

November 28, 1963

3:00 p. m.

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TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND SENATOR EASTLAND (from Senator Eastland)

LBJ: Senator...this is your birthday and I just wanted to call and wish you many happy returns of the day and wish you were here where I could help you celebrate it.

JE: Well, thank you. My wife's too.

LBJ: Well, good God...let me talk to her...is she there ?.....
Your weather good down there?

JE: No. It is raining.

LBJ: Well, I'll be darned...we need some over in our country. It has been mighty dry.

Mrs. E: Hello!

LBJ: Mrs. Eastland..Happy Birthday! I just noticed that you and Jim had a birthday and I wanted to call you up and say "Many happy returns of the day...wish you everything that is good in life..

Mrs. E: Thank you so much, Mr. President. That makes growing old a pleasure! Appreciate your thinking of us.

LBJ: Well fins. I hope I'm going to be seeing you up here before long.

Mrs E: We will be back, of course, whenever we need to be back.

LBJ: Well good. I'll tell Lady Bird I talked to you. She's not here but she..

Mrs E: Give her my best regards.

LBJ: She'll miss seeing you...Jim?

JE: Yes sir.

LBJ: I'm mighty glad to hear your voice and give me a ring when you get back, fellow.

JE: I got your letter... to Stennis and me about returning these boys patronage..

LBJ: All right. Well let me see it, I haven't seen it..but if you got it.. send it to me?

JE: Yes, we'll send it to you..think it was sent, though, day before yesterday.

LBJ: Talks to Walter Jenkins and says "Walter, look for a letter from Senator Eastland and Senator Stennis"....now what is the situation?

JE: Congressman...they took their patronage away from them in 1960 and we both think it ought to be returned...they took Whitley's patronage..when he.... Whitley didn't do a thing but stall..you know a lot of times a man will ride both sides...did that and Bonnet got on television and put his own opinion of what Whitley said which wasn't it at all..

LBJ Laughter...kind of got him on the spot.

JE: Yes...politics. Have to make a lot...

LBJ: Yes...yes...yes, we do. All of us you know get off base once in a while and then sometimes other people get off base for us..don't they? I'll look into it Jim, I haven't seen it but I'll ask them to get me the letter and I'll talk to you when you get back.

JE: That's fine.

LBJ: Bye

JE: And many thanks.

November 28, 1963

3:21 p. m.

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TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND SENATOR EASTLAND (to Senator Eastland)

LBJ: Jim...on this investigation...this Dallas thing...what does your Committee plan to do on it? I didn't ask you that and I intended to and had it on my mind and I got to talking and didn't do it.

JE: Well..we plan to hold hearings and just make a record of what the proof is..that is all. Show that this man was the assassin. To begin with we've had a great number of Senators that have come to us to request it..beginning with Morse...that it be done...now if you want it dropped ..we'll drop it...

LBJ: I...have the feeling...I don't know that I would..but we've got pretty strong states' rights question here and I've had some hesitancy to have a bunch of Congressional inquiries..and it might...

JE: Well you see ...you've got a fill-in to make it..

LBJ: Well, I know it but you don't have any law and it might set a precedence that you wouldn't want to have...I talked to some of the fellows about it day before yesterday..Russell was down here for lunch..

JE Well now there's one of them that's irked...

LBJ And, my thought would be this, if we could do it. We might get two members from each body...you see we're going to have three inquiries running as it is..

JE Well, I wouldn't want that..that wouldn't do..

LBJ And if we could have two Congressmen and two Senators..and maybe a Justice of the Supreme Court to take the FBI report and review it and write a report..and do anything they felt needed to be done..I think it would..this is a very explosive thing and it could be a very dangerous thing for the country...and a little publicity could just fan the flames. What would you think about ..if we could work it out of getting somebody from the Court and somebody from the House and somebody from the Senate and have a real high-level judiciary study of all the facts.

JE Well..it would suit me all right...Now you'd have...there's going to be some opposition on the Committee from Keating and I think Dirksen would be all right..I don't know..he's very strong for him...you see they've all

JE
Contd done the talking...

LBJ Well, if it is all right with you... I'm not worried about your Committee
... I know what you can handle...

JE Well, we can work it out...

LBJ You can handle your Committee.. O.K. Much obliged. Bye

JE O.K. Bye

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PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S NOTES ON CONVERSATION WITH
SENATOR EASTLAND NOVEMBER 28, 1963 3:21 p.m.

The President said: "...On this investigation...what does your Committee plan to do....?"

Seantor Eastland replied: ".....We plan to hold hearings and just make a record of ~~the~~ what the proof is....."

The President: "....But you don't have any law and it might set a precedent that you wouldn't want to have. I talked to some of the fellows about it day before yesterday....We might get two members from each body; you see we're going to have three inquiries running as it is...And if we could have two Congressmen and two Senators, and maybe a Justice of the Supreme Court to take the FBI report and review it and write a report and do anything they felt needed to be done.... What would you think about....getting somebody from the Court and somebody from the House and somebody from the Senate and have a real high-level judiciary study of all the facts?"

This plan was agreeable to Senator Eastland.