

PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 4, 1966

PRESIDENT JOHNSON: GOOD MORNING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. I'LL BE GLAD TO TAKE ANY QUESTIONS.

QUESTION: MR. PRESIDENT, IN VIEW OF THE REPORT YOU GAVE US ON YOUR HEALTH YESTERDAY, CAN YOU TELL US WHETHER YOUR DOCTORS AT ANY POINT ADVISED YOU NOT TO GO ON YOUR ASIAN TRIP OR TO CUT DOWN ON YOUR RATHER STRENUOUS PACE ~~WEEK~~ WHILE YOU WERE OVER THERE?

PRESIDENT: NO, THEY NEVER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERED DOING IT. I THINK THE BEST INDICATION OF MY GENERAL PHYSICAL CONDITION IS THAT NOTWITHSTANDING THE MINOR PROBLEMS THAT I HAVE WITH MY THROAT AND WITH THE LITTLE STITCHING THEY NEED TO DO, THE REPAIR WORK, IS THAT EVEN THO I HAD BOTH OF THOSE PROBLEMS, I DID MAKE THE ASIAN TRIP, I DIDNT GET WEARY, I DIDNT STAY TIRED, AND I GOT PLENTY OF REST THRUOUT. ~~SEE~~ I HAVE THE ADVANTAGE THAT SOME OF THOSE THAT ACCOMPANIED ME DID NOT HAVE...FOR INSTANCE, FROM KOREA TO ALAKSA I COULD SLEEP SIX HOURS...THE BED WAS AS COMFORTABLE AS A HOTEL ROOM. FROM ALASKA TO WASHINGTON I COULD REST FIVE OR SIX HOURS EVEN IF I HAD TO SIT UP IN CHAIR. AND MOST OF THIS WEARINESS ~~W~~ I THINK WAS SOME OF YOU ENGAGING IN INTROSPECTION AFTER YOU GOT ~~SEE~~ HOME.

QUESTION: ~~INX~~ MR. PRESIDENT, IN YOUR ESTIMATION WILL THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTIONS HAVE ANY INFLUENCE ON COMMUNIST WILLINGNESS OR ATTITUDE TOWARD CONTINUING THE WAR IN VIETNAM?

PRESIDENT: I AM NOT A GOOD JUDGE OF JUST WHAT THE COMMUNIST REACTION WILL BE. I THINK IN THE PAST THAT SOME FOREIGN NATIONS HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD THE AMERICAN SYSTEM. I HOPE THEYLL BE VERY CAREFUL NOT TO MAKE ANY MISTAKES OF JUDGEMENT ABOUT THIS ELECTION. I SEE NO RASON WHY THE ELECTION SHOULD GREATLY AFFECT ANY DECISION THEY MIGHT MAKE. THE PRESIDENT IS NOT A CANDIDATE IN THIS ELECTION. I CANNOT CONCEIVE IF THE PEOPLE GO OUT AND VOTE THAT THE DECISION IN THE ELECTION COULD IN ANY WAY CHANGE THE GOVERNMENTS POLICY. THERES NO ONE THAT I KNOW OF THAT THINKS THERES GOING TO BE ANY GREAT CHANGE IN THE SENATE. AND ALTHO MY DELIGHTFUL FRIEND SEN.

JOHNSON NEWS CONFERENCE

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DIRKSEN, OPTIMISTIC AS HE IS, FEELS THAT THERE MAYBE A GAIN OF 75, I NOTICE THE CHRONIC CAMPAIGNERS LIKE SEN. NIXON HAVE BEGUN TO HEDGE AND PUT IN THEIR HORNS AND I WOULD DOUBT THAT THERES GOING TO BE ANY SUBSTNAITAL CHANGE THAT I COULD POINT OUT WITH THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES....ITS NOW 295 TO 140, THERE COULD BE A CHANGE OF 40 OR 50 AS THERE HAS BEEN ON THE AVERAGE SINCE 1890 AND NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM, AND I DONT THINK ITS GOING TO AFFECT THE VIETNAM SITUATION IN ANY EVENT. THEY MAY TALK AND ARGUE AND CRITICIZE AND PLAY POLITICS FROM TIME TO TIME BUT ~~IN~~ WHEN THEY CALL THE VOTE ON SUPPORTING THE DEFENSE BILL IN THE SENATE IT'LL BE 83 TO 2 AND IN THE HOUSE IT'LL BE 410 TO 5, AND EVERYBODY UNDERSTANDS THAT.] NEXT QUESTION...

QUESTION: WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER THE SIGNIFICATN OUTCOME OF YOUR FAR EAST TRIP?

PRESIDENT: I THINK IT SERVES SEVERAL PURPOSES. FIRST, I THINK IT WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL,...I THINK IT DEMONSTRATED TO ALL THE WORLD THAT THE SEVEN PARTICIPATING NATIONS WERE UNITED...UNITED IN THEIR DETERMINATIONS TO SUPPORT THE MEN ON THE FIGHTING FRONT...UNITED IN THEIR DETERMINATION TO PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF TERRITORIAL BOUNDARIES; UNITED IN THEIR DETERINATION ~~EX~~ TO DEVELOP A NEW ASIA WITH PROSPERITY AND PLENTY; UNITED IN THEIR DETERMINATION TO WALK THE LAST MILE...TO GO TO ANY CORNER, ANY TIME, MEETING WITH ANY GOVERNMENT TO TRY TO FURTHER THE SEARCH FOR PEACE. SEVERAL NATIONS ON THEIR OWN HAVE ALREADY COMMUNICATED THE COMMUNIQUE ~~IN~~ THE RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE TO OTHER NONALIGNED NEUTRAL NATIONS. MR. HARRIMAN, MY REPRESENTATYVE HAS ~~EX~~ LISTED SEVERAL IMPORTANT CAPITALS. MR. BUNDY IS PRESENTLY LISITNG IMPORTANT CAPITALS. MR. EUGENE BLACK IS FOLLOWING OUR TRACKS THRU ASIA AND FOLLOWING UP ~~SN~~ SOME OF THE ECONOMIC PROGRAMS. I THINK THAT IT PUTS A STOPLIGHT TO THE WORLD ON A VERY NEGLECTED PART OF THE WORLD. I THINK THAT WE REALIZE THAT TWO OUT OF EVERY THREE PEOPLE LIVING TODAY LIVE IN THAT AREA... AND THE PROBLEMS ARE THERE...AND....WE FACED UP TO THOSE PROBLEMS AND WE STUDIED

