

November 29, 1963
7:15 p. m.

165
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TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND SENATOR DODD (t)

LBJ Tom?
TD Yes..
LBJ Lyndon Johnson... thank you for your nice letter...how are you getting along
TD Hello Mr. President..Fine couldn't be better.
LBJ I'm going to announce in a few minutes that we're naming a Presidential Commission headed by the Chief Justice and Dick Russell and Cooper and Bog and Ford.. Allen Dulles and McCloy..to study this assassination thing and review the Hoover report and make available everything in it they can to the public. It will be ready over the weekend and I wanted..I talked to Jim Eastland about it..talked to Dick Russell about it and have talked to all the individuals concerned..and asked them to evaluate all their available information concerning the subject inquiry and I talked to Hoover and he agrees to it and I just thought I ought to call you because you..you..
TD Thank you Mr. President that you even think of me...
LBJ Well, you're my man on that Committee..you know I put you on it cause... I couldn't get you on Appropriations...I put you on there and damried if you haven't done more there ...
TD I'm a Johnson man...you know that..
LBJ Well, you know, I'm kind of anti-Dodd..you found that out in Connecticut ...
TD You know I thought so much of that day at Hartford..
LBJ Well we sure...is that sweet wife of yours around?
TD Now, ? No, I'm all alone up here..
LBJ You are..well give her my love...
TD I will Mr. President..
LBJ Well, I just wanted you to know it before I went...I'm just going to name it and I just wanted you to know what was happening.
TD I'll do anything you want... Mr. President I'm for you...with my every respect..
LBJ Thank you my friend. Bye
TD Bye

November 29, 1963

7:20 p. m.

106

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND SEN. HICKENLOOPE:
(t)

LBJ: Bourke? How are you?
BH Hello, Mr. President..how are you?
LBJ Pretty good. Bourke..I've been talking to John McCone and Dick Russell and I would like for you..
BH Mr. President. May I caution you...this is a country line...about seven patrons on it..whatever you say..can you say in..ah...
LBJ Yes. Dick Russell is going to extend to you an invitation
BH Yes.
LBJ You and your Chairman..to sit in with him. .on some matters..the man I just discussed with you.
BH Yes.
LBJ Regularly from time to time..and I would like very much for you all. ~~you~~ ..he wouldn't let anybody else do it..but I'd like very much for you all to do that..
BH Well...I'm very interested in it and I'll be happy to do it if it will help any..
LBJ Yes, I think it will. I just want you to have ...want John to keep you right up to date on it because I know that you two men need to know it and I know you can be absolutely trusted and Russell won't invite anybody else..but he has agreed as my request..to invite you all and all of us think that right now it is important that you do it.
BH Yes...now I don't plan on being back until Wed. night..
LBJ That's all right. You just don't say anything about this..I didn't know where you were but I just told them..I just had these conversations this evening
....
BH Well, I understand...I believe..I understand what it is..
LBJ He says that he is perfectly willing to invite you two ..now he wouldn't invite another iminority member or another majority one...and it is just the two names and not the two individuals and not necessarily ...minority of the Chairman
BH I understand
LBJ But he would let you all in because..he said he's kept a branch off on his own ... some of his best friends..but the things that I've gone over the last few days..I'd feel a little more ~~more~~ comfortable if both of you sat there all the time..
BH Well, I'll be very happy to do it.
LBJ Thank you, Bourke. All I want you to do is just to listen to it and do what you always do..what is best for America. Goodbye
BH Goodbye..Yes. Goodbye, Mr. President

November 29, 1963
7:36 p.m.

✓ 107

TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND CONG. CARL ALBER
(t)

LBJ
.....thought you were a working man!

CA Well I came home early to take my little girl to an all-night slumber party
...that's why I got home so early.

LBJ Well you know what happened... Mary

CA I'm sorry..don't have anybody to leave my boy with..and ~~Kathy~~ Mary is already
in bed.

LBJ Well I'll be damned... you know that's whats wrong with this country..thats
what's wrong with the government..I called today and Mansfield is out on a
beach in Florida..Humphrey was out at Cape somewhere..and I got ahold of
Kuchel..and he was down in Florida...basking in the sunshine and I called
the Majority Leader..of the House...to eat at 7:30K...and I was going to
tell him I'd feed him in an hour...and I still have 200 Executive Orders and
letters to sign...and my old ~~for~~ friend has gone home and gone to sleep
on me!

CA That's right, Mary is in bed asleep..my little girl..she took off and I'm
...

LBJ Well, we'll do it sometime earlier in the day...

CA Thank you sir.

LBJ Now, Lady Bird will be calling you...tell her I've already talked to you by
mistake but I just wanted somebody I loved to eat dinner with..

CA Thank you. I want you to say hello to my boy..

LBJ I'd love to..

~~for~~
Child Hello, Mr. President.

LBJ How are you my friend...you doing all right?

Child Yes

LBJ Well, I'm sure glad to hear you and you sure have got a good Daddy and
Mommy and I bet you're a good boy, too.

Child Yes

LBJ Well, you come to see me someday with your Daddy, will you?

Child O.K..

LBJ O.K. Much obliged..and goodbye..

CA O.K. Thank you sir.

LBJ Thank you Carl and tell Lady Bird that I've already called you..before she
goes to telling you about it.

CA All right. Thank you sir.

November 29, 1963

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7:45 p. m.

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT & GOV. ALLAN SHIVERS
(t)

LBJ Governor? Lyndon Johnson ✓
AS Yes..Hello.
LBJ I'm terribly appreciative of your concern and your interest and I knew that that was the way you'd feel because that's the kind of fellow you are and I just wanted you to know that I didn't ignore it and it touched me deeply and I'll try to reciprocate that friendship.
AS Well, you're mighty nice and I think you're doing everything just right ..you've handled it well..you're a tremendous person and I think you're due every commendation..and you're doing real good..truly.
LBJ Thank you
AS No one would recognize it more than you that you have a tremendous problem ..and lots of obstacles..but I know you can do it.
LBJ Well, I'm in water over my head and trying to learn how to swim..but I'm doing the best I can ..
AS I agree with you..
LBJ I wish you'd sit down once in awhile and put down on a piece of paper any thought you have or anything that your associates think will need attention.. cause I need all the damned help I can get.
AS Well..I agree with that, of course...but you're in ..you're not in water over your head..and I would be willing first to disagree with that kind of a statement..and I told my Sunday school class last week..I don't know whether you knew it or not but I teach a Men's Bible Class and have for several years...
LBJ Yes, Walter told me..believe it was Walter told me...
AS And..I told them that I thought we were particularly fortunate t.... democracy is usually strongest in its differences..and in changes..and we were most fortunate in having someone of your experience..and that I have never known a man of the experience and training that you've had..I mean that..you're well fitted for it and I know you'll do a good job.
LBJ Well...give Mary Alice my love and the first time you're this way be sure and let me know a day ahead of time..
AS Call on us..if..
LBJ Tell Gary...you all still buddies?
AS Oh sure...
LBJ Give him my regard...he's been a mighty loyal friend to me and I never will forget it.
AS We're going to have dinner with another friend of yours..the Erwins tonight..
LBJ Oh...give Frank my love. I'm very partial to him..I think he's done a wonderful job..
AS It is his anniversary..you might want to..
LBJ I'll do that..I'll just sure do it..
AS And we're going to a little cocktail-buffet for some debutantes..and then we're going to have dinner with Frank..over at the Forty Acres Club..

