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PRESS BRIEFING

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OF

4

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM B. SAXBE

5

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

6

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WITH

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MEMBERS OF THE PRESS

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Tuesday, August 13, 1974

22

Attorney General's Conference Room

23

Washington, D. C.

24

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The Attorney General responded to questions on the following topics:

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P R O C E E D I N G S

ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: I talked to General Haig yesterday, and I talked to the President today. I talked to General Haig to go over what I had to talk to the President about, and some of them that required decisions, why, we settled them yesterday.

The President started off the meeting by saying he wanted me to understand he wanted me to stay, that he wanted me to run the Department as it had been run, that he wanted it clean and fair, and that I had his full support.

QUESTION: What did you tell him?

ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Told him I would.

Then I had a "laundry list" of things to go over with him, not necessarily for decisions, just things that I felt that he should know. And, oh, things that I thought were critical within the Justice Department, some legislation that's pending, and some of it real nearby. And I talked about federal judge vacancies. There's 23 vacancies now.

He wants us to move on that, and I discussed with him somehow speeding up the time after it leaves here, before it clears the White House. It just seemed to me that the loop was too big and that something could be done on that.

By the way, Secretary Morton was here as part of the transition team to talk about those kind of things. He was here for lunch.

1 QUESTION: Here with you in the Department?

2 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Yes. He's making the  
3 rounds of all the Cabinet offices, and what he's trying to  
4 do is establish communications, or trying to find out if  
5 there are hangups in communications, and that these things  
6 can be expedited.

7 But I talked about the few vacancies that we have  
8 in the Justice Department, about the procedure on the federal  
9 judges, and the interest that we had in keeping up to date, .  
10 because we get a lot of pressure from judges who think they  
11 are overworked, and usually are: why don't we do this? why  
12 don't we do that?

13 And from Senators that get feedback from their  
14 States, that they don't have adequate judges.

15 QUESTION: Is that an unusual number of judges to  
16 be --

17 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: No, it's not unusual, but  
18 up until six weeks ago we were in much better shape because  
19 we were almost current there for a little while. But we've  
20 had a number of judges that have quit, you know. Up in New  
21 Jersey we had a couple of them quit; they just couldn't  
22 afford to stay on.

23 This is a real impact on judges in metropolitan  
24 centers.

25 QUESTION: What kind of time lag has there been

4  
1 from the time the nomination leaves --

2 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Sometimes as much as six  
3 weeks. And by the time we send them to the White House, we've  
4 pretty well checked these people out. It isn't like any  
5 other appointment.

6 QUESTION: You mean six weeks at the White House  
7 after you've checked it out?

8 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Yes.

9 And without anything wrong with the judge. I mean,  
10 without any complaints.

11 But you see that loop includes a lot of people, and  
12 I'm sure that some of it, a lot of it, is time spent in  
13 in-and-out baskets, as it makes the rounds.

14 QUESTION: Do you feel confident now that you are  
15 to stay through President Ford's current administration?

16 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Well, I haven't any contract,  
17 but I'm sure that --

18 QUESTION: I mean, that's the assumption that you  
19 are now working on, that you'll be here.

20 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: That's the assumption that  
21 I'm now working on.

22 QUESTION: Until January of --

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: As long as I do a good  
24 job.  
25

3  
1 QUESTION: Your timetable is not geared to what  
2 you might consider, from your own point of view, to be com-  
3 pleting the job that you hope to accomplish in the Justice  
4 Department, but rather, say, the end of the present  
5 administration?

6 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Well, I've got some  
7 ambitious plans, and I just wouldn't set any timetable on it.  
8 Of course, my inclination is to go back home after I leave  
9 Washington. I have no plans to stay in Washington, as most  
10 people do who come here.

11 But it's a real challenge, and I fully accept it.

12 QUESTION: You mean ambitious plans for the Depart-  
13 ment?

14 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: For the Department. I  
15 think we've made progress, and I think that it's a real  
16 opportunity to demonstrate to the people of this country  
17 that our legal system is alive and well and working.

