

November 29, 1963

5:10 p. m.

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

LBJ Everett?

ED Yes.

LBJ This thing has been heating up here on this investigation and I've got the House to agree not to do anything and after I talked to you I had already talked to Jim. . and the Senate wouldn't do anything if I'd appoint a Special Commission. . . now here's the Commission I'm thinking about appointing. . and I didn't want to do it until I talked to you. . I don't want this repeated because I haven't even got my orders drawn. . and it is going to take some time but I'm going to ask the Chief Justice to go on it because the country needs the highest Judicial officer in evaluating this report. I thought I'd invite Dick Russell and maybe John Sherman Cooper. . kind of offset each other. . now, unless you had any objections to it. . I thought I might name Hale Boggs and Jerry Ford. . couple off fellows over in the House and then get Allen Dulles and maybe John McCloy. . generally. Now I don't want that to get out to a human because I haven't talked to those people and I've got to talk to you . . . I want your real counsel because I thought that this would be a pretty acceptable group. . judicial wise. . I talked to Russell. He didn't want to take it. . but he will. . and I'm going to make him do it. . I'm just going to order them all to do it . .

ED Let me make one suggestion. What about John McCone?

LBJ Well, he's in government and CIA. . . and I think John McCloy would be a little better.

ED Yes, of course, McCone is a knowledgeable guy.

LBJ Well he and Hoover will give them all the information, they've got, you see. Same reason I haven't got Hoover on it. . . they'll make available everything they've got.

ED Uh. . huh. . well that would be a good group.

LBJ OK. Well. . you protect my planks in the Senate, Everett?

ED OK, I will.

LBJ God bless you.

ED Goodbye

PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S NOTES ON CONVERSATION WITH
SENATOR DIRKSEN

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The President: "...now here's the Commission I'm thinking of appointing....I'm going to ask the Chief Justice to go on it because the country needs the highest Judicial officer in evaluating this report. I thought I'd invite Dick Russell and maybe John Sherman Cooper....unless you had any objections to it....I thought I might name Hale Boggs and Jerry Ford....then get Allen Dulles and John McCloy....I talked to Russell. He didn't want to take it -- but he will."

Senator Dirksen suggested John McCone and the President said he did not want him or Hoover on it because they were in the Government but that both McCone and Hoover would give the Commission all of the information they had.

Senator Dirksen said: "...Well that would be a good group."