

November 29, 1963

6:15 p. m.

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TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND CONG. ARENDS (2)

LBJ
.....please do and I just ... most of these boys are going to be leaving here not later than 6:30 and I tried to get him over an hour...

CA You want ...to make this tonight?

LBJ Yes...oh yes..I'm going to make the announcement tonight..of course, I'd like to be able to say that I had consulted with the leadership..

CA That was my problem..

LBJ But it is a Presidential Commission, you see, and I just want to work with my friends..

CA That's right..that's right. That's why I called you back, Mr. President.

LBJ What I want to do is..I want to try to get someone who is pretty familiar with the defense picture and the foreign relations picture and also the CIA picture..you see..the Hoover picture..that's why I'm trying to get the man that's kind of high over in the military over in the House...but Russell on Armed Services in the Senate.

CA Well, I'll tell you the reason..

LBJ Cooper is a former Ambassador to India..you see..and McCloy is a former Ambassador.. Dulles is former CIA...and I don't know..had no particular reason for interest in the Republicans but the hell of it you can't clear these things..you can't even talk to them..you can't get them. Mike Mansfield is in Florida. Dirksen is in Illinois....

CA Well..let me see if I can't get him but in the meantime..I didn't want to be put in the position where I'd put an OK on something and then find out that Charlie was jumping or something like that...

LBJ What I was going to do...I was going to try to get him for another 15 minutes and then have to decide what to do about it because..

CA I'll do likewise..I'll work on it too..I'll try to call you back...

LBJ Fine. Just tell him what we'd like to do...is have men with the military background...the CIA background..the appropriations background..see we'r doing a good deal in this field, Les..but I think you're on the Committee, aren't you?

CA I'm on the Armed Services....

LBJ Yes. yes. yes... Subcommittee there..and so we're trying to spread it out.. we're getting the Chairman of Armed Services...one group, you see and then we're trying to go to appropriations with the other that handles appropriations and we're trying to go to somebody that has a little foreign service, like John Cooper, Ambassador..and Dulles, you see the CIA ...Hale has been talking about this thing and he talked a little bit too much today

CA Laughter...

LBJ That's the trouble..they all talk..you know..and you tell them..he called down here and said this fellow was talking and I said well I'm trying to work out things like that..

CA Well..that's right..that's right. You're doing the right thing on this..

LBJ But if I talk to them..they talk to the press..so you try to get back to me in 15

CA Just as quick as I can...bye.

LBJ Bye