

# Transcript of President's News Conference on Foreign and Domestic Matters

In a transcript of President's news conference yesterday, recorded by The Times through the facilities of the White House.

## Statement

Q. Statement to make questions. Action on a policy is a test of the democratic system to recognize threat before we act. We will all be measuring our nation and we will all be measuring which we are able to live up to this energy

Q. We are now going on con- total energy plan is not on the executive branch was not between the alternatives and the Sen- of our national will. the American people nish withdrawal objec- tion, on production, of consumption to energy other than gas that not let the forma- of energy policy break

Q. At stake than the abil- gation to act independ- orly. We cannot allow oil supplies to obtain the United States. Use to import \$45 bil- annually, almost half that we consume and I waste that we

Q. Let this excessive de- applet continue to in- deficit to drain off our economic stability. progress and I know that comprehensive energy program. We are planning to know I had planned to the Congress a set of energy. Although most of already been proposed. I think the program after phases the work on both y and also energy legisla- tions might now needs in



President Carter responding to questions after his news conference at the Old Executive Office Building

is a time of uncertainty, creates a dampening effect on the economy and on the attitude of businessmen toward future investments. But the alternative was to ignore the energy problem for months and perhaps years.

The same thing applies to welfare reform, the same thing applies to tax reform. So I believe that these kinds of criticisms that might have come from Mr. Burns, that the standard uncertainty, and just honest differences of opinion, and I think the Mr. Burns that the profit- ability of our free enterprise system, the business profits, ought to be up. And with the tax reform program after others is to improve capital retention so that new investments can be made to provide new jobs.

I might say in closing that I welcome that proposal throughout the House deliberations and because of that inertia that we demonstrated, I think I kept our whole program together, and that's my present stance. I have told members of the House and Senate who have come to see, I've told labor leaders, business groups and also consumer groups that before I modify at all our own official position on these very controversial energy policies that I would consult with them ahead of time.

It obviously might be necessary to do some compromising, otherwise the conference committee report could not function. But my position is still completely compatible with what we proposed to the Congress back in April. I outlined in my opening statement that the three basic principles—one is to protect the interests of American consumers and not to permit windfall profits for the oil companies; secondly

that extent, and whether you believe that there's anything in the idea that people still think as a George an you don't belong here?

I remember in this room last May someone asked me if my Administration was all image and no substance or all style and no substance. Lately the criticisms have been that there's too much substance and not enough style.

My own attitude toward leadership in politics, when I was Governor of Georgia and since I've been President, and during the campaign, it is, was to try to analyze the most difficult questions that face our nation and not to be timid or reticent about seeking solutions for them—recognizing that some of them are historic in nature, some of them have very difficult aspects that almost defy solution, but that they're all important to our country.

by, there'll be a general realization that none of these questions should have been delayed. I was thinking the other day about what new major innovative proposals might be forthcoming next year and the year after. I can't think of any. I think we'd ad- There may be some new ones that evolve in an unpredictable way that we'll have to address but I think most of the major debates now have already been initiated. Some will be concluded this year, some have already been concluded by Congress this year, and I think we'll have additional success next year. So I feel good about it.

Q. Do you think that they will hold that against you? A. The Georgians don't hold it against me. No I don't think being from Georgia is something that is of genuine concern to people. That might be a contrived additional reason not to want me to be in office.

8. South Africa Steps Q. In addition to the mandatory arms embargo, which you mentioned, what other unilateral steps do you think the United States will be taking outside the boundaries of the resolution, such as the Export-Import Bank's commercial sales guarantees and things of this kind, and are you ruling out for now any trade embargo of a general nature?

A. We are not deciding at this point on any sort of general trade embargo or investment embargo. The additional steps that might be taken beyond an arms embargo that would be mandatory have not been decided.

9. Questions for Liddy Q. Mr. President, when he got out of jail, recently, Gordon Liddy expressed gratitude for his early release and he said that he felt himself bound to carry out any orders from the Commander in Chief. Sir, given that situation, and in order to put the record straight at long last, do you think it would be proper for you to instruct him to say what he was doing in the Watergate, what he was looking for who authorized the burglary and any other information he might have?

A. Well I've not had any contact with Mr. Liddy at all, either before or after he was released from prison, and my remote assessment of Mr. Liddy is that he

rate is coming down slowly but I think surely. The balance of trade is better than it was. We have a high rate of business investments. I think we have a lot to be proud of in this country. I don't believe there is any other nation that has a stronger underlying economic base and more to be thankful for than our nation does. But most of what I hear as President in delegations that come to see me and large group meetings that I have is complaining and expressions of despair, quite often in hopes that as the Government makes decisions that the squeaking wheel will get more grease and they will get more benefits from Federal Government policies.

But I think the general sense of the polls that we discussed at that luncheon meeting was that there's an inherent optimism in our country, there's a concern about the multiplicity of programs that we are addressing at this point and the fact that the American people can't understand all that many proposals at one time. And one of the things we discussed is what I said earlier that I would think that after this year, as far as I can see in my own plans, most of major problems would be addressed. But it was a friendly meeting and there was nothing to be concerned about.

11. Rights of Palestinians Q. In a press conference earlier this year you mentioned that the Palestinians have a right to a homeland and to compensation for losses they have suffered. From your perspective, do the Palestinians have any other legitimate rights?

A. Well the Palestinians have rights as I described in my United Nations speech, as do all major groups of the Palestinians are one major group of refugees that have been created in the Middle East. Obviously there are Jewish refugees also. But I think all human beings have the same basic yearning for freedom, for human self-respect, for a home in which they can live, for the right to raise a family, to have education, health care, food, so I would say in that respect they have same rights as others do.

12. 'Meddling' in South Africa Q. In a press conference earlier this year you mentioned that the Palestinians have a right to a homeland and to compensation for losses they have suffered. From your perspective, do the Palestinians have any other legitimate rights?

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