AS ... we'll be at the Forty Acres Club...if you want to send a wire..
LBJ I'll sure do it..making a note of it...what time you going to be over there?
AS About 8 oclock I imagine..
LBJ In about an hour..OK ..fine...
AS Well, the best of everything to you..
LBJ And give my love to Mary Alice..
AS Thank you ..
LBJ See you
AS Goodbye

November 29, 1963

109

7:50 p. m.

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. KAY
GRAHAM (t)

LBJ Hello... how are you dearie?

KG Hello... Mr. President

THE REST OF THIS CONVERSATION IS BLANK... APPARENTLY
MACHINE DID NOT PICK UP.....

Date: September 16, 1993

Processing Note

Re: Telephone Conversation between the President and Senator Russell (t), 11/29/63, 8:55 p.m.

While working on preservation of the dictabelts, the archives staff observed the following inaccuracy in the transcript:

On page 2, the transcript reads:

LBJ: "I told you...I told you I was going to name Warren and you said it would be better to name Harlan."

DR: "Oh..no...and I said Clark wouldn't do."

The archives staff heard:

LBJ: "I told you I was going to name Warren and you said it would be better to name Harlan."

DR: "Oh..no, we talked and I said Clark wouldn't do 'cause...."

Claudia Anderson
Archivist

Copy LBJ Library

N21
December 29, 1963

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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 Laughter.....I'm going to tell my friends in California, Mr. President..
LBJ Well the only one I can locate 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 ~~SENATE~~ 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 hasn't gone out..went out about
15-20 minutes ago..

TK
KHX

Well I think you should take considerable pride... I am grateful and honored 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 that's my philosophy.. and that's the way I was in the Senate under Eisenhower cause I couldn't play politics... I was responsible and I supported him.. and by God I got the majority the first two years

TK
LBJ
TK
LBJ

Sure did and I'll tell you that...
And if they followed you, they'd do the same thing with us.
Yes sir.

TK
LBJ

But anyway, I just wanted you to know and I thought that you'd wouldn't object to a couple of your managers..
I think it is great and I think that Chairman .. Mr. President, is the greatest. He turned it down today and Bobby and them went to him.. so I just called him and sent him down here and 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 Krushchev 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 Krushchev 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
LBJ

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

Thank you Mr. President .. good luck and we'll pray for you.
Now give Betty a hug for me.
Thank you Mr. President.
Bye
Bye

TK

November 29, 1963
8:55 p. m.

111
✓

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND SENATOR
RUSSELL (t)

LBJ Dick?
DR Yes
LBJ I hate to bother you again but I wanted you to know that I made an announce-
ment
DR Announcement of what?
LBJ Of this Special Commission..
DR Oh, you have already?
LBJ Yes... may I read it to you... The President announced that he is appointing
a Special Commission to study and report upon all the facts and circumstances
relating to the assassination of the late President John F. Kennedy 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 Special Commission are: Chief Earl Warren,
Chairman; Senator Richard Russell, Georgia, Senator John Sherman Cooper,
Kentucky; Rep. Hale Boggs, Louisiana, Rep. Gerald Ford, Michigan
Honorable Allen Dulles, Washington, Honorable John J. McCloy, New York.
The President stated the Special Commission is to be instructed to evaluate
all available information concerning the subject inquiry. The Federal
Bureau of Investigation, pursuant to an earlier directive of the President is
making complete investigations of the facts. An inquiry is scheduled by the
Texas Court of Inquiry convened by the Attorney General of Texas under
Texas law. The Special Commission will have before it all the evidence
uncovered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and all the information
available to any agencies of the Federal Government. The Attorney General
of Texas has also offered his cooperation. All Federal agencies and offices
are being directed to furnish services in cooperation to the Special Commission
.. The Commission will also be empowered to conduct any further investiga-
tion as deemed desirable. The President is instructing the Special
Commission to satisfy itself that the truth is known as far as it can be
discovered and ~~to~~ to report its findings and conclusions to him to the
American people and to the world.
DR Well, now Mr. President, I know I don't have to tell you of my devotion to
you.. but I just can't serve on that Commission.. I'm highly honored you'd
think about me in connection with it.. but I couldn't serve on it... with Chief
Justice Warren... I don't like that man.. I don't have any confidence in him at
all.. I realize he is a much greater man in the United States.. than anyone..
and so you get John Stennis.....
LBJ Dick... it has already been announced and you can serve with anybody for the
good of America and this is a question that has a good many more
ramifications than on the surface and we've got to take this out of the arena
where they're testifying that Khrushchev and Castro did this and did that

LBJ

Contd

and check us into a war that can kill 40 million Americans in an hour and you would put on your uniform in a minute and the reason I've asked Warren is because he is the Chief Justice of this country and we've got to have the highest Judicial people we can have. The reason I ask you is because you have that same kind of temperament..and you can do anything for your country and don't go giving me that kind of stuff about you can't serve with anybody.. you'll do anything.

DR

It is not only that..I just don't think the Chief Justice should have served on it.

LBJ

Well the Chief Justice ought to do anything he can to save America and right now.. we've got a very touchy thing and.. wait until you look at this evidence.. you wait until you look at this report...now...I'm not going to lead you wrong and you're not going to be an old ..

DR

I know that..but I have never..

LBJ

You've never turned your country down ..this is not me..this is your country and the members of the Special Commission or the Chief Justice Warren or Senator Richard Russell...and I go right down the list now.. I've got Allen Dulles, John McCloy..but you're my man on that Commission and you're going to do it and don't tell me what you can do and what you can't.. because I can't arrest you and I'm not going to put the FBI on you but you're goddammed sure going to serve, I'll tell you that..and A. W. Moursund is here and he wants to tell you how much all of us love you.. wait a minute..

DR

Well, Mr. President, you ought to have told me you were going to name me I told you...I told you..the other day I was going to name the Chief Justice ...I called you

LBJ

DR

You did not..you talked about getting somebody from the Supreme Court ..you didn't tell me you were going to name him.

LBJ

I told you...I told you I was going to name Warren and you said it would be better to name ~~Harold~~ Clark..

DR

Oh..no...and I said Clark wouldn't do..

LBJ

No...that's right and I've got to get the highest Justice I can get...He turned Bobby Kennedy down..they talked to him and he said he wouldn't serve under any circumstances...I called him down here and I spent an hour with him and I begged him as much as I'm begging you..I just said,..now here's the situation..I want to tell you.

DR

You've never begged me..you've always told me.

LBJ

No, I haven't..no I haven't.

DR

Mr. President, please now.

LBJ

No. It is already done. It has been announced.

DR

You mean you've given that..

LBJ

Yes sir. I gave the announcement..it is already in the papers and you're on it and you're going to be my man on it and you forget that.. wait a minute AW wants to say a word to you and I'll be back..

AW
~~DEK~~

Hello, Senator?
Well, we're just sitting here talking and he says I've got one man that's smarter than all the rest of them put together...

~~XY~~ DR
AW

You don't have to butter me up..
I ain't buttering you up, Senator..you know I'm not that kind of a fellow. I just heard that and I wanted you to know it.
Hell, he's depending on you..you know that. And he just got through saying ...he said I've got one man on there ..that's better than all the rest of them put together..

DR
AW
DR

Laughter...
That's the truth and you know it.
Well, AW, I don't know when I've been so unhappy about a thing as I am this ...

AW

Well, I know, but God Almighty you can take it..good God you've taken it for years, and the hard ones and the tough ones and you can take care of it and you can take care of yourself...