18 Then -- wait a minute -- wait until I run through  
19 this list some more.

20 And I told him of pending suits. What I tried to do  
21 was to cover everything which I thought might come up, and  
22 he should know some background on, and reviewed with him our  
23 wiretap, all electronic surveillance procedures, because he  
24 mentioned it in his speech last night. I assured him that  
25 there were at the present time no illegal wiretaps of any

1 kind, or any other electronic surveillance on behalf  
2 of the government. Now, I can't speak of, if there's some  
3 illegal wiretaps in some automobile dealer's sales room  
4 or some motel room on a divorce action. Those are illegal,  
5 also, and we prosecute them whenever we find them. But I'm  
6 talking about any that we have, are strictly run according  
7 to the law and the Constitution.

8 QUESTION: Can you speak for the States?

9 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: The 17 States that have  
10 wiretaps report those through the office of the courts, as  
11 you know. We don't have any supervision over those, but  
12 if they are illegal, in other words, if they are put on  
13 without the proper authorization in their States, we would  
14 hear about that. We observe that, but we do not have  
15 control over that.

16 And even with all those, last year there was less  
17 than a thousand in the whole country.

18 And those, like the federal ones, are for the  
19 prosecution, or are involved in criminal prosecu-  
20 tion.

21 That was about it. I talked about some internal  
22 investigations now going on in the Justice Department, things  
23 that we are not happy with, such as the operation Clean Sweep,  
24 and what it entailed and what we were doing about it. Some  
25 investigations of personnel in the Department, that I can't

1 say anything about because this is primarily on conduct  
2 of individual offices.

3 But, at some time in the future it might come up  
4 and I wanted him to know about that.

5 QUESTION: Was there any discussion about the  
6 Freedom of Information bill?

7 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Yes. I brought him up to  
8 date. He was familiar with some of this. We talked  
9 particularly about the pending Freedom of Information bill  
10 and about privacy, in which he's vitally interested. He  
11 chaired the President's Committee on Privacy, and has done a  
12 lot of work on it. And he wants to have some input on it,  
13 both on privacy and Freedom of Information.

14 He's asking Congress to give him time to have some  
15 input on these: not unreasonable; a week or ten days.

16 [Interruption: phone call to be taken.]

17 QUESTION: On the Freedom of Information bill,  
18 I gather that it's on the verge of passing. Have you  
19 recommended --

20 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: It's passed both houses.  
21 It's in conference.

22 QUESTION: Are you recommending a veto?

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Unless we can get some of  
24 the conditions that we think are reasonable, that permit us  
25 to live with it. I discussed this with the President, and



1 the President is asking for time, a week, so that he can  
2 review and his people can review this. And I don't think it's  
3 unreasonable.

4 QUESTION: Are you saying  
5 that it now has a feature that is unreasonable to the point  
6 that you don't think you could live with it?

7 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Well, there are some  
8 aspects of it that would make it almost impossible for the  
9 FBI to operate on the investigatory files. It would lose a  
10 great deal of their ability to deal with informers. The  
11 penalty clause part of it is a little bit unrealistic at the  
12 present time.

13 Here's a memorandum: it would vest  
14 unfettered discretion in the courts to release to the public  
15 documents classified by responsible officials, and no adequate  
16 standards or procedures are set forth to guide the judge in  
17 second-guessing foreign policy or defense experts; even  
18 though he may have no such expertise.

19 Then the investigatory records that I meant, and  
20 all files, regardless of age, would be subject to release.  
21 The standards just don't take into consideration the practi-  
22 calities and legitimate needs of law enforcement purposes.

23 Then there are sanctions against executive employees.  
24 This authorizes suspension of pay for an employee who improperly  
25 denies a request; and the reasonable result would be that

1 they would release everything and some of it should be with-  
2 held.

3 It could even result in a judge suspending the  
4 head of an agency appointed by the President and confirmed  
5 by the Senate.

6 The rigid time requirements just make it  
7 impossible for an agency to adequately review requested  
8 records. And this, particularly if it's voluminous and  
9 complex or stored in different places.

