Nov ~~December~~ 29, 1963

8.25 p.m.

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND SEN. KUCHEL (t)

LBJ Tommy? ...I'm sorry that the government has moved to Florida..

TK Laugher.....I'm going to tell my friends in California, Mr. President..

LBJ Well the only one I can locate~~d~~ is not in Florida is Dirksen...you and Mansfield and Humphrey and all the rest of them have moved down there and I'm going to name it Cape Senate instead of Cape Kennedy..

TK Laughter...laughter..

LBJ What I called you about Tommy...was I was naming a Commission on the assassination of the President to make a full study for the world and the United States and I want to discuss with you who I was naming..but I got Dirksen and I got Mansfield and I'm sure that you'll think it is all right but I wanted you to know who it was...I got the Chief Justice to be Chairman of it...

TK That's excellent..

LBJ Got Dick Russell

TK Fine

LBJ Got John Sherman Cooper...your manager..

TK That's wonderful...magnificent..

LBJ Got Hale Boggs and Gerry Ford of Michigan..from the House

TK Both of them are good...

LBJ Got Allen Dulles and John McCloy...that's five Republicans and two Democrats..so I just wanted you to know the President announced today that he has appointed a Special Commission to study the report upon the facts and circumstances related to the assassination of the late President..and the subsequent violent death of the man charged with the assassination.. The President stated that the Majority and Minority leadership of the Senate and the House had been consulted with respect to the proposed Special Commission. The members of the Commission are: Chf Justice Earl Warren, Sen. Richard Russell, Sen. John ~~XXXXX~~ Sherman Cooper, Rep. Hale Boggs and Rep. Gerry Ford, Hon. Allen Dulles, Hon. John McCloy ...now Warren and Cooper and Ford and Dulles and McCloy are Republicans

TK Have they accepted Mr. President?

LBJ Yes, I called each of them myself..and in addition to that I called every leader myself...and I'm still at the office and I'm catching hell and I'd like to trade jobs with you and if you don't mind...bring Betty on back here and find a good Constitutional lawyer to tell us how to make the transition..

TK No..sir...I would not DO that...laughter... Mr. President...that ought to eliminate the necessity for the Senate Judiciary Committee, shouldn't it?

LBJ Yes..and Eastland agreed that he wouldn't go ahead with it...if we do this and the House agrees the same way.

TK Oh...that is magnificent Mr. President..I'm not kidding you..that's great.

LBJ Well...I know what a good American you are and how you want to support everytime you could and that's why I called you early in the day..to just ...before this one went out to tell you..but it ha~~s~~d gone out..went out about 15-20 minutes ago..

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TK Well I think you should take considerable pride... I am grateful and honored
~~KHX~~ that you would call me..incidentally, I think you should be very proud in what the Senate the other night on that...

LBJ Well, I'm glad it did and I don't know what is going to come but I am going to do the best I can as long as I'm here and that's all I want to do and you and Betty know how I feel about you all and please...I don't expect you abandon your principles or abandon your party...but our principles are about the same and I told Otis Campbell of that last week..he went hunting with me down there in Texas and I said this is an American first...and thats my philsophy..and that's the way I was in the Senate under Eisenhower cause I couldn't play politics...I was reponsible and I supported him.. and by God I got the majority the first two years

TK Sure did and I'll tell you that...

LBJ And if they followed you, they'd do the same thing with us.

TK Yes sir.

LBJ But anyway, I just wanted you to know and I thought that you'd wouldn't object to a couple of your managers..

TK I think it is great and I think that Chairman ..Mr. President, is the greatest.

LBJ He turned it down today and Bobby and them went to him...so I just called him and sent him down hereand said ...now listen, you'd get into a World War I uniform and you'd go and fight if you thought you could save one American life...now these wild people charging Kruschev killed Kennedy ..and Castro killed Kennedy..and everybody else killed Kennedy..now we have had 60 FBI agents...working for 7 days and they've got the story and they've got the fingerprints and they've got everything else but the American people and the world have got to know who killed Kennedy and why and somebody has got to evaluate that report and if they don't..why Kruschev moved on us..he could kill 39 million in an hour and we could kill 100 million in his country in an hour...but here I'm asking you to do something and you're saying NO to everybody when you could be speaking for 39 million people and ...now, I just don't think you'd want to do that. Tears just came in his eyes and just...you never saw anything like it...he said I can't say NO..

TK Oh, Mr. President, I think that's just grand..

LBJ He's a patriot..he's a patriot...that fellow. By God you'd better breed some more like him..you just better breed them. There's nothing I want..I got more than I deserve and it is too frightening for me to even think of..and ..but I'm going to do my best and I'm going to be fair and I'm going to be just and I'm going to be as non-partisan ad a man can be and still hold the office...and I'm going to expect your help and I'm going to give you mine...

TK Thank you Mr. President ..good luck and we'll pray for you.

LBJ Now give Betty a hug for me.

TK Thank you Mr. President.

LBJ Bye

TK Bye

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