DR
AW

How are things down in Texas...kill any deer down there?
But you come see us but don't say you can't do anything cause you're the best "can-do" man there is.

DR
LBJ

Oh no..oh no...
Dick? Now..we're going into a lot of problems. I saw..we had lunch together and I saw Sanders and I've seen a good many people ...saw Wilkins today ...had a long talk with him..now these things are going to be developing ...and I know you're going to have your reservations and your modesty ...but now your President's asking you to do these things and there are some things I want you in besides Civil Rights and by God you're going to be in them because I can't run this country by myself...

DR

You know damned well my future is behind me and that is not entering into it at all..

LBJ

Well, your future is your country and you're going to do everything you can to serve America..

DR
LBJ
DR
LBJ

✓I can't do it..I haven't got the time..
All right...we'll just make the time..
With all my Georgia items in there..

DR
LBJ

Well, we're just going to make the time...there's not going to be any time to begin with..all you'll do is evaluate the Hoover report he has already made...
I don't think they'll move that fast on it..
Well, OK, well them we won't move any faster than you want to move but you're going to lend your name to this thing because you're head of the CIA Committee and the Senate and you're going to have Fulbright and Hickenlooper on it because this thing is breaking faster than you think and I've already talked to Hickenlooper and Fulbright and asked them to go with you.. sit on your Committee because I don't want these torn up... Secretary of State.

LBJ
Contd

of...State...came over here this afternoon. He's deeply concerned Dick about the idea that they're spreading throughout the communist world that Khrushchev has killed Kennedy..now he didn't. He didn't have a damned thing to do with it ...

DR Well, I don't think he did directly... I know Kruschev didn't because he thought he'd get along better with Kennedy..

LBJ All right..but we've...

DR I wouldn't be surprised if Castro had....

LBJ O.K..OK..that's what we want to know and people have got confidence in you and you'd...you can just be surprised or not surprised...they want to know what you think and AW Moursund is one that wants to know what you think

DR ✓you're taking advantage of me but of course...

LBJ No.No.No. I'm not taking advantage of you. I'm going to take a hell of a lot of advantage of you my friend, cause you made me and I know it and I don't ever forget ...and I'm going to be taking advantage of you a good deal..but you're going to serve your country and do what is right and if you can't do ityou get that damned little Bobby up there and let him push your tail and put a cookerbird under it. Where is he?

DR I don't know..he's in Atlanta tonight..

LBJ Well..you just tell him to get ready because I'm going to need him and you just tell him that ..

DR I saw he and he and Vandervler (?) this afternoon..for about thirty minutes they came by here...

LBJ Well, you tell either one of them that I just would like to use them any place because I'm a Russell protege and I don't forget my friends and I want you to stand up and be counted and I don't want to beg you, by God to serve/on these things that amount to something..

DR I know but this is a sort of rough one..

LBJ No, it is not rough..what is rough about this? I talked to Jim Eastland... Jim Eastland said this is the best thing that ever happened..Jim Eastland... I talked to Tom Dodd..I've talked to everybody..and not a damned one of them....all these folks are going to be part of this.

DR Yes sir, I'm sure they will..

LBJ They had a full scale investigation going Dick with the TV up there.they had the House Un-American activities Committee in it..

DR Well all of that was like that but they shouldn't have done it...

LBJ Well of course, but how do I stop it? How do I stop it Dick. Now don't tell me that I've worked all day and done wrong.

DR I didn't say you'd done wrong..I just said they ought not to have had that kind of a hearing and they ought to have stopped it and it could have been stopped some other way.. I could have stopped it in the Senate....

LBJ | What do you think I've done wrong now by appointing you on a Commission?

DR Well, I just don't like Warren...

LBJ Well, of course, you don't like Warren..but you'll like him before it is over-with..

DR I haven't got any confidence in him...

LBJ Well... you can give him some confidence. . God damn it. . associate with him . . now you're not. . you've got nothing to. . I'm not afraid to put your intelligence against Warren's. . . now by God, I want a man on that Commission and I've got one. . .

DR I don't know about the intelligence, of course. . . and I feel like I'm being kidded. . but if you think. .

LBJ Well. . if you think. . now Dick do you think I'd kid you. . .

DR If it is for the good country. . you know damned well I'll do it. . and I'll do it for you. . for that matter. . . I still feel like it sort of getting wrapped up. .

LBJ ~~ERR~~, Dick. . do you remember when you met me at the Carlton Hotel in 1952? When we had breakfast there one morning. .

DR Yes I think I do. .

LBJ All right. . Do you think I'm kidding you?

DR Now. . I don't think you're kidding me. . but I think. . well, I'm not going to say anymore, Mr. President. . . I'm at your command. . . and I'll do anything you want me to do. . .

LBJ Well you damned sure going to be at my command. . you're going to be at my command as long as I'm here. .

DR I do wish you be a little more deliberate and considerate next time. . about it. . , but this time. . of course. . . if you've done this. . . I'm going to do it and go through with it. . . and say I think it is a wonderful idea.

LBJ Well, I'm not going to be any more deliberate than I've been about this cause I've been pretty deliberate but I'm going to have you on a good God damned many things that I have to decide and you're going to be America's representative and I don't want any special obligation. . I just know you're going to call them as you see them and I've served under you and I don't give a damned if you have to serve with a Republican. . . if you have to serve with a communist. . if you have to serve with a negro. . . or if you have to serve with a thug. . or if you have to serve with A. W. Moursund. . .

DR I can serve with a Communist. . and I can serve with a Negro. . . I can serve with a Chinaman. .

LBJ Well you may have to serve with A. W. Moursund. . .

DR And IF I can serve with A. W. Moursund. . . I would say, Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to serve with you, Judge Moursund. . . but well, we don't discuss it any further ^{Mr} President, I'll serve.

LBJ OK Dick and give Bobby my love and tell him he'd better get ready to give up that fruitful law practice he's got. . .

DR He's been appointed to the Georgia Court of Appeals now. . you see. . I got him on there. . he's making as much money as I am. .

LBJ Well about Vandiver?

DR Well, he's running for Governor next time. . and will ~~XXX~~ be elected. .

LBJ Well, who in the hell is going to help me besides you?

DR Well, those boys will help you if you need them?

LBJ I need them

DR God damn it. . they're harder for you than I was. . . remember?

LBJ No. . nobody ever has been more to me than you have Dick. . . except my mother. . .

DR Laughter

LBJ

No...No..that's true. I've bothered you more and made you ~~stay~~ spend more hours with me telling me what's right and wrong and...than anybody except my mother...

DR

I've done more than anybody wants to do....

LBJ

No...No..I never made you do anything that was wrong..I never...

DR

I didn't say wrong...I said more things I didn't want to do...but Bobby and Ernie are two of the most loyal friends you've ^{got} on earth...they both called me up and said you've just got to do whatever Mr. Johnson says..

LBJ

No...I don't want you to do that..I just want to counsel with you and I just want your judgment and your wisdom ...cause I haven't got any Daddy and you're going to be it..and you just forget it..

DR

Well, Mr. President, you know..I think you know me.

LBJ

I do..I do..I know you for your country and period. Now you just get ready to ~~take~~ do this and you're my man on there ...

DR

Well if you hadn't announced it.. I would absolutely be..

LBJ

No..you wouldn't..no, you wouldn't..

DR

Yes, I would...yes I would..

LBJ

I told Warren...Warren told me he wouldn't do it under any circumstances ...didn't think the Supreme Court Justice ought to go on ..wouldn't have anything to do with it..he said a man that criticized this fellow that went on the Nuremberg trial...Jackson...he told me what he thought about Goldberg ...he thought he was terrible...and I said let me read you one report..and I just picked up one report and read it to him...and I said O.K..... there's ²⁰ million Americans involved here...

