what's in
the -- you know, in both versions and work out a strategy?

MS. MYERS: Oh, I don't have a specific timetable, but
given the he didn't go to bed until after 3:00 a.m. last night, he
did stay up for the results of the vote, he hasn't had a lot of time
to focus on it.

Q Does he expect to do that before he leaves for
Toyko?

MS. MYERS: Oh, I think there will certainly be some
work on it next week, absolutely.

Q Did he call anyone at 3:00 a.m. in the morning?

MS. MYERS: You know, I don't know. I'll take that
question. I did not get an answer to it.

Q Did he talk to the Vice President after the vote?

MS. MYERS: I just don't know who he -

-
I think he did,
but I want to double-
check.

Q Was he in the Oval or -

-
MS. MYERS: No, he was in the residence. He went back
to the residence last night and monitored the -

-
I think he cabled
surfed. (Laughter.) C
Span, a little movie -

Q Did he watch Letterman?

MS. MYERS: I don't know.

Q Dee Dee, was there any insurance from any of these
six Democrats who voted against the bill that if the President was
going to go down to defeat that they would reverse their vote?

MS. MYERS: I think that there were a number of senators
who were not prepared to let the bill go down. But I -

-
Q In other words, it wasn't as close as the 50-
to-
49
vote -

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it wasn't as close as that would suggest?

MS. MYERS: I think there was -

-
again, that there some

-
a number of senators who weren't willing to see this package
defeated -

-
to see the process blocked -

Q Of the six.

MS. MYERS: Yes, of the six.

Q Which are the six?

MS. MYERS: I'm not going to say.

Q How many of those?

Q So deals were made, actually, weren't they?

MS. MYERS: Well, I think that that's part of the legislative process. Sure, Senator Mitchell was down there working his heart out, as were Senator Moynihan and others.

Q Did you have an ambulance or something ready for Patty Murray? A serious question.

MS. MYERS: I don't know that an ambulance was ready, but we were prepared to do what it took to get the deal done.

Q Would you say that the Senate vote, Dee Dee, was as close or closer or not as close as the House vote?

MS. MYERS: I think they were both very close.

Q As close?

MS. MYERS: Yes, I would say that it was as close. Both of them were won by close margins. It was a tough vote for the members. It took a lot of courage for them to step up to the plate. It's a big change.

Q Why was

Q Wait, Helen. And do you think the President can be as disengaged from the conference as he was from the Senate?

MS. MYERS: No, I think we've indicated all along that we'll take a more active role in the conference process. This is the final hurdle. I think we indicated throughout this process that what we wanted to see was the process move forward, to get out of the Senate Finance Committee, to get through the Senate process, as long as it preserved the President's principles, which it did, and now sit down with the two sides and try to work out the best possible deal.

Q On that issue, can you outline for us what you mean when you see you're going to take a more active approach? Is the President going to personally negotiate with people? Is he going to go to the country and make a speech about it?

MS. MYERS: I think that we'll do a number of things, including, I think it's very likely that we'll appeal to the country at some point and make sure that they know what's in the package, what the President's objectives are. But, again, I just am not prepared to discuss the specifics of a conference strategy.

Q Could that come next week, prior to the summit?

MS. MYERS: I don't know that we'll ever unveil it in any detail, although I think as this process moves forward it will become clearer.

Q Dee Dee, Secretary Shalala -

Q Is there any impatience at all with Senator Nunn? I mean, is there any feeling that at some point he ought to be supporting his party's President?

MS. MYERS: We'll continue to do what we can to work with Senator Nunn.

Q What will you do?

MS. MYERS: Pardon me?

Q What will you do?

MS. MYERS: The same thing we've been doing all along. We'll continue to discuss things with him. Obviously, he's an independent man and he will vote as he sees fit.

Q The President did say this morning that he told some senators that he would fight to get more investment incentives back into the package in conference. Did he make any other such commitments on any other issues, on any other elements?

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MS. MYERS: I think that he has said throughout the process that he would want -

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he's very committed to things like the earned income tax credit and enterprise zones and the other investments that he -

-

and perhaps more incentives for small business

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-

the expensing provision, which we put into the House version of the bill. I think he'll fight for those investments. He's going to do what he can to create the incentives we need to get the economy moving again. But, again, I can't go into the specific details.

Q The President has promised, as I understand, a number of lawmakers' changes in the conference committee. I'm wondering how you feel you'll be able to make these without threatening the support of others, and precisely what changes -

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precisely is -

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obviously, you're not going to be able to answer generally what changes you might look for to make the better bill the President expects to come up with.