10 One of the things that could result is that it  
11 would result in numerous denials just because there was no  
12 way they could comply under the time.

13 QUESTION: Did you make a positive recommendation or  
14 request of the President that he veto it if these features  
15 are not deleted?

16 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: I have not.

17 QUESTION: Well, did you leave any doubt of your  
18 position, personal position, to the President?

19 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: No. But he  
20 thinks there's a lot of good in the bill that can be salvaged,  
21 and that he'd like to have an input.

22 QUESTION: About input --

23 QUESTION: Could you clarify this question of veto  
24 for me? Did you say that it was his feeling that it should  
25 be vetoed if it remains as it is now?

1           ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE:   No.   He didn't express  
2 any.

3           QUESTION:   Oh.

4           ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE:   I just said that if it  
5 came out in the form it is now, that we'd have no alternative  
6 but to suggest veto.

7           QUESTION:   Meaning the Justice Department?

8           ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE:   Yes.

9           QUESTION:   By input, do you mean making Congress  
10 aware of your views and perhaps to the extent that he shares  
11 your views --

12           [Interruption to take phone call.]

13           QUESTION:   Did you talk of prosecution of  
14 President Nixon, or the way that the other Watergate-  
15 related cases might be handled?

16           ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE:   No.   Only that I  
17 told him this was in Mr. Jaworski's area, and that it would just  
18 have to run its course.

19           QUESTION:   It seems to me that Jaworski has the  
20 technical legal problem:  Is there sufficient evidence to  
21 present to a Grand Jury that might lead to an indictment?

22           I think the rest of us, and perhaps you're the one  
23 who should speak about this, are faced with a kind of a  
24 moral or political dilemma:  what should we do about it, .  
25 in this kind of situation?

1           ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Well, I'm not  
2 going to speak on it. I just wouldn't even venture  
3 to talk about that.

4           QUESTION: Who do you think should?

5           ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: If Congress wants to  
6 discuss this, this could very well be their area. But I  
7 don't think I should discuss that, certainly when I am not  
8 in charge of these cases.

9           QUESTION: Well, if the indication now is that  
10 Congress is not getting up much steam to act, then that  
11 just simply leaves it with Jaworski to make this difficult  
12 decision?

13          ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Every once in a while I  
14 go back and I read that charter, when I begin to wonder just  
15 where one area stops and another one starts. I mean, when you  
16 read that charter -- and I recommend everybody read it about  
17 once a week -- I certainly don't want to be in a position of  
18 passing the buck to somebody, but this is very plain.  
19 I have supported Mr. Jaworski when I thought he needed it,  
20 and I've left him alone the rest of the time.

21          QUESTION: Well, when you say "this is very plain",  
22 you mean in the absence of action by Congress it is up to  
23 Jaworski to make the decision?

24          ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: That's correct.

25          QUESTION: Did you, yourself, mention --

1           ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE:   And I'm sure he will make  
2 it based upon available information.

3           QUESTION:   Did you mention your remark about  
4 Jaworski in the course of your filling him in on the broad  
5 range of topics that you discussed, --

6           ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE:   Yes.

7           QUESTION:   -- or did he raise the question himself?

8           ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE:   No, I did that.

9           QUESTION: Did he express any of his own views on  
10 the proper course?

11          ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE:   In regard to this -- no.

12          QUESTION: Did he give any indication that he might  
13 intervene or give an opinion to help guide Jaworski?

14          ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE:   No. I got the feeling,  
15 and I say he made no statement, but I got the feeling that  
16 it will just run its course; that he has no intention of  
17 intervening one way or the other.

18          QUESTION: Well, was there any discussion of a  
19 pardon for Nixon?

20          ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE:   Of what?

21          QUESTION: Of a pardon.

22          ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE:   No.

23          QUESTION: During the entire conversation, did he  
24 himself bring up any topic that you failed to cover in your  
25 own review of what you considered things that he should know

1 about?

2 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Well, I'm trying to think.

3 No, I don't think so.

4 QUESTION: When you mentioned Jaworski, did you have  
5 a concern that he be aware of the fact that you did have a  
6 charter that you were operating under, in which you were bound  
7 to keep hands off and, in turn, the President also?