DR

Well you see I may be totally wrong ...I think Mr. Warren would serve on anything you'd give him any publicity on...

LBJ

Well you want me to tell you the truth? You know what happened?

EX

Bobby and them went up to see him today and he turned them down cold and said NO. Two hours later I called him and ordered him down here and he didn't want to come. I insisted he come..came down here and told me No twice and I just pulled out what Hoover told me about a little incident in Mexico City and I say now, I don't want Mr. Kruschev to be told tomorrow ~~subject testimony~~ and be testifying before a camera that he killed this fellow ..and that Castro killed him and all I want you to do is look at the facts and bring in any other facts you want in here and determined who killed the President and I think you can put on your uniform of World War I..fat as you are...and do anything you could to save one American life...and I'm surprised that you ~~and~~ the Chief justice of the U. S. would turn me down.. And he started crying and said, well I won't turn you down..I'll just do whatever you say..but he turned the General down...

DR

Well, you ought not to be so persuasive..

LBJ

Well, I think I ought to..

DR

I think you did wrong in getting Warren and I know damned well you did wrong

DR

Contd | in getting me but I hope to do the best I can..

LBJ

I think thats what you'll do.. that's the kind of Americans both of you are..
Goodnight.

DR

Goodnight.

November 29, 1963

90

5:10 p. m.

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

LBJ Everett?

ED Yes.

LBJ This thing has been heating up here on this investigation and I've got the House to agree not to do anything and after I talked to you I had already talked to Jim. . and the Senate wouldn't do anything if I'd appoint a Special Commission . . now here's the Commission I'm thinking about appointing. . and I didn't want to do it until I talked to you. . I don't want this repeated because I haven't even got my orders drawn. . and it is going to take some time but I'm going to ask the Chief Justice to go on it because the country needs the highest Judicial officer in evaluating this report. I thought I'd invite Dick Russell and maybe John Sherman Cooper. . kind of offset each other. . now, unless you had any objections to it. . I thought I might name Hale Boggs and Jerry Ford. . couple off fellows over in the House and then get Allen Dulles and maybe John McCloy. . generally. Now I don't want that to get out to a human because I haven't talked to these people and I've got to talk to you . . . I want your real counsel because I thought that this would be a pretty acceptable group. . judicial wise. . I talked to Russell. He didn't want to take it. . but he will. . and I'm going to make him do it. . I'm just going to order them all to do it . .

ED Let me make one suggestion. What about John McCone?

LBJ Well, he's in government and CIA. . . and I think John McCloy would be a little better.

ED Yes, of course, McCone is a knowledgeable guy.

LBJ Well he and Hoover will give them all the information, they've got, you see. Same reason I haven't got Hoover on it. . . they'll make available everything they've got.

ED Uh. . . huh. . . well that would be a good group.

LBJ OK. Well. . . you protect my planks in the Senate, Everett?

ED OK, I will.

LBJ God bless you.

ED Goodbye

90a

PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S NOTES ON CONVERSATION WITH
SENATOR DIRKSEN NOVEMBER 29, 1963 5:10 p.m.

The President: "...now here's the Commission I'm thinking of appointing...I'm going to ask the Chief Justice to go on it because the country needs the highest Judicial officer in evaluating this report. I thought I'd invite Dick Russell and maybe John Sherman Cooper...unless you had any objections to it...I thought I might name Hale Boggs and Jerry Ford...then get Allen Dulles and John McCloy...I talked to Russell. He didn't want to take it -- but he will."

Senator Dirksen suggested John McCone and the President said he did not want him or Hoover on it because they were in the Government but that both McCone and Hoover would give the Commission all of the information they had.

Senator Dirksen said: "...Well that would be a good group."

PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S NOTES ON CONVERSATION WITH
CONGRESSMAN HALE BOGGS NOVEMBER 29, 1963:11 p.m.

Congressman Boggs: "...When the House convened today, Goodell of New York took the Floor and started talking about a resolution he had on the investigation-- complaining about both bodies investigating--and then Senate Judiciary Committee and the House Un-American Activities Committee and so forth -- I was in the Chair at the time so I got George Mahon to take the gavel and...got to the Floor...and said that there would be an investigation and it would not be a Congressional investigation-- that I thought I could say on the highest authority that there would be a high level objective fact-finding investigation...."

The President said: "Well we've got to touch these bases with everybody and we haven't got them touched with the Court..... I guess I've got authority to do it without legislation...."

Congressman Boggs answered: "...You can issue an Executive Order and do it. You can do anything you want..."

November 30, 1963
10:45a

112

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND
WILLIAM McC. MARTIN

(President to Wm. McC. Martin)

LBJ: Bill...I just wanted to thank you for your most thoughtful and generous letter and I appreciate it so much and I feel quite comfortable and get strength from the knowledge that you're at that desk...

WMM: Well, that's very nice of you, Mr. President. I am just delighted to do anything I can to be of help...you can count on me, completely.

LBJ: Well, you just assume that you're starting with someone that doesn't know much about your shop and you start to tell me what I ought to know about it.

WMM: Well, I certainly will help in every way that I can, Mr. President. I'm sure you know a great deal already...and I'll help in every way I can.

LBJ: Well, I think you're a patriot and I'm mighty glad you're around and I haven't had a chance to call you until Saturday...we've had a pretty hectic few days, here...but I kind of caught up this morning and I was looking at your note and I wanted to thank you very much for it..

WMM: Well, I appreciate that very much and any way I can help...why you can count on me...

LBJ: What are we....are we over the...any explosion that might come in the market as a result of the transition?

WMM: I think we've done very well there..the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and the Stock Exchange both moved very rapidly and it seems to me that we're over the worst of anything that's likely to develop there for the moment...

LBJ: Fine...well, you let me know...and give me any cautions that I need exercise...

WMM: Well I certainly will, Mr. President...it is very nice of you to call me.

LBJ: Thank you so much. Goodbye.

November 30, 1963
1:16 p.m.

113

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND MR. DON COOK
(To Don Cook)

DC: Mr. President?

LBJ: You're already out spending all that money you fat-cats make up there ...they tell me you're down at Saks Fifth Avenue?

DC: Well, I had a young crew in town for the Thanksgiving Holidays and I had to take them down and keep them from being naked.

LBJ: And...how old is he?

DC: Well, he's about sixteen, now.

LBJ: Well, I've got a sixteen-year old girl...and she's very unhappy about Secret Service accompanying her on all of her dates..

DC: Oh, I ll bet she will be..they certainly don't like to be

LBJ: You better tell Nick to come down and see us..

DC: Well, I certainly will..

LBJ: I want to see you sometime next few days whenever you're free.

DC: All right..I'll....

LBJ: When is Nick going back?

DC: He's going back, I think, Monday..Monday morning sometime..but I'll be glad to come down anytime that will fit into your shcedule ...

LBJ: I appreciate your memo, very much, and thought it was excellent and I just want to philosophize with you a little bit...

DC: All right. I'll be delighte d to come down..

LBJ: Well, if you do...why don't you just check your schedule...I don't want to mess up any of your business...but you try to figure out if you can come down Monday afternoon...I think that'd be good..maybe have dinner with us..

DC: On Monday afternoon....

LBJ: But if you'd rather come Tuesday...just call Bill Moyers in my office and tell him when you're coming..what plane you're arriving on...and I'll have a car to meet you.

