

when this nation is going to get the big fat cats that run the narcotics and dope trade of the United States. When they going to nail one of them? That's law and order.

(APPLAUSE)

Law and order is: who killed Medgar Evers, the president of the NAACP of Mississippi? Who killed - and it'll never come out in your lifetime - who killed my beloved friend, Jack Kennedy? The truth has not come out yet. That's law and order. That's law and order.

(APPLAUSE)

Let me, let me...

FROST: Do you know -- wait a minute...

POWELL: Who killed -- who killed Martin Luther King? Where did Ray get the money from? Time magazine asked that two weeks in a row. Who killed Bobby Kennedy? That's law and order. We have had more assassinations in this nation in the past five years than the whole world has had in this century. That's law and order.

FROST: And on some of those things are you saying that you know the truth, or that the truth should be found?

POWELL: I know some of the truth; that's why they might get me next.

(LAUGHTER)

They don't know that where the truth is - I have about ten people that know it and have it in safe deposit boxes.

FROST: What truth do you know?

POWELL: All right. You go to the library tomorrow morning and get the Warren Commission report, you'll get

two volumes. You come to my office, and I'll tell my secretaries to let you see it. I got twenty-five volumes.

FROST: What -- the full ones that were published, you mean.

POWELL: Jackie Kennedy's testimony. One half of her testimony was cut out of the Warren Commission report.

FROST: What are you saying was cut out?

POWELL: Go along, baby, go along baby. Go along, sweetheart. Daddy loves you. The deputy sheriff of Dallas, sixteen points he made in his testimony: cut out. The coroner that performed the autopsy on President Jack Kennedy's body at Bethesda United States Navy Medical Center went home that night and burned up his notes in his fireplace.

And if you got killed, or I got killed, or anybody here, those notes will be held in the files of the coroner's office for at least a month.

FROST: I know that there are a lot of terrible question marks surrounding all that, and about the grassy knoll and all of that. But what are you saying? Do you have an alternative view of what occurred?

POWELL: I do not have the facts. But as a man of my age, sixty-one this year, forty-one years in the pulpit, a quarter of a century in Congress, I do now say publicly that there is a conspiracy in this nation. And who's financing it I do not know. But I think I'm on the right track.

FROST: What sort of conspiracy?

POWELL: Conspiracy to eradicate any man, black or

white - whether it's the white man who supported Gene McCarthy in Chicago, or whether it's the blacks in North Carolina College - there's a conspiracy in this nation to eradicate or keep down in some way - doesn't matter how - the voice of protest, which made America great.

We became great from protest. The Mayflower was a ship of protest. I...

(LIGHT APPLAUSE)

FROST: If there are facts that are not known, they obviously ought to be known. But obviously...

POWELL: The archives have been sealed for half a century.

FROST: And if there is this conspiracy, then we ought - the people ought to know about it.

POWELL: They can't.

FROST: But - but at the same time you must go a little further with evidence, because you can put together -- it is very attractive to take three or four things that don't hang together properly and alleged conspiracy. Because we all of us in a curious way want to believe that great men's death have a meaning. It is horrible to think that great men's death happen by chance, by a mad action, by a madman, or someone else. It is more attractive to us to believe there is a conspiracy. It is more attractive to us to believe we know about a conspiracy that somebody else doesn't.

So while I say that if there are facts that are not know, they ought to be known, at the same time it is terribly

dangerous to spread thoughts of a conspiracy, I think, because it's so attractive to everybody. Unless you have facts to back it up.

(APPLAUSE)

POWELL: I have facts, I have facts.

(APPLAUSE CONTINUES)

Why would Time magazine ask in two consecutive issues - where did Ray get the money from to kill Martin Luther King?

FROST: Good question. Time magazine obviously thought there was an answer to that. But what evidence is there?

POWELL: They have it.

FROST: Time magazine has it?

POWELL: Yes. Why would you take a big capitalistic organization like Time-Life, Fortune, Sports Illustrated, and let them devote twelve pages this week to the pictures of the young men of America who were killed in one week? Why would they do that, a capitalistic organization?

FROST: Well come...

POWELL: Young men that never had a chance to vote, never had a chance to look in the eyes of one of their babies.

FROST: Yeah, that was a terribly effective issue, but come back to the question.

POWELL: Yeah, but why would they do it?

FROST: I don't know - but come back to the question of James L. Ray.

POWELL: Yes?

FROST: What evidence do they have?

POWELL: What evidence? They have evidence that here is a man who had a white Mustang, here's a man who got through Canada - your part of the world, by the way - very easily. Here's a man who had the -- the introduction to three people in Canada who looked like him. Here's a man who had the money to go from there to Portugal, and from there to your home town, London. Where did he get the money from? Ray didn't have the money.

FROST: I agree it's a mystery, but what evidence do you have that that was part of a payment from those organizing a conspiracy? I don't have the answer to that question, I think it's very fishy too. But what is the...

POWELL: Ah, thank you.

FROST: But I don't think I can go on to say I have evidence of a conspiracy, that's all. Unless you can give me more facts. More facts of where the money came from. Not where did he get it, where did it come from?

POWELL: I know where it came from, and I will not tell you. But when we leave here, I'll tell you.

FROST: No, no, no, don't let's have private chats, let's talk to the people. They're...

POWELL: No, no...

FROST: You said they've got a right to know: tell them.

(APPLAUSE)

POWELL: They have a right to know, like all of we Americans have a right to know many things that are kept from us. Here we are now, we just passed today a surtax on your income, ten percent more on your income tax.

