

November 29, 1963
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TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND SENATOR
MIKE MANSFIELD (to Sen. Mansfield)

LBJ several investigations in education. Secretary of State is here with me now and he's quite concerned about it. . we have given a good deal of thought . . at least I have . . on the suggestion of Katzenbach over at Justice. . to having a high-level commission. . try to get someone from each side. . House and Senate. . and let them review the investigation that has been made by the Court of Inquiry and the thorough one by the FBI and let them staff it. Now I talked to McCormack and he said that would be agreeable to him . . I have talked to Eastland, who started the investigation. . and he said that that would be agreeable to him. I thought I'd better talk to you and anybody else you suggested. . see what your reaction to it might be and maybe I ought to talk to some other people. . I haven't talked to any of the Justices or anything like that yet. . but we think that is the best way to avoid a lot of television show and I'd like for the Secretary of State to spend a minute with you, telling you some of his concern.

MM Well, first, Mr. President, I think it is a good idea. . . O. K. with me and then you ought to talk to Dixon. . . .

LBJ Go ahead Mike. . . here is the Secretary. . .

MM O. K.

DR possible implications of this that if the rumors were to leak out as fact and if there were anything in this that had not been fully substantiated it would cause a tremendous storm. . . and it is very important that we work on the basis of the highest possible information on this situation. . . meanwhile trying to get it . . the absolute truth on it. . so I think this is very much in my mind. . this has already been commented on and picked up all around the world and if we're not careful here we could really blow up quite a storm.

MM That's right.

DR So, now, may I put you back to the President?

MM O. K.

LBJ Yes Mike.

MM Mr. President. I think the idea is a solid one. . . I would suggest that you contact Dirksen as far as I'm concerned you have my full support all the way

MM as always..

LBJ Thank you now. Mike we have another thing that we...just let me step to my desk I want to get the memo..I want to ask you about....Mike he's getting a note for me and it involves a special request to be made very shortly..here is the memo that came to me.

"Ordinarily the widow of a President receives under the existing law (you remember we passed this last year, I believe) \$10,000 a year for the purpose of answering mail. Mike Feldman called..said quote the family when I asked him to..and he talked to the Attorney General, speaking for them..I'd like to have a bill introduced..for Mrs. Kennedy immediately to receive \$50,000 for the first 12 months and \$10,000 each year thereafter ..well that is already the law hereafter..so it is just a question of the first.. the reason, according to Feldman is, that Mrs. Kennedy's mail is so heavy due to the assassination..\$10,000 won't do it...Feldman said the Attorney General would like to have the bill introduced today so it can be considered Monday under the suspension of the rules..I told him to hold it up until you had a chance to talk to him about it..today. Legislative people are coming in a minute and I rather think we ought to do it.

MM OK. We can't do it in the Senate until Tuesday..Mr. President, but we'll take it up right away and get quick action and I think Dirksen and I should co-sponsor it.

LBJ Fine. O.K. Thank you my friend.

MM Thank you. Bye Mr. President