DC: All right. Why don't I call him Monday morning...

LBJ: That's right....that's right...tell him what day suits you best... because there's not anything...except I'm just lonesome for you.

DC: Well, I'll do that....may I say something?

LBJ: Yes sir.

DC: Oh, you're gonna make a magnificent President...I want to say that and everybody else up here I've talked to says the same thing.. this was a remarkable performance.

LBJ: I want to be..and that's what I want to talk to you about...I want to get some more ideas and I want you to start looking for some good people because our great problem....but we need some top-flight people ...for instance, we've got nobody to run the war in Vietnam for us... we need the ablest man that we've got...the toughest Chief of Mission you can have...Lodge is just about as much an Administrator as he is a Utility Maintenance...he just

DC: He never had to do it...

LBJ: He never had to do it and doesn't know one damn thing about it...just leaks to the Press and keeps everybody fighting each other..we need an able, tough, guy, to go there as Chief of Mission...and, now that's not anything to be desired by anybody...but I don't imagine those 8, 10, 000 boys out there desire it either...but we've got to either get in or get out...or get off...and we need a damn, tough cookie.. and somebody that can say, now, this is it...and has enough judgment to realize he can't make America Vietnam into an America overnight.. Cause if they do...the other damn government will fall..but, there's just some of the illustration...we need the ablest man you can get to operate Latin America...they're just coming in here and bumping them off one at a time

... hell we've got Col. Chennault down there..

LBJ
Contd

American national... held as a hostage... and we can't get him out... don't know what to do about it... and so forth... Andrew Jackson has been in a war... or he'd had Chennault... but that's what we got there and we've got Alliance for Progress but it is being run by an alliance of misfits... we've the foreign aid bill... about the same way and nobody has any confidence in it.

DC

L... I think that is true... of course... the one thing that I've... over a period of time that I've heard the most... criticism about... is the foreign aid program... frankly... there's just constant criticism of it but I don't know that the people who talk know what they're talking about but the fact that they do talk is the important thing not whether they're right or not... because they either have to be educated to understanding that what is being done is right or something needs to happen but there's a lot criticism of the foreign aid program, Mr. President, without any question.

LBJ

How's the market doing?

DC

Well, it certainly showed a lot of confidence and I believe that we're going to be looking forward to really a very good '64 and '65... and I think that there's real possibility of coming into a period of pretty good feeling in the country generally and I think with very little help the economy can produce a gross national product greater than we've ever seen in the whole history of the republic. There never was a time when I have felt so confident about what can take place... I have been a little troubled about the Federal Reserve Board and what it is doing... up to now, I think it really has done an exceptionally good job but they progressively whittled down the ^{free} reserve in the bank system until it is quite marginal now... it is hovering around about \$100 million a week and if Bill Martin ever pushes this thing from that free reserve to a net deficit in the banking system, I think it is just going to change the picture and change it very considerably. It is the one thing on the horizon that I think is a real uncertainty and one that could have some very bad results.

LBJ

Well, what do we do about it?

DC

Well, I think he's part of the government and if he doesn't understand it I think he's got to be made to see it. I just can't conceive of the Federal Reserve Board, with the powers that it has... the influence that it has on the economy generally, to just operating by itself... I think the Treasury, the Federal Reserve Board and the Office of the President need be very closely coordinated... and the Treasury and the Federal Reserve have got to be, I think, close parties I think to the implementation of the President's program... whenever and whatever that program turns out to be. Do you have one

Contd

LBJ Yes.

DC Let me mention one thing to you that I ran into yesterday.. I was at a meeting with a few people and when ..they were all utility people.. when it was finished ... there's a fellow by the name Venard who is the head of the Trade Assn it is called the Edison Electric Institute.. every year they have a meeting in Chicago about this time of the year.. and they get the Presidents of all utility companies from all over the U.S. ...to come into a meeting there.. discussions of various kinds of problems.. so on.. he told me that one of the things that they intended to do this year.. I just listened to him.. was to get ahold of two or three people who allegedly were ..knew you.. knew something about your previous policies and perhaps your polite return of mind.. to have them say something about what might be expected generally.. not in the utility field but just generally from the Administration.. one of the fellows.. I asked who they were considering.. I knew he was after me.. He said Len Hill.. and of course I know him to be an old and good friend.. I don't know whether he's been talked to but if he hasn't been.. this particular group you know, covers the whole U.S... if there's anything that should be said to them, I think that one of your people might talk to him and get to him before somebody else does.

LBJ All right

DC Another name that was mentioned.... can't remember, oh my goah..

LBJ Ed Clark?

DC Ed Clark.. yes. He mentioned him also and of course I know him, too. He asked me whether I'd be willing to do anything, and I told him I had very serious doubts about anybody really.. so soon.. endeavoring to talk to a group like this in any authoritative way.. that nobody could ever speak for the President to begin with and it may be that it would be unseemingly to participate in this kind of a thing but I thought I would tell you that this is being planned that.. my tentative feeling was it would be better just to keep out of it altogether but that two other people will be asked and if you wanted to affect it one way or another .. that is whether they did participate or not.. and what they had to say.. the time is now because this is very close.

HEX All right.. You be thinking about what you think I ought to say to them and..
LBJ or a message detailed... bring back to them.. what would be precedent and at the same time progressive.

DC Yes. I understand. O.K. I'll see you Monday afternoon.

LBJ Monday afternoon.. if that is agreeable, if it is not, you call and make it Tuesday if you want to or anytime. Bye.

DC Bye

November 30, 1963
1:30 p.m.

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TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND ROBERT ANDERSON

(S)

LBJ How are you?

RA: Fine, Mr. President, how are you sir?

LBJ I'm just doing good. I had a good week and thanks to you... I want to tell you how thankful I am for your friendship and I'm sitting here talking to a friend of yours... Mr. Frank Kard. Do you know him?

RA Oh, bless his heart... just a moment, may I go to another telephone... just a minute...

LBJ You betcha....

RA Hello.. sir..

LBJ Yes, we were just talking.. I've asked him what we could do about the tax bill .. they tell me they're going to finish the hearings on the 6th... he doesn't even want to testify, but he thinks if he doesn't they'll say he's afraid to.. and a lot of them, I think, feel the same way.. don't need to testify but they're listed. I was just hoping that they could try to mark it up as quickly as they could after the 6th and then get it reported out where I could get the Senate to do something about it before they go home.. at least report it to the Senate

RA Well, I've got a ball in for Harry. I've had it in now for about 18 hours.. or so.. well, ever since you made your talk.. I thought that I ought to let that come first and then I ought to talk to him. Here's what I'm going to say to him ..

INTERRUPTION IN CONVERSATION

If there was any possible way.. that you could come out of this thing with 99.8...

LBJ Yes, I know that. I've told them all that.. dozen times. I got the Joint Chiefs in yesterday.. told them.. I wanted men promoted on the basis.. how frugal they were.. how thrifty they were.. how prudent they were.. how they could save money and not how they could spend it and don't give me a bunch of talk about they've reached the ultimate there because I've been in the investigating committee too many years.. to know it.. and to go back and tell them to ... this is the watchword.. I was telling McNamara later in the afternoon that he had to review it again see what he could do with his and see if he couldn't get a few more hundred million out of it.. and.. and if he erred there on the low side.. of course he could come back later... if he had to.. and so forth. So I've wrapped it as strong as I knew and I've the Budget working on the gimmick.. told you about that gimmick didn't I.. that side draft instead of these grand ..