8 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Well, I didn't put it  
9 quite that way. I just presumed that he understood that,  
10 and I'm sure he does.

11  
12 QUESTION: Did you talk about the custody or what  
13 should be done about President Nixon's papers and documents?

14 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: No. That was not mentioned.

15 QUESTION: Do you have any opinion on what should  
16 be done about them?

17 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: No. I think most of that  
18 is settled. If it isn't under any subpoena, why, it's his.  
19 This is custom and precedent.

20 QUESTION: Do you think that he --

21 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: That's of course his  
22 personal papers.

23 QUESTION: Do you think that he is going to make any  
24 move to create a line of command or chain of command with  
25 all of his departments, including this one, as has been traditional

1 in government before Watergate created the --

2 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Yes, and that was what  
3 Morton was here about. This is part of the transitional  
4 group's mission.

5 And while I didn't get to talk to the President much  
6 about that, other than to mention that there were certain tie-  
7 ups that we wanted to get eliminated, we went into it with  
8 Secretary Morton at much greater length. He's interested  
9 in handling this communication on a different pattern.  
10 I was not here before Watergate became the principal  
11 issue at the White House and it's hard for me to get a  
12 feel for what "normal" channels would be.

13  
14 So what I suggested in some of these things may  
15 be normal, that I'm just not acquainted with.

16 I want somebody to talk to at the White House who  
17 -- I don't think I should take an hour of the President's time  
18 once a week to tell him what we're doing, that I feel he  
19 should know about, just so that he won't read about it in the  
20 paper before he knows anything about it. And most of it  
21 could be told to a person who then could sort it out and keep  
22 him informed.

23 I want this, and I told Morton this, and he said  
24 this was also of interest to his department and all the  
25 Cabinet officers.

1           QUESTION: It's my understanding historically that  
2 "normalcy" means more than a mere flow of information, but a  
3 flow of direction, that is a flow of power and orders that  
4 would --

5           ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Yes, but --

6           QUESTION: That the White sets at least a general  
7 over-all policy.

8           ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: But the President made it  
9 clear in talking to me that he is not going to direct the  
10 Justice Department in litigation, in prosecution. This  
11 was an item that came up that wasn't on my agenda, and he  
12 said he wants that understood, that he is not going to  
13 interfere in any manner, nor any of his people, with the  
14 orderly law enforcement, or litigating activities, of the  
15 Justice Department.

16           Obviously he will when it comes to personnel,  
17 when it comes to judges, when it comes to some of our direct-  
18 action law enforcement; in other words, setting policy on  
19 over-all drug enforcement and this type of thing.

20           But not on a case basis.

21           QUESTION: Did you talk about your relationship,  
22 I mean the relationship with yourself and the President to  
23 the FBI? I mean, did you talk about the speeches and --

24           ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Yes, I did. I told  
25 him that I was very pleased at the way the FBI is operating,



1 and that we had a good working relationship and we were going  
2 to keep it.

3 QUESTION: What did you think of his speech?

4 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Excellent. Excellent.  
5 Just the kind of speech we needed.

6 QUESTION: How would you describe his mood this  
7 morning?

8 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: He was working hard, and  
9 gave me -- I know how scarce his time is -- gave me an hour  
10 in which we really covered a great many subjects. And where  
11 he wanted to know more about it, I told him; and where we had  
12 a point he knew about, he said "I understand that" and we  
13 had a good exchange.

14 Now, one of the things I talked to him about at  
15 length was the immigration problem; that we're being inundated  
16 with illegal aliens at the present time, primarily from Mexico.  
17 We're going to capture and return almost a million this year.  
18 And we're afraid that we're only getting about one in five.  
19 Our line is just stretched so thin, and we're asking for  
20 more people; and the reason I raised it is because we're  
21 interested in keeping costs down, and we regret having to go  
22 in and ask for 500 more people. But we think it's essential,  
23 if we're going to meet this responsibility.