MS. MYERS: Well, again, I think it's clear there were changes in the House, there were changes in the Senate, there will be changes in conference; there's no question about that. As the President pointed out today, there were some elements of the House bill that members of the Senate preferred and some elements of the Senate bill that members of the House preferred. That's what the conference process is going to be about, working out an acceptable compromise.

I think by and large, both Houses want to see this package complete. They want to see a discipline deficit reduction program, they want to see new investments for economic growth, new incentives, they want to see a fairer tax structure. I think that there's a lot of desire to see this deal done. And I think we're going to work real hard to make sure that it gets done.

Q Will the attempt, then, be to get votes -

-

get people who did not vote for the measure to vote for the conference compromise, or will the attempt be to perhaps work some more political deals?

MS. MYERS: No, obviously, we're going to get as many votes as we possible can. If we can get Democrats who weren't with us in the House or the Senate, or even Republicans, we welcome it.

Q You see, the reason I ask because presumably any change would threaten support you already have.

MS. MYERS: But it, I think, it may also create opportunities for expanded support. I think that's -

you all know how this process works. You go into conference and two sides sit down and they hammer out a compromise and hopefully we'll get it through both Houses.

Q Exactly where does the gays in the military policy process stand now?

MS. MYERS: The President is still waiting for recommendations from Secretary Aspin.

Q But he's conferred with him already in the past couple of days, hasn't he?

MS. MYERS: They met yesterday afternoon, late afternoon on a number of issues, but that wasn't the definitive meeting.

Q Do you foresee something before we leave for the summit?

MS. MYERS: Unclear.

Q Might they be meeting again today?

MS. MYERS: I don't -

-
it's not scheduled and I don't expect it.

Q It wasn't scheduled yesterday.

MS. MYERS: It was not scheduled yesterday.

Q Would you let us know if he's coming in?

Q Question?

MS. MYERS: Yes. I don't expect it.

Q What's the hangup at this point? I mean, this thing has been discussed and debated and there's been all kinds of memos.

MS. MYERS: Right. Secretary Aspin has until July 15 under the President's deadline to come back with a draft executive order, and the President's just waiting for a final version. I think it's clear Secretary Aspin is in consultation phase. He's getting close to a final decision on this, but it's just not there yet, and as soon as it's there he'll present it to the President.

Q Has the deadline been extended?

MS. MYERS: I don't think so.

Q Does the President anticipate a lengthy decision process once he has this memo?

MS. MYERS: No, I don't anticipate a lengthy decision process.

Q So you expect that, by the 15th of July, a decision on this from -

-

that he will have made a decision on this?

MS. MYERS: By the 15th of July we'll have received the Secretary's recommendations. I wouldn't rule out a decision before that, but that wasn't the time line for the President's decision.

Q Do gay and lesbian groups have reason to be concerned that the President will not be in a position to deliver on his campaign promise on this issue?

MS. MYERS: I think that they've made their position clear. What the President has said is he still supports it. He believes that people who should not be barred from service on the basis of status alone and we'll have to wait and see what the process produces.

Q How about Sessions?

Q Is there any special briefing or any way the President is being kept up to date on developments in New York in connection with the arrests for terrorism -

-

MS. MYERS: Yes, he's being kept up to date through his regular national security briefing and I think periodic other briefings.

Q Are there any special briefings that he's having?

MS. MYERS: I don't believe so.

Q And are there any plans for him to call any of the figures that were involved as possible assassination targets?

MS. MYERS: Nothing scheduled, but I wouldn't rule it out.

Q Dee Dee, Donna Shalala

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Secretary Shalala said this morning that the administration would go with the Senate's Medicare package rather than the House's. Is that something that she has cleared with the President, or is that just her own bargaining position?

MS. MYERS: I think that's her own bargaining position. I don't believe she has had an opportunity to discuss that, and there were changes in the Senate position last night.

Q She's aware of that and she said that that compromise that she would urge be adopted -

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MS. MYERS: I just don't believe -

to my knowledge, she
hasn't had a chance to discuss that with the President.

Q Dee Dee, when the military first compiled their
list of bases they wanted closed, McClellan in California was on
that list, and then the President and Aspin stepped in and said no,
they didn't want it. The base closing commission today sided with
the President and Aspin and voted to keep McClellan open. Is the
White House gratified at the vote today by -

MS. MYERS: First of all, I have to take issue with
something you said. The President didn't have specific comments
about McClellan, although what he did say was he thought the
aggregate economic impact of base closings should be considered. And
that's particularly true in California. Given the economic situation
there, the high unemployment, the number of bases that were
potentially slotted for closure, the President just want to make
sure, and Secretary Aspin wanted to make sure that the aggregate
economic impact was considered.

