

Date: September 15, 1993

### Processing Note

Re: Telephone Conversation between Bill Moyers and Dean Rostow,  
Yale Law School, 11/24/63

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

On page 1, the transcript reads:

DR: "...In this situation, with the suspect killed,  
...."

**The archives staff heard:**

DR: "...In this situation, with the bastard killed,  
...."

Claudia Anderson  
Archivist

November 24, 1963

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TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN BILL MOYERS AND  
DEAN ROSTOW, YALE LAW SCHOOL

WM: It is good to talk to you, Dean Rostow.

DR: Thank you, boy, and if I can help in any way, I am calling with a suggestion. I've just talked to Nick Kazenbach and the poor fellow, he has so much of a burden on him. I've talked to him about three times today and he just sounded so groggy so I thought I'd pass this thought along to you. And, of course, I realize how tough it must be now for the President. In this situation, with the suspect killed, my suggestion is that a Presidential Commission be appointed of very distinguished citizens in the very near future. Bi-partisan and above politics -- no Supreme Court justices but people like Tom Dewey and Bill Story from Texas and so on. A commission of seven or nine people, maybe Nixon, I don't know, to look into the whole affair of the murder of the President because world opinion and American opinion is just now so shaken by the behavior of the Dallas Police that they're not believing anything.

WM: I can understand that....

DR: Now, I've got a party here, I've been pursuing the policy, you know, that people need to come together at this time.

WM: You know what you could do that would be very helpful and this is a good suggestion and I'll pass it on -- just a minute -- the President is calling.....excuse me, go ahead....

DR: Well, what can I do that will help.

WM: Well, I was just speaking coming in after hearing the news of Oswald's shooting that this is symptomatic of what has been happening in this country in the last few years that there is a breakdown of respect for law and order --you know -- these signs of "Impeach the Supreme Court" etc. etc. etc. If I could have a memorandum to give to the President along these lines .. one of his great tasks is to help continue the institutions that seem to be at least, if not in doubt, right now, at least weakened by some kind of sickness that has taken hold of some parts of our population. Now, I'd like him to have to consider in some private talks he's having with newsmen and with perhaps, with his Joint Session next Wednesday night. He needs to make some points, you know, that America is known as a land of public order, a land

(WM cont'd)

of ability, a land of ....in which the public safety is guaranteed and... there's a very serious question, right now, in the mind of the world about these institutions that undergird us so tremendously and...

DR: Well, his Gettysburg speech last Spring was just terrific... couldn't have been better... I'll be more than glad to send any message he thinks will be helpful right away...

WM: All right. Now, your suggestion is that he appoint a Special Commission of distinguished Americans, primarily in the field of law, I presume, to look into the whole question of the assassination.

DR: That's right and a report on it.

WM: All right, I'll get to him. Also, I wish you would keep me informed about how Nick is doing --- we don't want to put any greater strain on him than is necessary but ...

DR: Well, he's a great and able man, utmost personable, he's, he's fighting back, he's terrific...

WM: Yes, yes. Thanks for calling. I'll follow through.

DR: You're welcome. Goodbye.

WM: Goodbye

Date: September 16, 1993

### Processing Note

Re: Telephone Notes, The President and Bill Moyers???, no date

While processing the telephone transcripts, the archives staff observed that the conversation is a draft of a conversation between Bill Moyers and Dean Eugene Rostow on November 24, 1963.

The draft had been filed with the December 1963 conversations, and the archives staff refiled it with the completed transcript in the November 1963 folder.

Claudia Anderson  
Archivist

A To talk to you.

B Thank you boy. If I can help in any way I will. I'm calling with a suggestion. I've just talked to Nick Katzenbach.

A Yes.

B And the poor fellow. He has so much of a burden on him. I talked to him about three times today. And he just sounded so groggy. I just thought I would pass this along to you. Of course I realize how tough it must be now that the President in this situation with            my suggestion is that a Presidential Commission be appointed of very distinguished citizens in the very near future. Bi-partisan and above politics; no Supreme Court Justices but people like Tom Dooley, you know, Bill Storey from Texas, etc. A commission of seven or nine people, maybe Nixon, I don't know, to look into the whole affair of the murder of the President. Because world opinion and American opinion is just now so shaken by the behavior of the Dallas police that they are not believing anything.

B I can understand that.

B Now I've got a party here. We've been pursuing the policy that people need to come together at this time.

A You know what you could do that would be very helpful and this is a good suggestion and I will pass it on. Just a minute the President is calling.  
Excuse me, go ahead.

B

B Sure Bill. what can I do that will help?

A Well I was just thinking coming in a few minutes ago after hearing the news of Oswald's shooting that this is symptomatic of what has been happening in this country in the last few years and the background of respect for law and order you know there are signs "impeach the Supreme Court, etc, etc" If I could have a memorandum to give to the President along these lines that one of his great tasks is to help you know continue the institutions that seem to be at least if not in doubt right now, at least weakened by some kind of sickness that is taking hold of some parts of our population I'd like him to have that to consider in some private talks he is having with newsmen and with perhaps during his joint session next Wednesday night he needs to make some point you know that America is known as a land of public order, a land of savility, a land in which the public safety is guaranteed

and and there is a very serious question right now in the mind of the world about these institutions that undergird us so tremendously

B His Gettysburg speech last Spring was just terrific.

A Yes.

B I will be glad to send any messages I can to be helpful right away.

A All right. Now your suggestion is that he appoint a special commission of distinguished American primarily in the field of law, I presume, to look into the whole question of the assassination.

B That's right.

A I wish you would keep me informed about how Wick is doing. We don't want to put any greater strain on him than is necessary. But he is an able man.

B Well he's a great boy and I have the utmost faith in him.

A Yes.

B But he's fighting back.

A Right. Thanks for calling. I'll follow through.  
Goodbye.

B Goodbye.