24 And we know that with the increase in the working  
25 force in Mexico and the high unemployment there that this is

1 going to get worse; it's not going to get better.

2 We feel that every dollar spent in preventing  
3 the entry of illegal aliens is returned ten or twenty-fold,  
4 because if we don't then we have the welfare problem and the  
5 school problem. We're now being sued for \$7 million by  
6 Los Angeles County on costs of illegal aliens, which they say  
7 it's our responsibility to keep out. And yet the total increase  
8 that we want is little more than that.

9 But when you realize that the population of Mexico  
10 in 1970 was 50 million; in 1985 it's going to be  
11 85 million; and in 1995, just twenty years from now, it's  
12 going to be 120 million.

13 QUESTION: They ought to stay there.

14 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Yeah.

15 [Laughter.]

16 Well, to give you another side of that: the work  
17 force in Mexico at the present time is 16 million, or it  
18 was in 1970; in '85 it will be 28 million; and in '95 it will  
19 be 40 million. And most of these people are already born.

20 So we've got a serious, serious problem.

21 QUESTION: Did you talk about any changes  
22 in U. S. Immigration policy to --

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Well, the big change that  
24 I talked about and recommended was the Rodino bill, which makes  
25 it a criminal act to knowingly employ an illegal alien. This

1 would do more to stop it than almost anything else. And it's  
2 now in the Senate, it has passed the House, and we hope to be  
3 able to get it moving. We're having difficulties with labor  
4 people on this, and some agricultural people.

5           There are a number of people in the  
6 Congress and in the United States who don't want these people  
7 kept out; they say, "they're the only work force we can get."  
8 And yet, when they come in, in the volume that they're coming  
9 in, it makes it hard for labor to organize; it makes it hard  
10 to get jobs for domestic workers. And we've got a serious  
11 situation here. We're just being inundated.

12           QUESTION: Well, I understand General Chapman has  
13 been working on a proposed new national immigration policy.  
14 Are you familiar with that?

15           ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: And the keystone of it is  
16 the Rodino bill.

17           QUESTION: That's still the keystone. I under-  
18 stood he was thinking about the question of how many people  
19 we should voluntarily admit, whether it should be restrictive  
20 or more open.

21           ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: The way  
22 we would prefer to do it would be as in the Rodino bill, on  
23 temporary arrangements. Now, when there's a great demand for  
24 certain farm workers and they can't get them any other place,  
25 let them in on a temporary arrangement. And that's in the

1 Rodino bill at the present time.

2 MR. HUSHEN: I think we're talking about two different  
3 things here -- I may be wrong. What Chapman is talking  
4 about --

5 QUESTION: He's talking about --

6 MR. HUSHEN: -- is a new national policy regarding  
7 all immigration from all over the world, not just the Mexican  
8 aliens.

9 QUESTION: Yes. The decision of whether we should  
10 let in a lot of people or make it much more --

11 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Well, I think that's the  
12 decision we're going to have to make.

13 QUESTION: But you haven't received this proposal  
14 yet?

15 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: No.

16 QUESTION: What about the scandal aspect of the INS?

17 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: We're going to root it  
18 out to the very bottom. I've given this primary responsibility  
19 to Larry Silberman, and we're calling in all our forces  
20 available, and if there is any of this we're going to be done  
21 with it once and for all. Because we're genuinely concerned.

22 ' But that is not a major factor in the inundation.  
23 It's an embarrassment, but it is not an effective -- .

24 This is one of the things I discussed with him,  
25 and I assured him that we are going to get to the bottom of it.

1  
2 QUESTION: How serious do you think that problem is  
3 now? Some people think that there's very widespread  
4 corruption, and others say it's a very minor thing and most  
5 of it will pass.

6 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: I'm not convinced that the  
7 corruption is as widespread, but what I'm worried about and  
8 determined to get into is: is there a cover-up?

9 So far we have only found minor corruption, nothing  
10 on a grand scale. And we have made some indictments on there.  
11 But I don't believe it's been followed through aggressively  
12 enough, and that's what we're going to do.