As you know, the base closing commission is independent.
They are voting on a number of things now and they will present their
final report to the President July 1st. He'll then have 15 days to
either accept the recommendations or reject them and send them back
to the commission. So we'll wait to see what they finally produce.

Q What's the White House response to the commission
apparently buying your argument about aggregate economic impact?

MS. MYERS: We'll wait to see what the report looks
like, and before that we won't have any comment.

Q Can I follow that issue?

Q Another California question, I guess. Bob Hattoy
and Roberta Achtenberg are expected to take part in Sunday's gay
pride parade in San Francisco. Is their appearance official? It's
being portrayed as the White House participating for the first time.

MS. MYERS: No, they're participating as private
citizens.

Q Does the White House take any position on this at
all?

MS. MYERS: Certainly, members of the administration are
free to participate in activities as private individuals.

Q Can I follow back on the base issue? What is the
process you folks are going to use here at the White House once you
receive the list from the commission? Who is going to do it? How
are you going to weigh the political, economic, and national security
issues that are at stake?

MS. MYERS: Well, the President is going to consult
closely with Secretary Aspin, General Powell and others, take a look
at it and make a decision. Again, he can either accept it in
complete form or send it back. So it's not a case of accepting or
rejecting specific recommendations.

Q Did the President know -

Q

him walking through the list base by base with
those advisors?

MS. MYERS: I think they'll look at the overall
soundness of the plan and make a decision based on that. Again, he
can't, under the statute, accept or reject specific proposals.

Q What goal will the National Economic Council play,
Dee Dee?

MS. MYERS: I'm sure that their advice will be
considered in this process.

Q Is there an informal role for them at this point?

MS. MYERS: I don't think there's been a formal process
set up, although once the report is produced there will be,
certainly, a number of factors considered and a number of the
President's advisors will participate.

Q Did the President know at any time in advance that the FBI was investigating this organization in New York, the terrorist group that was planning these bombings? And did it at all affect his plans to travel to the New York City area or the First Family's plans at all?

MS. MYERS: As I think I said yesterday, he was informed about the FBI's action -

-

planned actions the day before they occurred. And beyond that, I can't comment on the content of -

-

I can't comment on the content of what he may or may not have known.

Q Do you expect the President to have a face-

to-

face meeting with gay rights groups as he did before -

-

before he made a final decision on gays in the military?

MS. MYERS: We just don't have any plans for that. I wouldn't rule it out, but it's not planned.

Q Have they asked for such a meeting with the President?

MS. MYERS: I don't know that they've formally asked. They've asked for a number of meetings. As you know, they were at the White House last week. They may have put in some kind of a request. I'm not sure.

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Q Has he read the letter from -

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just following on that, has he read Mixner's letter?

MS. MYERS: I don't know whether he's received it. I'll have to take that.

Q Can I follow up on the base closings? How will he receive the report next week? Will there be a meeting with the commission members? What's the process in that respect?

MS. MYERS: They'll certainly submit a written report. And whether he meets with the members to go through the rationale, I don't know. It's not scheduled yet.

Q But that will come July 1st.

MS. MYERS: It's due Thursday, July 1st, yes.

Q And what about the timber report next week?

MS. MYERS: That's still in process. I don't have a final time line on that.

Q Has he chosen an option on that?

MS. MYERS: No final decisions have been made.

Q On the budget, without getting into what you're finally going to accept on it, does the President still prefer Blu tax to the energy tax that was passed in the Senate?

MS. MYERS: Yes, the President has said all along that he feels that that is the fairest tax. It also -

-

it promotes conservation and other things. He believes that's the best option. That's why he presented it after a great deal of debate during the process.

Q On the need for more small business incentives, is the White House open to the possibility of possibly changing the current rule for a subchapter S corporation, to tax them?

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Q Yes, about that? (Laughter.)

MS. MYERS: God, I thought I was going to get out without having to take that one. (Laughter.) I just can't comment on that.

Q And New Zealand nuclear

Q How about Sessions? Do you have a report yet?

MS. MYERS: No.

Q Why not? I mean -

Q Excuse me, though. I mean, really, though. I mean, Dole has raised this as an issue -

MS. MYERS: I'm just not going to

I'm not prepared to comment on something that specific today.

Q -

certain members of the -

Q Dee Dee, who's going to take the lead for the administration in the conference?

MS. MYERS: Yet to be determined.

Q On Sessions, Sessions was quoted as saying it's now in the President's hands.

MS. MYERS: That's not the case. We're still waiting for a report from the Attorney General. And I think that she's had a couple of conversations with him about it.

