

November 29, 1963

12:04 p. m.

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TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND SPEAKER
McCORMACK (to Speaker)

LBJ Mr. Speaker?

JMc: Yes, Mr. President..

LBJ On the... I think they've talked to you about this.. but, it is the feeling of the family that Mrs. Kennedy... each President's wife has \$100,000 a year for answering mail ..and the first year there's going to be some rather exhorbitant demands made on her and they'd like to try to get \$50,000 for it. I've talked to Dirksen and Mansfield.. when I talked to them on this investigation as I talked to you much earlier...and since I had this on the desk I asked them about it. They said they'd co-sponsor it. I wondered if you had talked to Carl ...see what..

JMc: Well, we're introducing a bill today. I am going to bring it up Monday under suspension for the franking privileges for natural life. The burial expenses and giving her quarters that.. General Services has given her quarters for six months and then \$50,000 clerical hire.. now I've talked with Henry Wilson and we've cleared this with Halleck .. you know it is one of these emergency things.. and I worked about three hours yesterday, Carl and I did, and we've talked with Henry Wilson and we said "anything new we have to go back and start all over again and Halleck is out." and I said the thing to do is let this bill go through then they can pick it up in the Senate.. then they can demand it.. or if.. even if they want to they can put it up to an appropriation bill over there and then it would be appropriation... then we get the whole thing cleaned up.

LBJ What about the Secret Service? You've got to have a couple..

JMc Yes, they're going to pick that up in the Senate.

LBJ Why can't you put that on.

JMc Well, I've cleared the bill as it is now with Halleck...

LBJ Won't he take two Secret Service?

JMc Well, he's out of town.

LBJ Well why don't you call him. Ask him if he won't take two Secret Service and then you'll have it all wrapped up.. if you can do that. I can normally assign them to her anyway.. but think it would be better if they did it by bill...

LBJ
Contd

but I've had them assigned to me before the law made them eligible to me ... as a matter of fact, they insisted. Eisenhower insisted that as soon as I was elected that they have Secret Service with me even though the law didn't provide it.

JMc Halleck is down in Alabama..

LBJ Why don't you put in a call to him...

JMc I'll get Les Arends and see if Les will agree..

LBJ Well, if you have any trouble, I'll call Halleck.. go on and get that through.

JMc Now, I've talked with Smith... he won't do a damned thing.. till after the first of the year.. I got him up at his farm.. he won't do a thing.. so we've got to go right ahead with this discharge petition and work on it..

LBJ All right.. ummmm... how many Democrats can you get for it?

JMc I would think 150.. 160...

LBJ How many you've got to have?

JMc 218..... that should be gone ahead with. Dick Bolling has introduced the necessary resolution.. to get seven days before the discharge petition can be filed.. now we want to engineer

LBJ He won't give you a hearing of any kind?

JMc Well, he won't cooperate.. he said.. he was frank.. he's just frank about it.. he won't do anything to help along until after the first of the year.

LBJ Will he give you any hearings?

JMc Nope... So I even went ahead and discussed with him the reporting on the rule .. before January and he wouldn't do it. I even took that responsibility...

LBJ OK my friend.. you call Halleck and if you have any difficulty...

JMc Oh... here is Les Arends now... (Les, I've got the President on the phone) we've agreed to a suspension resolution to give Mrs. Kennedy the franking privilege for life which other widows got.. the burial expenses which other

JMc Presidents in office got...and in then the resolution ...\$50,000 clerical hire and the President wants one more thing in there..he's on the phone.. the ability to assign two Secret Service men.. will you take that responsibility?

LBJ Six months...Secret Service..

JMc Oh well I suppose...for life?

LBJ Well...it should be..how long do you want them? You see President has them on request when he goes abroad and he's got them...I'd write them in there...Larry says six months..and then if there's any problems afterwards why, we can talk about it.

JMc Well, he'd rather..for a year..one year?

JMc Les will take the responsibility of one year temporary..and here's Les, Mr. President.

LA Hello, Mr. President

LBJ Hi, Les...glad to hear you.. what they did, Les.. we don't know with these children.. we don't know how long she really will need them and we don't know the sentiment ..the feeling in the country..and these crackpots..but I.. when I was elected, General Eisenhower directed that, even though there was no law even authorizing it..that is why they came along with the mandatory law later..that . you remember our friend Connig gave me hell about...but I opposed the law but General Eisenhower insisted that I have Secret Service on the day of the election and he just authorized him without it but I thought we ought to have the Congress do it and my judgment would be that she ought to have them. .

LA Well, why don't we just add the one year and call it temporary and that'll give us time to do anything we have to do about it later.

LBJ Well, OK

LA Is that all right?

LBJ Yes.

LA Good luck Mr. President. Bye

LBJ Bye

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PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S NOTES ON CONVERSATION WITH
SPEAKER McCCRMACK NOVEMBER 29, 1963 12:04 p.m.

The President told the Speaker that the Kennedy family had requested that Mrs. Kennedy's \$10,000 be raised to \$50,000 for the first year, since she would have some exorbitant demands made of her...that Senators Mansfield and Dirksen would co-sponsor the bill.

There was also discussion of the necessity of Secret Service for Mrs. Kennedy and the children.

Congressman Arends joined the conversation and there was discussion of a discharge petition to get a bill from Congressman Smith's Committee.