13 QUESTION: Do you see any evidence of a cover-up?

14 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: I have no evidence that I  
15 can -- I just can't help but feel that unless there was a  
16 cover-up we would have gotten more information. I don't think  
17 that some of the reports have been forwarded as rapidly as  
18 they should have, and I don't think people have been either  
19 discharged or moved out of areas as fast as they might have.  
20 We're going to get on them.

21 That's something that there just can be no hint of  
22 scandal in because it's an area where people say, "Well,  
23 it's a crooked outfit." And there just can't be any  
24 scandal in that. Because we know that these people are  
25 victimized to start with, by the coyotes and by the others who

1 shake them down on both sides of the border. And the  
2 Immigration Service is not going to be a part of any of that  
3 kind of business.

4 QUESTION: Well, most of the allegations have  
5 concerned a couple of guys in the Southwest Regional Office;  
6 are you planning to move them?

7 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: I haven't got any definite  
8 word on that. I'm waiting on a report from several of them  
9 yet.

10 He had Walsh in last week, who has made an extensive  
11 study on it, you know, the writer from the New York Times.  
12 And he talked to him, and he's talked to a lot of other people.

13 QUESTION: Can you give us any  
14 characterization of the President's response to this  
15 particular problem as you laid it out for him?

16 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: He's very interested in it.  
17 I explained the magnitude of the problem, and the fact that it  
18 was becoming a national scandal.

19 QUESTION: Did you talk about the crime rate?

20 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: No; I did not. I just told  
21 him that we're getting into it at the present time, the  
22 studies, and we're trying to test the statistics to see if  
23 we're even now beginning to get good information.

24 But whatever the statistics prove, it's an undesirable  
25 and unacceptable amount of street crime in this country.

1 And we're not only reviewing that, but a lot of the things  
2 that we've bought over the last few years as cures for crime  
3 that just haven't worked.

4 MR. HUSHEN: May I interrupt for a minute?  
5 We've just filed a very important consent decree in an anti-  
6 trust case; and an indictment has been returned on a rather news-  
7 worthy tax case. They're down in the Press Room.

8 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Is that the AMPI?

9 MR. HUSHEN: Want to conclude this and go to that?

10 QUESTION: There's nobody else in the Press Room.

11 QUESTION: It hasn't happened until we get there.

12 QUESTION: Yes.

13 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Nobody there --

14 QUESTION: The point is, Ed and I are both here  
15 and --

16 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Nobody there but us  
17 chickens.

18 QUESTION: Like a tree in the forest.

19 QUESTION: We'll take you for a while longer.

20 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: All right.

21 QUESTION: Had you ever had this kind of exchange  
22 with Nixon?

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: No.

24 QUESTION: What is your reaction to getting that  
25 now?

1 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Oh, I think it's great.

2 QUESTION: Had you tried to get it with Nixon?

3 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Oh, I can't say that I  
4 tried, after a couple of meetings with him. Ford is a  
5 listener. I told him my troubles, and he listened; and he  
6 commented when he had something to say. And I just never  
7 had the feeling with President Nixon that I was getting  
8 through. I had the feeling that he was more worried about  
9 his problems than he was about mine.

10 QUESTION: And with good reason.

11 [Laughter.]

12 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: But some of these things  
13 I just advised him, because I feel that it's my job to help  
14 him stay on top of these and to understand what's involved,  
15 before it becomes an issue in a press conference, or something  
16 like that. You know, when someone says, "What are you going  
17 to do about the flood of immigrants?" And "As Chavez and  
18 others charge, the Immigration Service is somehow in  
19 collusion with growers to bring these immigrants in."

20 Well, my goodness, here we are with a finger in the  
21 dike out there, with a thousand miles of open border. Some  
22 of them you catch several times. Load them up, send them  
23 back. You ought to give them a commuter ticket!

24 [Laughter.]

25 QUESTION: Do you expect any changes in Justice



1 Department policies under Ford?

2 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: No, I don't anticipate  
3 any significant changes. I think that, from what the  
4 President told me this morning, we'll continue to call them  
5 as we see them. And our antitrust actions, and civil rights,  
6 have been pretty much as I've stated previously.

