

November 29, 1963

7:11 p. m.

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

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LBJ Bill?  
WF Yes.. Mr. President.  
LBJ I was talking to Dick earlier today and I expressed the hope that he would invite you and Hickenlooper to sit in with him on his CIA Committee for these briefings..he said he'd be glad to do that..that he didn't want to add to it and he wouldn't let a good many members of his own Committee sit in on them because..of obvious reasons..but he'd take you too and I guess he's going to come along with and I just hope that you agree to get on it and serve on it...because I think it is very important that you know all they tell them and then I want to be talking to you from time to time and get your judgments on it.  
WF Sure...sure...be glad to..  
LBJ All right. Well you just wait until he invites you because I told him to extend the invitation because it'd be better for him to do it than for me to be saying who serves on his Committee..on the other hand..I wanted you to know it that I want you to do it very much...and I'll be talking further sometime..  
WF Good..good...good  
LBJ How's Betty..is she still living with you?  
WF Fine...and she and I both want to tell you we thought you were absolutely marvelous at the speech the other day...really..cause I know you've been told ..but it was absolutely breathtaking...  
LBJ Is she there?  
WF Yes.  
LBJ Let me talk to her?  
WF Fine, she'd love to...hold on a second ... you really were wonderful Lyndon.. I may slip every now and then and call you Lyndon...don't hold it against me..  
LBJ That's all right...I make it myself..  
WF Hope you don't mind until I get used to it...  
LBJ You know I'm like the Jewish boy.. said..how can I trust God when I don't trust myself....laughter..I can't blame you for something that I do myself..  
Mrs F Mr. President.  
LBJ Hi, Betty, how are you, honey..  
Mrs FX I just want to tell you..you've never been so eloquent or delivered it so beautifully in all your life...I was just sending Bird a note about it..  
LBJ Well you're a mighty sweet girl and I just wanted to tell you how much I love you and that old Bill Fulbright is a jealous man..but he just got in there first..  
Mrs F I know he is..  
LBJ And I'll tell you he's got a lot of men that are pretty envious of him.  
Mrs F Well..I hope he's just jealous as can be of you...and I hope he has reason to be... you're wonderful.  
LBJ Well, I love you and if you run into any pretty things when you're shopping for Christmas...pick them up and send me a bill cause I'll have a lot of women I want to send things to and men too so I'll ask you to do what you do for Dick Russell..

Mrs F Well, I'm writing Bird.. and you tell her.. anytime there's anything.. I know she has lots of friends who she knows better than I am.. but if any of them are ever all tied up.. you tell her I would love to.. anything I can..

LBJ Thank you and she'll want you and she'll need you and she's so shy that she'll never tell you but I'll tell you now.. she does .. and she was asking me yesterday.. would it be all right to ask a couple of friends to do some things that she just couldn't do because she doesn't get but 10,000 letters a week..

Mrs F I know.. and you tell her that short of making a speech.. I'm not good at that ...but anything short of that.. I'd love to do.

LBJ Thank you, dear.

Mrs F Thank you. Bye