RA Yes you did.. I know that.

LBJ They say every Mayor and every Governor will give me hell about it.. but I guess it is worth it to have that much lower Budget, isn't it?

RA Yes. As a matter of fact it isn't a gimmick..if you don't do it the way everybody has been doing it for a thousand years, it is a gimmick.

LBJ Yes, but they say this is a legitimate one and no reason why they ought to get the credit with the banking fraternity..and, well..I'm going to try this.. we've got everything in the world though from the Kennedy Memorial..now.. they called up there .. some of the folks did and went around me..I told them I'd like to check it out on the Hill before we turn up a proposal and the first thing I knew they got Jim Wight introducing it..and saying that it is a White House measure.

RA Well, this is not treating you fairly.

LBJ No. No it is not. And \$25 million when I'm hollering thrift and economy you see.

RA That is right. Not treating you fairly..sure isn't.

LBJ But I guess we'll do it all right. Howard Smith won't even give us a hearing on civil rights. He won't do one damned thing.

RA Well, I know the people that are closest to Howard..and I'll be talking to them ..

LBJ Well, he won't even give us a hearing..now, that..that..whenever you get to that damned point where you won't hear a man..and his idea of course is that he'll run it over till January...and in January they'll be late coming back.. and he'll piddle along.. get into February and then maybe they won't get it out until March..and then in March the Senate will be able to filibuster it until it goes home and it will be..there will be nothing done. Now this country is not in any condition to take that kind of stuff..and it is going to hurt us.. it is going to hurt our section and it is going to hurt our people and is going to hurt the conservatives. I was talking yesterday.. Roy Wilkins said now we are willing to do anything .. we don't have to have every "i" and every "t" but he said John Kennedy was killed in Dallas and we had some people killed in Mississippi...and there's all this stuff going on and we've been talking about this for 100 years..looks like about time we stopped talking ..and I just think that we're going to have them out in the streets again if we don't make some little progress. Yes, but Howard has just gone to his farm and tells the Speaker I won't even give you a hearing on it.

RA Well, let me talk to him...

LBJ We're going to have..we're going to have..I think it would be mistake..if he thought you were talking to me, though..cause he's a wily old man..

RA Oh, I'll never have been talking to you...

LBJ But what we're going to do is, I'm afraid he's going to get it petitioned out..

LBJ
Contd

And I'm going to lay it on the line, though, if I get to.. say to the Republicans.. now you're either for civil rights or you're not.. you're either the party of Lincoln or you ain't... and this, by God, put up or shut up. This is it. If you are you sign the petition to consider it. If you're not, why just get over there by God with Jim Eastland and Howard Smith and stay and I believe that we can dramatize it enough that we can wreck them.

RA Well, I think you can too.

LBJ But I don't want to do that way. I don't think you ought to do that way. I don't feel that way about the Congress.. but when a man won't even give you a hearing.. that is just getting too damned rough. It has been heard, you know, since May in the Judiciary Committee.. now it comes to Rules Committee and all he's got to do.. report rule.. but he won't even give you a hearing on reporting rule.. says "hell, no" go eat cake.. god damn it.. don't mess with me until next year.

RA Well, that's worse than intolerance... and particularly when he's supposed to owe some allegiance to the party he belongs to..

LBJ Well, good luck to you. Got a pretty day up there?

RA No sir. It is snowing.. and..

LBJ We've got sunshine here ..

RA It is a bad day.. I'll be calling and I'll be talking and then one day next week .. I'm going to give you a call and come down and give you some ideas I've been thinking about... want to help you.

LBJ Wonderful.. wonderful.. sure appreciate it..

RA See you my friend. Bye

LBJ Bye

Date: September 16, 1993

Processing Note

Re: Telephone Conversation between the President and Senator Smathers (t), 11/30/63, 2:05 p.m.

While working on preservation of the dictabelts, the archives staff observed the following inaccuracies in the transcript:

On page 1, the transcript reads:

LBJ: "...Fine..well...Byrd has agreed a little bit to do that and he gave me a list of witnesses to write to to ask them to do that..now..Ikard wasn't on that list..but I can do that.."

On page 1, in the last paragraph, the transcript reads:

GS: "...I said now what are you going to do about the tax bill..why he said we can't pass it until next year anyway...now in the event...."

The archives staff heard:

GS: "...Fine..well...Byrd has agreed a little bit to do that and he gave me a list of witnesses to write to to ask them to do that..now..Ikard wasn't on that list..but I can do that.."

GS: "...I said now what are you going to do about the tax bill..why he said we can't pass it until next year anyway...I'm against it...."

Claudia Anderson
Archivist

Copy LBJ Library

November 30, 1963
2:05 p. m.

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TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND SENATOR SMATHERS
(t)

LBJ George...are you out on the golf course?
GS No sir...I'm here at home..I was just at my office and was enroute...you want to get out and walk around the golf course?
LBJ No..No..No..I just wanted to visit with you and they told me that they thought you were there and I didn't want to interrupt you if you were...
I didn't have anything important..I was just checking with you ..you said the other day you wanted to visit with me..and I thought this might be a good time..we can do it Monday or do it Tuesday afternoon..either one..
GS Fine..
LBJ I was free a little bit for awhile and I thought maybe I'd say howdy..listen..Frank Kard was talking to me..he says that they've got two witnesses...that Gore pokes at them all the time and criticizes them...they couldn't afford to run..but he says they like a number of other people...don't give a damned about testifying..they wished somebody up there would just say...now, anybody that doesn't have to..put your statement in the Record..it is just as good in the Record as if you made it orally and said they would all include them and it wouldn't take any time at all. Fine..well...Byrd has ~~with~~ agreed a little bit to do that and he gave me a list of witnesses to write to to ask them to do that..now..Kard wasn't on that list..but I can do that..
LBJ Ask ~~the~~ him if he can't do it..then call Kard and tell him..so he can say there's people that the Chairman says it is just as good orally..it is just as good in the Record as orally..it saves time and expense and everything.
Now..you are going to close the hearings on the 6th...is that right?
GS Yes..this was the original date..now Byrd...not Byrd..but Elizabeth Springer who sort of runs that thing..in a tyrannical way..she said well..because we had two days out..we're now going to have to run it..instead of on the 6th..we're going to have to go over two extra days..but this is why I'm sure we can get those witnesses to submit their statements.
LBJ How long do ~~you~~ they think it will take it to mark it up..a week?
GS Oh..no..it will take longer than that.
LBJ Well..they tell me they marked up the one last year in a week and it was a whole lot more complicated..
GS We can...there's no question about it..we could mark it up..in a week..but Gore ..he talked to me about it the other day..and ..you know..you're in...and he said "no."...I said now what are you going to do about this tax bill..why he said we can't pass it until next year anyway ..now in the event..and so on...and I said well now Albert..we ought to be able to finish marking it up..and have it ready for floor action..when we first come back in January..he said well, I don't believe you can do it..but I know Lyndon thinks that I'm..I don't like him..and so on..but that's not the truth..he doesn't like me...but he said I'm against this Bill..and I'm going to have to fight it. Now two weeks before that he told me that he was going to defeat this bill all by himself. I said well, Albert, that's a lot of junk...I remember when you said you were going to defeat the Telestar bill...you talked for four months