7 QUESTION: Did you talk about what your role would  
8 be as far as politics is concerned during this year or --

9 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Not today, but at the  
10 Cabinet meeting the other day, I told him that I felt that  
11 I should not become actively involved in politics. I felt  
12 that over the last several administrations, there had been  
13 a growing inclination for the Department of Justice  
14 to become involved in politics. But I felt that it  
15 was not desirable.

16 QUESTION: What was his reaction about that?

17 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Well, as I say, we didn't  
18 discuss it today; and he said, "Yes, that's true" at the  
19 Cabinet meeting.

20 And that isn't easy for me, because I've been in  
21 politics all my life. But I really feel that way.

22 QUESTION: But you have been making a number of  
23 speeches, and I assume you will continue to, but they won't  
24 be in the nature of political speeches --

25 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: No. Frankly, very few of

1 my speeches have been to any other than to legal organizations  
2 or groups.

3 I just can count them on one hand, any other  
4 group. I'm going out to talk to the Ohio Real Estate people  
5 only because that's J. D. Sawyer's outfit, and I promised him  
6 I'd go while he was still here. And he's past president of  
7 that.

8 But, otherwise, I've talked to either news people  
9 -- I'm going up to talk to the Radio, TV Broadcasters  
10 Association. But, other than that, I'm talking to Chiefs of  
11 Police and talking to the U. S. Attorneys.

12 QUESTION: Could you describe for us your role in  
13 what happened last week? There have been reports that you  
14 talked to other Cabinet members and discussed the possibility  
15 of resigning and so on.

16 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: No, I never did. Somebody  
17 asked me about that, and that was the first I had heard of it.

18 QUESTION: What -- did you do anything?

19 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: No.

20 QUESTION: Are you playing any part in --

21 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Nope.

22 QUESTION: -- the unfolding of the situation?

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: No. I had no part in it.

24 The only possible part, at the Cabinet meeting, I  
25 suggested a delay on the economic meeting that was scheduled.

1 [Interruption: phone call.]

2 QUESTION: I just wanted to finish this question on  
3 your role last week on that question of the President.

4 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: I didn't have any role.  
5 The only thing I raised at all was at the Cabinet meeting,  
6 that was in Time.

7 QUESTION: You suggested that the economic discus-  
8 sion be delayed?

9 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: As Rogers Morton said today,  
10 what I raised was his ability to govern. And the rest of  
11 them were -- didn't raise it because -- and that's what we  
12 were talking about. I told him that I didn't think that he  
13 could pull together a group of people to do effective work  
14 that week.

15 QUESTION: I'm lost. Is this at a Nixon Cabinet  
16 meeting?

17 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Yes.

18 MR. HUSHEN: A week ago today.

19 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: A week ago today. My  
20 goodness, it seems like a long time ago.

21  
22 MR. HUSHEN: Yes. So much has happened this week.

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Now, should we say  
24 anything on this AMPI thing while they're here?

25 MR. HUSHEN: There's not much to say, you know; let

1       them read it when we get in.

2               ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE:    Okay.

3               Well, you understand the background on it as well as  
4 anybody.

5               MR. HUSHEN:   Mark Sheehan and my staff.

6               QUESTION:   Just one question, to fill in the gap  
7 on the charges or any possible charges against Nixon:  Has  
8 Jaworski or anyone contacted you about it, made any attempts  
9 to ask you for advice, or would you expect them to?

10              ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE:   No.

11              QUESTION:   If they did ask for advice, consultation?

12              ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE:   I'll worry about that if  
13 it happens.

14              I just maintain an aloofness there, because I think  
15 that it is important that as long as it is a Special  
16 Prosecutor, that it should be just exactly what it means:  
17 it operates independently.

18              I'm sure that in the future some time, as they begin  
19 to close out their affairs, that I will have to get involved  
20 in it; but we have not reached that point yet.

21              QUESTION:   Thank you, sir.

22              ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE:   Okay.

23                               - - -  
24  
25