

Senator Robert Griffin (Republican of Michigan, Ass't Minority Leader in the Senate), interviewed on Capitol Cloakroom by Roger Mudd, Bruce Morton and John Meyer, CBS news correspondents.

Excerpt:

Q [Mudd?] - What was the purpose, Senator, of the Vice-President's trip around the world?

A - Well, I wasn't briefed on it so I really don't know that I can tell you.

I think that - I suspect it was a goodwill trip and that he probably delivered some messages from the President of the United States, but I really don't know. I'm not privy to all of the planning details for the trip.

Q - We asked one of our guests on Capitol Cloakroom, Senator Dole,* what the purpose of the trip was and he paused a minute and said, "Well, there must have been a purpose, I'm sure there was." - and he, too, couldn't name the purpose, other than delivering some messages. Was it in fact an attempt to put him in the deepfreeze for a while during the Red Chinese negotiations?***

A - I wouldn't think so, but as I say, I really don't know.

* [chairman, Republican National Committee]

***See Kevin P. Phillips, Washington Post, 24 Jul 71, filed Nix Ad . (..... Agnew doesn't like the President's China policy. ... Today, "China diplomacy" is a major weapon in the President's reelection arsenal, and Vice President Agnew was sent out of the country - banished, - almost - during the period of final policy evolution and announcement.)