and you got 11 votes...and this is just a little stupid..but he's got himself in a bad position..see..he's been down there and it is easily understood that those Tennesseans decided you ought to run the government like you run your farm.. and if you've got less money coming in..then we don't want to spend more than you've got coming in..you know..this is what happened to him a year ago..but then he took that strong position and now he can't seem to get off of it..and the National Tennessean is giving him Hell and everybody is giving him Hell..it has just made him more stubborn about it...than he ever was before...so I don't know what he's going to do. Now Herman Talmadge, of course..is for the bill...but the civil rights thing stands in his way and however he voted with us on thewhen it was nine to eight and he voted with us on several crucial times.. Long was down politicking down..with Gillis..in Louisiana...and I just had to vote along twice without knowing exactly how he was going to vote...but just assumed that he would vote for the ceiling..which he did, of course..later...but the whole thing is a 9 to 8 deal all the time..and Herman I think would vote with us to mark the bill up and get it ready...and the only thing that bothered him was civil rights ..and I don't really think that's bothering him too much, either...because he's going to be against it...but ..I don't believe myself that the Southerners^{position} could visibly improve and I don't believe your position has improved any by delay on a , debate on the civil rights...I don't think you could pass it..of course, now it is too late..but, Strom Thurmond & Dick sort of agreed with him..from time to time... I think maybe more like a labor union leader agrees with one of his lieutenants just to keep him pacified..but the more time that transpires between this talk about needing the civil rights bill and the day that civil rights bill is actually voted on..z the stronger position that the Southerners would be in...because they think that the white reaction to this civil rights legislation up north..and I'm sure there is..on the other hand..now that you're President..I should think that they would agree that the sooner we can get a civil rights bill overwith..the best part of it has ended...now..in another way..the better off..the South is going to be and ~~everybody~~ the better off the South is going to be and everybody is going to be..and they wouldn't hide behind the tax bill..and hiding behind a lot of other bills ..just on the pretext of being against them when the real fact is they're against the civil rights bill.

LBJ

Ummmmmmmm.

GS

Now.. Victor is the one, of course...as you know..who is the leader on that.. but I noticed in these meetings that we've had..say like the labor union leader ...that he's got some divisions even within his own little group.. Russell Long and me and Fulbright and maybe Sparkman..who would like to get the damned thing overwith and we're not bitter about it either way..and he's got Strom Thurmond and Harry Byrd and the Ellenders and the Hollands who are against anything..and then..you know..so then it is divided ..so Dick sort of goes along with that group ..to some extent..but I would think that if we could get the tax bill marked up it would be a miracle..we'd have to..and we'd need Harry Byrd..do that because wa're going to have motion to table and if we don't have Byrd.... Won't the Republicans vote for the motion to table?

OJ

GS

I don't think so..I don't think so..

LBJ

Well..there's those little insurance amendments and those oil amendments

...

GS

Well..you'd think that they would..but I don't think that Dirksen would..he's said many times he didn't you ought to have a bill until next year..I think they'll vote for some but I don't think they want to get really quite through with it and I think the ~~WAV~~ deal that we have to make with them is ...two things..we're going to have some dealing with Byrd..in which you acquaint him with your effort to have expenditure control and on the basis of his being fairly well satisfied with that...if the Budget can stay..I don't know that it can...of course you DO know so much more about this..but if it could stay under \$100 billion..

LBJ

Now..it is \$102..

GS

That's right...but I think you could trade out with the economists on the theory on Heller and them on the grounds that \$2 billion ...we'd keep talking about the definite need to spend..actually...if you delayed the tax bill..6 ~~months~~ months... you take out of the..you have withholding of over \$2 billion dollars...which means that people don't get to spend that money...and as far as the total economy is concerned..why you're not any better off...as far as economy is concerned.. to have \$180 billion Budget or \$102 billion Budget..you're just as well off having \$100 billion Budget if you passed the tax bill in January..

LBJ

Would you feel Byrd out and give me a pretty full good report..Tuesday..when we have breakfast..

GS

All right..

LBJ

OK..Much obliged...thank you pardner...

GS

All right..thank you.

Date: September 16, 1993

Processing Note

Re: Telephone Conversation between the President and Senator Aiken, 11/30/63, 2:15 p.m.

While working on preservation of the dictabelts, the archives staff observed the following inaccuracies in the transcript:

On page 1, the transcript reads:

LBJ: "I was thinking that I'd ask this fellow Hobbs up in your State to go..."

The archives staff heard:

LBJ: "I was thinking that I'd ask this fellow Hoff up in your State to go..."

Claudia Anderson
Archivist

Copy LBJ Library

November 30, 1963
2:15 p. m.

116

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND SENATOR AIKEN (t)

LBJ George?
GA Yes...Lyndon...
LBJ Now...I want to talk to you in confidence..about something...
GA Can't hear very good..but I'll try..
LBJ Where are you....Vermont?
GA I'm in Vermont..
LBJ I want to talk to you in confidence about something, George...just...tell you what my problem is..
GA All right...
LBJ We've got a Governor that we've been kind of thinking of sending to the Independent Day celebration at Zanzibar..
GA At Zanzibar?
LBJ Yes....
GA Hell of a ways off.....
LBJ Sure is..but we've got to have somebody to go and it has got to be someone of rank of a Governor..now..I was thinking that I'd ask this fellow Hobbs up in your State to go...and then I got to thinking that maybe I'd better to talk to you about it ...if you had any strong feeling in the matter/?
GA No...he'd make a good appearance...when does he have to go?
LBJ The 9th..
GA Tonight?
LBJ No...the ninth---n-i-n-t-h...
GA The 9th...has to...
LBJ Has to be THERE the 9th...
GA I see..I ...
LBJ I haven't called him but I wanted to call him but I didn't want to without consulting you and I thought when I did talk to him I'd just tell him I had talked to you because you were kind of my Daddy down here and I didn't want to do anything without talking to you and you said he'd make a good man..
GA Well..I think he would. He would make a good appearance..and do all right for you there...
LBJ You're mighty fine..George...and I'm sure glad I've got a friend like you..
GA You just go ahead..I like Bill..but I do have to correct him once in a while...
LBJ Laughter...well, George..you have to do that to all of us..
GA Yes..I do...
LBJ I'm mighty glad I've got a friend like you, though..
GA Well...anytime...I wire you ...whenever you need me....I'll be around..
LBJ I know that... Goodbye.
GA Bye.

LBJ Did he ever finish up Mary Margaret's?
JK Yes...all except painting the place..he told me...and we'll doublecheck..
LBJ He said he had to get something..get something from Paul Taft..some
equipment..
JK A receiver from Paul..and I understood that they had gotten that, sir...
LBJ No..I didn't think so.
JK Well, I'll double check him on that.
LBJ See that he goes and gets a turn-key job..
JK All right..I'll do that.
LBJ Got it in the Johnson City House, all right?
JK Yes sir.. yes sir. we haven't completed installation there but it
LBJ it has to be done in the stages of painting..
JK We ought to have it out in the tree too..couple of them out there.
LBJ All right
LBJ Backyard..any other news..
JK No sir. Believe that's all I can think of right now.
LBJ Don is here..do you want to say anything to him?
JK Yes..I do..please.
LBJ I wanted to tell you about Erhardt primarily so that we could get ready
..how is Dale doing?27th..
JK When does it look like you'll be down..
LBJ I might be there the 14th?!!!
LBJ That'll be wonderful.
LBJ Here's Don Thomas..
JK Thomas...
DT Yes...
JK Damned..where have you been?
DT All around..
JK All around..anything I can do here for your family while you're gone.
DT No..I think not.. We'll be in tonight about 11:30, I think.
JK All right. Has A. W. got a car?
DT Yes. his car is at the airport..and I think I have one..
JK Tell A. W. that his wife has got Larry Winsome of the Boston Globe with
three or four people out at his house at 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.
and I'll have the fellow from the Farm Journal ..that we've arranged for him
to meet if he will...at the ranch or at his place...about 2:30 or ~~3:00~~
3:00 where he can strap both of them up at one time maybe..
JK And I had something else I wanted to ask you but I guess it will wait..
DT Anything going on there locally?
JK Awfully quiet, Don. People are still numb..terribly impressed by events of
the last few days..as you know..but did you get to see any of the game
Thursday..
DT Not a minute...
JK Damned it was sensational, Don..
T Must have been.

