



Lyndon Baines Johnson Library

2313 Red River Street Austin, Texas 78705

August 19, 2002

Mr. Rex Bradford
10 Heartbreak Road
Ipswich, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Bradford:

As you requested, I am enclosing a copy of the memo prepared by Cutting Corporation when they duplicated the dictabelts from November 23, 1963. If you need anything else, please let me know.

Sincerely,

CLAUDIA ANDERSON
Senior Archivist

Enclosure

15-Oct-98

RECEIPT of MATERIALS for Audio Rerecording Contract

Date Loaned: 16-Oct-98		Batch Number: 99-017	
DELIVER RECORDS TO: CUTTING CORPORATION 4940 Hampden Lane, Suite 300 Bethesda, MD 20814		RETURN RECORDS TO: National Archives at College Park NWCS-Motion, Room 4350 3301 Metzerott Road College Park, MD 20740 ATTN: James Martin	
Company Contact: Anji Kalita Cornette	TELEPHONE NUMBER: 301-654-2887, X 22	TO RETURN RECORDS TELEPHONE: 301-713-7050, X 243 FAX: 301-713-6904	LOAN HANDLED BY: James Martin
NUMBER OF ITEMS: 10			
RECEIPT ACKNOWLEDGED BY:	DATE:	RETURN ACKNOWLEDGED BY:	

RECORDS IDENTIFICATIONS:

Item Number	Format
ENV 0 09/07/63 Helsinki	Dictabelt
ENV 1 11/22/63 Goldberg; McGuire	Dictabelt
ENV 2 11/23/63 Johnson; Hoover	Dictabelt
ENV 3 11/23/63 Meany; Albert; Kappel; Weisl	Dictabelt
ENV 4 11/23/63 Yarborough; Dirksen; Anderson; Tippitt; Smathers	Dictabelt
ENV 5 11/23/63	Dictabelt
ENV 6 11/23/63 Magnuson; Romney; Rose; McCormack; McDonald; Reuther	Dictabelt
ENV 7 11/23/63 Reynolds; Lucey; Robard; Bundy; Dubinsky; Kennedy	Dictabelt
ENV 8 No date	Dictabelt
ENV 9 No date	Dictabelt

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NOTES RELATED TO LBJ RECORDING JAN 21, 1999

ENV-0: intermittent playback - label on the Cutting tape says "speech by Johnson at Finnish dinner, Helsinki, Finland" - tape is actually someone dictating notes or question responses related to ?? and is primarily about NASA and the retirement of James Webb as administrator - ENV-8 and 9 are the recording of a speech by Johnson, in English, to a dinner meeting of Finnish American Society in the U.S. - maybe the labels got crossed or maybe there really was a weenie roast in Helsinki - no identification of the person speaking about James Webb but seems to be a clerical effort to document comments or answers

ENV-1: acceptable rerecording from Cutting - played the belt and Cutting's tape - the magnetic dictation belt contains recorded telecons exhibiting the quality expected from telephone conversations recorded on such a recording device (as in crude) - the telephone "patch" was apparently reasonably well thought out since both parties to the calls are at roughly equal levels and of equal quality on the recording - often such arrangements yield a loud, intelligible conversation on one end and a weak, distorted conversation from the other end, depending on how the connection to the phone network is made (transformers required, etc.)

ENV-2: Blank belt - the rerecording from Cutting is an acceptable rerecording of the magnetic dictation belt on which nothing is recorded or, more accurately, from which all has been erased - there is repetitive, cyclical occurrence of very brief (fraction of a second, part of a word) bursts of noise and word syllables at 6 to 7 second intervals - this 6 second interval corresponds to the revolution speed of the belt - all the noise bursts appear in a narrow band across the face of the belt - most likely the belt was intentionally erased by the bar magnet included in most models of the magnetic belt machines but a small portion was missed

ENV-3: consistent playback, few skips and interruptions - far side of telecons faint but intelligible - recording seems to be as indicated on the labels (don't understand where the labels came from - certainly could not have been generated from just listening to the recordings - did they all have transcripts?)

ENV-4: generally poor quality - far side of conversations very faint

ENV-5: relatively good quality

ENV-6: reasonable quality on Johnson's end but the far ends very faint in some cases

ENV-7: "

ENV-8: intermittent playback - voids in playback every 6 or 7 seconds - this corresponds with the revolution time of the recording belt indicating a narrow band across the belt has been erased - this could easily occur if someone inadvertently pushed the "erase" button on top of the recorder that simply positions a long, narrow bar magnet onto the surface of the recording belt thereby

crudely erasing the area immediately under the bar magnet and in intimate contact with it - belt exhibits some track cross talk that may be recorded in the belt or could be the result of less than optimal "tuning" of the playback machine (a manual positioning of the playback head to hit the recorded track as nearly as possible in its center) - this is apparently part 1 of a 2 part recording of this speech - the label on the Cutting tape says "no date given" - the label on ENV-0 that mentions a Finnish dinner says Sep. 7, 63 - not certain these are the same two Finnish pow-wows but seems likely

ENV-9: second part of speech by Johnson to the Finnish American Society at a dinner meeting in ??? - not intermittent at 6 or 7 second intervals as was part 1 (ENV-8)

CASSETTE TAPE: the cassette tape "Recordings of conversations related to the JFK assass." contains a loud hum throughout all the recordings, apparently introduced in the process of making the cassette tape - all the recordings are canted toward the left channel of the stereo pair - did NOT copy for NWCS due to the hum