Q You're sure that the -

MS. MYERS: Yes, I'm sure.

Q She's had conversations with whom? With the President?

MS. MYERS: With Judge Sessions.

Q Has she talked to the President about it?

MS. MYERS: No, I don't believe so.

Q Dee Dee, what's the President's understanding about what's happening in Baghdad? And can you go beyond what he said this morning earlier?

MS. MYERS: No, I think he commented on that and said we are -

remain committed to seeing that Iraq obeys all relevant U.N. resolutions, and that the U.N.'s handling it.

Q Does the President support the resolution being considered in the Security Council today to lift the arms embargo on the Bosnian muslims?

MS. MYERS: As you know, the President's preferred policy was to lift the arms embargo and use air strikes in the interim while the Bosnians were rearming. The resolution as currently structured doesn't necessarily reflect that policy. I think we'd be prepared to support a resolution that reflected U.S. policy and the President's preferred options in that regard.

Q Would you vote against -

-
are you going vote
against the resolution?

MS. MYERS: I don't think that the -

-
I think that
they're still debating. They're formally debating that in the
Security Council today. So we'll see what comes out of it. I mean,
we'd be prepared to support a resolution that reflected the
President's position on it.

Q Have you taken an active effort to trying to shape
the resolution -

MS. MYERS: Well, certainly Madeleine is there, as she
was yesterday during the informal discussions. She's there today.

Q Dee Dee, is there any comment on the swearing-

in in
Canada this morning of a new Prime Minister Kim Campbell, the first
woman Prime Minister that?

MS. MYERS: No, other than the President wishes her well
and looks very much forward to meeting her at the G-

7.

Q Any letter on its way or anything that you know of?

MS. MYERS: I don't know. I'll have to take that
question. I know he hasn't spoken to her yet, but he is looking
forward to meeting her. And he'll have a bilateral meeting with her.

Q Is the U.S. government going to declare any
Sudanese diplomats persona non grata?

MS. MYERS: I think we're waiting for the results of the
investigation at this point before we decide what to do.

Q I didn't understand your answer to an earlier
question about whether you're contemplating a presidential speech to
the nation next week.

MS. MYERS: I don't think -

-
not necessarily next week,
but at some point during the conference process, I think it is very
likely the President will address the nation in some form.

Q And would you be thinking about an address to a
Joint Session, or would it more likely to be an Oval Office address?

MS. MYERS: I think a lot of options are still on the
table. I don't think we've made a final decision on that yet.

Q But probably after the Asia trip then?

MS. MYERS: Yes, I don't think it would -

-
the
conference process doesn't look it will start before the July recess.

Q Is there a live radio address tomorrow?

Q Dee Dee, on gays in the military, Barney Frank
outside indicated that a don't ask, don't tell sort of rule might be
an acceptable compromise if enforcement of the military code is
applied equally to heterosexuals as well as homosexuals on certain
prohibited sexual acts. And he said the rationale for accepting less
than an outright ban might be -

-
I'm trying to word this correctly --
if it's based on a way that is -

-
the rationale being not political
terms, but -

-
that's practically feasible because society can't
accept more at this point.

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MS. MYERS: Certainly the President has great respect for Congressman Frank and for his opinion, but we're going to wait until Secretary Aspin makes his recommendations and the President will have a policy announcement after he's had a chance to review it.

Q How does the President feel about the way it's progressing? He was briefed by Aspin yesterday. Aspin is meeting with the Joint Chiefs on it today.

MS. MYERS: I think the President said today he's just not prepared to comment until the process has a chance to move forward.

Q Did he give Aspin any guidance? What you've brought me so far on -

-

MS. MYERS: I'm not going to comment on the content of that meeting, other than to say that a number of topics were discussed.

Q Has he talked to his half-brother?

MS. MYERS: No. (Laughter.)

Q Alleged half-brother. Who's he sending to the Pat Nixon -

-

MS. MYERS: Vernon Jordan.

Q What was that question?

Q Question?

MS. MYERS: Vernon Jordan will be attending Mrs. Nixon's funeral on behalf of the President.

Q Why?

MS. MYERS: He's a friend of the Nixon family from years ago and the President asked him to go.

Q He couldn't get anyone else from higher up -

-

Q -

-

the silver bullet. (Laughter.)

Q There's some indication that there's some disagreement among the chiefs about who is more willing to deal with -

-

than others. Under Goldwater-

Nickles, the President has a right to hear from a chief who disagrees with a recommendation that would come to him from the Secretary and Powell. Would the President listen to a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff who vigorously disagrees with the policy? Would he meet with him directly?