DT
LBJ

Just a minute...just a minute...
Jesse... run one of your telephone Woody polls on Jake and Debbs..
put about 100 calls..keep the secretaries busy for about a day or so..

JK
LBJ

All right, sir..all right.
Get about 4 of them per outfit and be sure that about 15 of them are out East
of Austin..

JK
LBJ
JK

All right, sir.
East of Austin.
Tell Don if you will, sir..that I talked to Morrel yesterday and Morrell says
that Holmes Theatres ..going public and maybe buying Midwest Video..
was talking in circles as only Morrell can...as soon as Don gets back mkr
I want him to get on that and see what they're finigling with there.. Morrell
tried to make a run at me on some mxx for the power lease and I
blew all fuses..told him that I didn't think that he'd had sense enough to ask..
he's promised to get that squared away for sure..the thing that disturbed me
in talking with Morrell more than anything else..was his statement that
Mr. Moses had turned things over to him.. Mr. Moses is not feeling well..
I take it he's sick..he said no...but he's cutting down on his work in the law
firm and got a lot of workload and turned it over to me as Executive Pres.
so tell Don I sure want to get on that first thing Monday..

LBJ
JK

Bird wants to give up her option..I told her she's crazy..
Can't afford to give up that option...we might sell or transfer...I discussed
that with Don and A. W. a little bit..but we don't want to give it up..sure
don't..I wouldn't mind selling it to A. W. and Melvin or Melvin and Earnest..
but I sure don't want to give it up..sir...

LBJ
JK

OK
Thank you..

November 30, 1963

3:16 p. m.

119

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND LUCIA
ALEXANDER (t)

LBJ Hello..

LA Hello...

LBJ Hi..my darling..how are you?

LA Pretty good..how are you?

LBJ Fine..this is the first moment I've had to try to get anybody on the phone
I just wanted to tell you I'm thinking of you.

LA Well, you know we've been thinking of you..

LBJ I sure do..I wish you were here..

LA I don't know..I think I'd rather be in my place than yours..

LBJ Laughter..well, I'd like to trade with you...laughter..

LA I went up to Johnson City to look at the wall paper.

LBJ I see..how are they doing?

LA There were doing fine..

LBJ Well it is going to cost a million dollars to rebuild that old, old, \$5,000
house, isn't it?

LA Well...it looks that way. I didn't know what to do..I started to call A. W.
but I didn't know where to go from here so I just came back...

LBJ Well, he's here now. He's in the office right now.

LA Well, I'll say, tell him hello.

LBJ Don Thomas came up to work some of our private business things.

LA Well..if there's anything you want me to do..why...

LBJ No..I don't think so..wait a minute...

LA Lyndon...listen...what am I supposed to do when these newspaper reporter
call me?

BA LBJ Do you want to rent or sell your house, he says?

LA Do I want to rent or sell it?

LBJ Yes, he says you'd better get in touch with him...he says there's some
Secret Service men moving up and others that are going to be renting houses.

LA Well, I don't know..haven't thought about it.

LBJ He said he'd Cecil Presnell on his house before he left...you can
think about it..he just says that they're moving in there and being stationed
there..

LA Well, that's the only place I've got to go hide....

LBJ He said he's trying to get them in Johnson City instead of sending them to
Fredericksburg...laughter...I imagine those dutchmen would be more happy
at Fredericksburg..

LA Lyndon.. what am I supposed to do when these newspaper people call?

LBJ I'd just tell them as little as I could...

LA Well..that's what I do..but things happen..if you don't say anything..they
think...I don't know what to say except tell them some...I'm just afraid they
take a pot-shot at me?

LBJ Laughter...I think I'd just tell them you all have talked it over in the family

LBJ and you think the best information they want to get is to get it through the President's Secretary..and for that reason you're not going to be conducting interviews...because, very frankly, you don't have the facilities to handle them and the time either..that you'll have to do your own work...just hope they'll understand.....Sam Houston and Rebecca gave out a good interview. I see..

LA Who did?

LBJ Sam Houston did yeah...

LA I haven't seen it...

..... weak can't distinguish words being said....

but the other paper of course has been real nice..

LBJ Who was that..the Press was the mean one..wasn't it?

LA Yes, the Press was the mean one...this woman appreciated my position but everyone knew that I loved here and would I please express confidence in...and just things like that...Then they asked where Birge worked...and I figured if I didn't say something..they'd make something out of nothing... I mean..it wasn't bad...but she told me she'd call me before she printed anything...and when I came back...why..it was all over the front page... OK...well I just wanted to tell you I love you and tell Becky...

LBJ

LA
LBJ

SANITIZED

SANITIZED

LA I know it..I don't know whether it would be a good idea for me to pull Becky out..or not..I thought I'd wait a week or two...see if there were any repercussions...I just take her out...and...

LBJ I wouldn't dare..they wanted to give me an honorary degree down there now. Texas University..wired me this morning..

LA Well, honey, you know how I felt...about...

LBJ Well, I guess, you're one of the last ones to talk to him..

LA That's right..but it was you I was worried about and John..

LBJ Well, God bless you and I'll see you..

LA Bye

LBJ Bye

November 30, 1963

4:25 p. m.

120

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND GOV. HOFF (t)

LBJ Governor?
GH Hello...how are you?
LBJ I'm doing fine..
GH You're doing a wonderful job..
LBJ Well thank you sir..I wonder if you would be interested in representing me at the Zanzibar Independence ceremonies to be held on December 10th
...
GH I'd be very pleased to..
LBJ It is a Moslem country and wives will not attend but we could send your wife to Kenya to be joined by you just as soon as the ceremony is over...and December 9th is when you have to go and be there the 9th and 10th and there will be...President Kennedy had selected a State Senator, negro... State Senator from Georgia...and perhaps a couple of other members of the delegation that he had selected...and if you could do this...I would appreciate it very much. I talked to Sen. Aiken about it when I was unable to get you earlier and he thought it would be a very good thing and I think it might.. if it does interest you..it might be very good.
GH I'd be very happy to..
LBJ All right.. We'll get you full instructions and you'll be hearing from Mr. Dungan on my staff and you and your wife can ...work out arrangements for your wife to join you there..it is an ~~island~~ island off the coast of Africa you know..
GH Yes, I know...approximately where it is... would it be possible to have some member of your staff brief me..
LBJ Yes... Yes..what you do is come down here ahead of time and probably come down the 8th and then leave from here the 9th..and Mrs. Johnson and I look forward to seeing you.
GH Wonderful, Mr. President..
LBJ And I'll get Dungan to get in touch with you.
GH Wonderful...you're doing a wonderful job, sir.
LBJ Well, how are things going up there?
GH Oh..fine..still in the process..trying to get over this thing but I've heard repeatedly from any number of people what a wonderful job you're doing and I think the whole country feels this way.
LBJ Thank you.
GH You're quite welcome, Mr. President. Thank you for calling.
LBJ b ye