

Official White House Transcript

of

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S PRESS AND RADIO CONFERENCE #88

(Filmed, Taped, and Shorthand Reported)

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Held In Room #474 Executive Office Building
Wednesday, May 23, 1956
At 10.30 a.m., e.d.s.t.

This Copy For:-

The President

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FERENCE WAS RELEASED FOR QUOTATION
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Q. John Herling, Editors Syndicate. The last three -- last weeks, three important labor conventions have been held and they passed very vigorous resolutions attacking the White Citizens Councils and called upon you to -- for an assemblage of Southern Governors to discuss ways and means of implementing the Supreme Court decision on desegregation of schools. Do you have any hopes or intentions or plans in that direction.

THE PRESIDENT: I have no plans at this moment. That thought was expressed -- Oh, I don't know -- some six or seven months ago. We explored it thoroughly. And the Attorney General invited each Governor and his Attorney General in to see him, either individually or if they wanted to, some of them could come in together. I am not sure that we want at any time a conference that would exacerbate this situation. We want to find something, some way, to make progress, and to get the thinking of America centered on one common line, if we possibly can.

Q. (Herling) Do you feel such a conference would exacerbate the situation?

THE PRESIDENT: It would depend entirely on the way it was corrected -- how it was done, I think. You certainly -- you would have to look at the speeches that might come out of it, just like you do an international conference. I am not so certain that is the way to approach it at this time.

Make no mistake, I am ready to confer with anybody on this problem that wants to come in and see me. But to call a formal conference, always there must be a communique. You people insist on it. Well, what are they going to say? And that could be very significant.

Q. Mr. President, Clark of INS. Is there anything you can tell us about the success of the recent H-bomb dropped from the B52?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, on that of course, there was a much smaller bomb than some of the maximum ones that have been exploded before, that the purpose for which the AEC dropped it had been achieved, at least largely, That it is -- the cloud from this explosion -- from which there was expected a minimum of fall-out because of its nature and its height -- at least the immediate fall-out -- the cloud drifted off to the north. That is about all I remember at the moment.

Q. Mr. President, --

Q. Mr. President, Cato, Reporter Magazine. I ask this question in connection with your physical check up, which