MS. MYERS: I think certainly the President has met periodically with the Chiefs and regularly with General Powell. I think he's going to take their concerns into consideration, absolutely.

Q But would he hear out the concerns of an independent Chief who does not agree with that policy?

MS. MYERS: I don't know whether he'd schedule a meeting, but I think he's certainly open to hearing their views. I think he's pretty familiar with what they've had to say about it so far. I think he's going to certainly consider very seriously the military's views on this.

Q When do you expect a decision on nuclear testing?

MS. MYERS: Soon. I think -

-

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Q Over the weekend perhaps?

MS. MYERS: I don't have a particular time line on it.

Q Doesn't it have a July 1st deadline?

MS. MYERS: No, July 1st is when the ban expires, but it doesn't necessitate immediate action. I think it'll be soon.

Q And the FBI report on the assassination attempt against President Bush?

MS. MYERS: Again, we hear that it's in its final phases, but it's not complete.

Q Travel office?

MS. MYERS: Radio address is -

-
it's being pretaped
today at 3:30 p.m. I think we'll probably release an embargoed text
for 10:06 a.m. tomorrow. So it will not be live.

Q AIDS czar?

MS. MYERS: AIDS czar? No final decisions on that.
(Laughter.)

Q Did you say that the FBI report on the Bush assassination thing is expected in the next few days?

MS. MYERS: No, I said I understand it's wrapping up, but we don't have it yet.

Q When do you expect -

-
MS. MYERS: We're told

soon.

Q -

-
within days?

MS. MYERS: I don't know.

Q Dee Dee, will the findings of that report be the guide for which the President will decide how to respond or will it be depending upon the outcome?

MS. MYERS: No, I think he'll -

-
I don't think the
outcome of the trial is a factor, but I think that will be

-
certainly the report will be a serious factor in his decision.

Q Will you let us know who he called both before and after the vote -

-
taking that question?

MS. MYERS: Yes, I don't know if I'll give you a whole list of all the senators that he talked to yesterday, but I can certainly tell you who he talked to in the middle of the night. Sure. We'll post that later.

Q Schedule for next week. Do you have any information?

MS. MYERS: No, I don't other than there's a Cabinet meeting Monday and a joint congressional leadership meeting Wednesday morning. He'll spend a lot of time preparing for Tokyo. And we haven't figured out the rest of the schedule yet.

Q What about the pre-
summit briefing schedule in
here?

MS. MYERS: Yes, I said earlier I hope to announce that on Monday. We'll do, probably, logistical briefings early in the

week; more substantive briefings later in the week with people, everyone from Secretary Bentsen, Secretary Christopher, people like that.

Q Can we have those on the record for camera and sound, please?

MS. MYERS: We'll take that request. We'll see.

Q Do you expect any travel next week?

MS. MYERS: No.

Q What time will that leadership meeting be on Wednesday, is that 9:30 a.m. or 10:00 a.m.?

MS. MYERS: I don't know yet.

Q That will be bipartisan?

MS. MYERS: Yes, bipartisan.

Q Dee Dee, now that the President has budget reconciliation bills through the House and the Senate, should the tracking of the Clinton economic recovery begin now?

MS. MYERS: Well, I think that we're already happy to take credit for -

(laughter). I think you have -

I mean, certainly the seriousness of the proposals has had an impact on things like interest rates; and I think there's been some job growth -- 755,000 new jobs. But I'm not sure it's -

we're happy to point out those changes in the economic situation, but the plan is not finally passed, and I think it's important see the final form before I think businesses can react and sort of respond to it.

Q May I follow this question? I understood the rationale for why you -

the administration claimed that interest rates had gone down after the President's proposal. But since George Stephanopoulos went from saying it was a jobless recovery to taking credit for the jobs that were created in about 48 hours, I would like someone to explain to me the mechanism by which these proposals created jobs in your minds?

MS. MYERS: Well, lower interest rates puts literally millions, perhaps -

I think the estimate is that a one point reduction in the long-

term interest rates has put \$10 billion back into the economy. That makes capital available for all kinds of business creation and other things. Also, we've seen interest rates at their lowest point in 20 years. There's a seven-

year high in new home sales. That has created about 140,000 jobs just in the construction industry in the last four months. So I think the connection is indisputable between commitment to deficit reduction, lower interest rates and job creation. That's not to say that we're out of the woods. I think the President is not satisfied with the economic performance. He doesn't believe the economy is working for everybody, but he thinks we're at least starting to move in the right direction.

Q That all in one breath.

MS. MYERS: All in one breath. Thank you.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END 12:10 P.M. EDT

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