

November 29, 1963

11:40 a. m.

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TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND SENATOR
E. DIRKSEN (to Senator Dirksen) ✓

LBJ Everett?

ED Yes.

LBJ Two things... this.. these investigations from the House and the Senate on this Dallas affair.. Hoover is a little concerned about reflecting on him ..he is making a very full report on it.. the Attorney General is getting an inquiry .. state inquiry.. he's a very young and able and effective man.. and we don't want to.. we've got some international complications.. come could come up to us if we are not very careful... so we've been trying to figure out how we could best handle this thing and seems to us we might ask the members of the Court, might even ask Allen Dulles, might ask a couple of members of the House, a couple from the Senate, and wrap up the three divisions of government .. just^{so} we would have a very high caliber top-flight, blue-ribbon group that the whole world would have absolute confidence in. I've talked to Mansfield and to the Speaker and that appeals to them... now I think that appeals to Hoover.. I think it appeals to the Justice Department and the Secretary of State. I want to see what reaction you had.

EDstarted when Eastland came over to my office the other afternoon. And he wanted to...

LBJ Incidentally I've talked to him, too, and he said it was agreeable with him. He's got a states rights problem there... if he goes to sending investigations down into Texas, then they'd be going into Jackson, you know. ..and vice-versa.

ED Yes.. I undertook this only because Jim initiated it and I talked to McClellan ...

LBJ Yes, I talked and indicated to Dick Russell too and he kind of thought it would be bad for.. just Senate Committee and House Committee and all of them would be running over the lot... we have a request from the Attorney General that in view of the heavy mail that Mrs. Kennedy is getting and will get that the ordinary \$10,000 that the President's wife gets for the purpose of answering mail, be increased to \$50,000 for the first year. Mike says he'll co-sponsor that if you'll go along with it.

ED I will.

LBJ And that will be fine... now let me see. I want to talk to you and Charlie in the next day or two about how in the world we're going to get some little

LBJ

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action between now and the time we go home..if we don't, why we're going to get a bad press.

ED

Yes.

LBJ

We're just the people...we've got to get our appropriations out but we ought to make some progress...now Harry Byrd is very interested in seeing what this Budget be before getting this tax bill out. I talked to Eisenhower and Bob Anderson in some detail about that...and I want to talk to you about it ...I've already done everything that I humanly can to keep that within bounds and I'll be in a position to give you some estimates, but I hope you'll be in a position to close those hearings when you tentatively plan to close them. . whenever it was...when was it? 6th?

ED

Yes. Well originally it was the 17th, but we pushed it back to the 6th or 7th.

LBJ

6th...then maybe you could get your report written and get it on the calendar as a minimum because ..Everett.. what I think about is...we can pass the tax bill in a week ..but it can be real complicated...all the difficulties..but after we get it out but the civil rights is going to take so damned much longer time ...they've got the McGregor Burns and the rest of them writing about the Congress and whatever else we say...we do have a good many appropriation bills up there in December than we've had before and there is some merit to some of the things they're saying and my life is the Hill, as I said the other day but I do think that if we could, we ought to show some evidences of progress and you be thinking about how you can help us get the tax bill out ..I don't want to rush them..don't want to change the procedures..as I indicated in my message..I don't want to try to blast anybody out of anything but if he's going to finish the 6th anyway, why let's just work some people a few nights up there writing this report and get it out there on the calendar ...it would be a wonderful thing if we passed that. Every businessman I've talked to since I've been in here..from the top on down...Bob Anderson says every one of them are waiting to see whether they're really going to pass one. If they are, why it is going to mean a lot to them and that market went up the other day because they thought that we were going to be stable in business... because they think we're going to be frugal, but you've got to help me my friend..

ED

Well, I'll be back there Monday and I'll talk to you.

LBJ

And you give some thought to that now. Let's try to get that tax bill out. House passed it and we've been on it one year.. 11 months..and if Congress is to function at all..and can't pass a tax bill between January and January ..why we're in a hell of a shape. And you know that they've had enough hearings

LBJ
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on that thing and if they finish...they ought to write a report in a week and they ought to pass it...then they'd all know it was effective January 1st and every businessman in this country would have some confidence and you'd probably pick up a bunch of Senate seats because you're running the Senate like I ran it..you've been pretty patriotic..and you cooperate.

ED Yes. The ^{mark-up} ~~market~~ is going to take a little time, I think.

LBJ The what?

ED The mark-up.

LBJ Well, they can do that in a week...if they mark ^{up} the other one in five days...hell of a lot more complicated, the Treasury tells me...and if they can do the other one in five days, ...give them seven on this one...so that would be the thirteenth and you could have the damned thing passed by...we don't need to go home till Christmas eve. 22d...and you'd have ten days to pass it. Now Albert Gore has got a deal there. He wants to do this and that but we could tangle those amendments of his..and we've got an obligation to the Congress and we've just got to show that they can do something because we can't pass civil rights...we know that.

ED Well, let me talk to Harry and John Williams ...and..

LBJ OK...OK...thanks.

ED Yes, OK.