FROST: You're getting away from the question.

(APPLAUSE)

POWELL: No, no, no - no, no, no I'm not, I'm coming down the home stretch now, baby.

(LAUGHTER)

We have billionaires in the United States. Clint Murchison, Sr. just died. Hunt, Getty - will get twenty-seven and a half percent of their billions of dollars off the top before they pay a tax. And that group is going to preserve their status quo, regardless of what it cost to do it. They do not want anyone, black or white, whether it's a Kennedy or a King, to come in and destroy their private financial power structure.

FROST: You're not suggesting however, are you, that any of the men you've just mentioned is behind this conspiracy?

(LAUGHTER)

POWELL: (INAUDIBLE: How about that?)?

FROST: Because a) you'll need your lawyers, and b) we'll need ours. But no, if you were saying it, then say it, if...

POWELL: I'll lend you four lawyers...

FROST: ...if you're -- no, if you're...

POWELL: I've been through a libel suit.

FROST: No, if you're saying it, then say it. But I mean, you're not saying that, are you?

POWELL: I just repeated -- or shall I repeat it again?

FROST: No, answer my question, that's all. Are you saying that one of those men is responsible for this conspiracy?

POWELL: No. I'm just pointing out the picture in America.

FROST: Yes, but it's not facts, is it?

POWELL: It's a fact that twenty-seven and a half percent of your income you don't have to pay tax on, and you're a billionaire - that's a fact. And you don't...

FROST: Oil depletion, and all that sort of thing.

POWELL: Yeah, and you don't want that changed.

FROST: Yes, but you see, you're still -- you're stopping being a hard news man, and you're becoming the gossip columnist again.

POWELL: Oh yeah, sure, Walter Winchell resigned, I took his place.

FROST: Can you name anybody who is to do with this conspiracy?

POWELL: On that eye(?) right there - no.

(APPLAUSE: WOMAN FROM AUDIENCE: Why not?)

FROST: Because you don't know, or you can't say?

POWELL: I know, and I can say. But I have paid my dues, baby, and I'm not going to go through this...

FROST: What is this "paid my dues?" If the people have a right to know, you have a duty to tell them. Share what you know. Is this is at the fount of American life, if this is a threat...

POWELL: I haven't got any duty in life now except to live.

FROST: That's not the leader you started off talking about.

POWELL: No, that's my -- that's my duty in life now, to survive and to live.

FROST: Now that's not Adam Clayton Powell, leader, that's Adam Clayton Powell, dilettante.

POWELL: I paid my dues. I've been out here forty-one years.

FROST: But how can you...

POWELL: How old are you?

FROST: Thirty.

POWELL: All right, ten years before you were born I was out in the streets...

FROST: Paying your wretched dues, yes.

POWELL: Not wretched, but...

(APPLAUSE, CHEERING)

FROST: But if this is a terrible conspiracy...

POWELL: No wretched dues, don't call them wretched.

FROST: Well they're getting more and more wretched every we talk about them. But the thing is...

(APPLAUSE)

POWELL: No, no.

FROST: The thing is that if this is a great conspiracy, if it's rotting America, if it's an injustice, if it's what you're fighting, then you can't say "I don't care, I've just got to live," and the great fact that could turn -- If what you say is true, and you share what you know -- if what you say is true, you shared what you know -- you could change the



course of current history. And you can't then just say "I don't care."

POWELL: How?

FROST: If you named a group of people that are at the center of the conspiracy you've alleged, and something was done about that conspiracy, and it prevented future assassinations, how dare you not say the name, if there is a name.

(APPLAUSE)

POWELL: Who? Who? Who is going to enforce anything that anyone says, including you or myself?

FROST: They will check the facts, and if they're true they will act.

POWELL: Oh, they got the facts, man, you know that.

FROST: Well, if you announce the...

POWELL: You get me now, you know, you're astute.

FROST: All right, okay, if the facts - if they've got the facts and they're private, you make them public and these people, and the people at home will force them to act.

POWELL: It'd be on page twenty-six of the New York Times.

FROST: Rubbish, this is a democracy and it functions very well as a democracy.

POWELL: Oh, Lord, have mercy.

FROST: In a situation like this the people's voice would be heard.

POWELL: The people's voice has been stilled in the land. The voice of the turtle cannot be heard.

FROST: Oh, no. Please, if this is important and you know, speak. Either that, or it's unimportant, or you don't know. Which is it?

POWELL: I'll shut my mouth. (APPLAUSE)

FROST: If you do know, and you're shutting your mouth, that's the most irresponsible thing you've ever done.

POWELL: I got a conscience to live with, that's true.

(GROANS FROM AUDIENCE)

FROST: But you just said now you didn't care about conscience, you just said, 'I just go to live.'

POWELL: Well, that's part of living, is conscience. You can't live without a conscience.

FROST: Well I just -- I can only draw the conclusion that you just do not have these facts, or you do not care.

POWELL: Well I would say --

(LAUGHTER)

I would say at this stage of the game that I really don't care. I don't care.

FROST: That is a tragic admission.

POWELL: Yes, it is.

FROST: And with that tragic admission...

POWELL: I agree with you.

FROST: ...we take a break.

POWELL: I agree with you.

FROST: That's very sad words to hear.

POWELL: I know it, sad for me.

FROST: I hope you'll rewrite them. We're taking a break.

POWELL: Bless your heart. Keep the faith, baby.

(MUSIC)