

December 29, 1963
6:37 p. m.

Warren
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TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND CONG. ALBERT (t)

LBJ
 we think tonight ... after talking to the Justice Department and the Secretary of State.. we think we ought to have the highest level of a Commission that we have to study the reports relating to the assassination of the President.. and FBI.. will be in.. and we don't want anything going in the House and Senate.. bunch of television cameras or a lot of loose testimony around... ~~Eastlands~~ Committees and otherwise... saying that You've got it all under control all right..

CA
 LBJ Khrushchev has done this or Castro has done this.. and something else... but it could be very dangerous.. I'm going to try to get the Chief Justice to serve as Chairman of it.. Sen. Russell, Sen. Cooper, Cong. Boggs, ~~YK~~ he's been talking a good deal about it and Rep. Ford and Allen Dulles, and John McCloy... and that's who I'm thinking of.. have you got any suggestions? Any better ones?

CA
 LBJ No.. that'd be fine... nothing wrong with those...
 There may be a good many Republicans but I think this ought to be a partisan thing and I think that nobody look s upon McCloy or Chief Justice either as a Republican and Ford... I guess... is he a pretty vicious Republican?

CA
 LBJ Well... he's kind of level-headed, you know...
 Pretty judiciary?

CA
 LBJ Yes he is ...
 Is he ~~knowing~~ a lawyer?

CA
 LBJ I don't know whether he's a lawyer or not.. I assume he is but I don't know... haven't had occasion to know..

LBJ The reason I suggested Hale because he's been talking about it and relating to it and if it didn't take your time and didn't work you to death.. I'd be glad to put you on it..

CA
 LBJ No.. No.. I really don't want it..
 I don't think we ought to ask the Speaker to go on it.. and I thought .. I'd rather have you in the House of Representatives... and I talked to them about that but then.. I don't know how you're going to mess around with this thing and be a leader..

CA
 LBJ No.. I agree with you... I think Hale is a good man for it and he's been interested in having it done and I think it should be done since we're not going to have a jury and verdict when that man is dead.. it is important that some Commission say something about it, I think.. you know this fellow was killed before he was tried.. I think it is very important that you have somebody and some Commission.. and I think you'd better take it away from the headline hunters out on the Hill.. and I think you have, by this. I'm all for it and I like your Committee ... now the Speaker didn't like.. his first impression was that there shouldn't be anybody from the Judiciary on it since they might have to tie something on the issue.. to pass on the issue...

LBJ
 CA He's not going to pass on Oswald.. he's deader than hell.
 That's right.. I think Warren should be Chairman of it....

yes sir..I think it is perfect.

LBJ Well, I haven't done it. I'm drafting the executive order and I don't need to but I believe it is better to do it than NOT to do it.

CA I do too and I think you ought to do it before everybody starts moving in ...I had a letter from Danny Cassell..and Steve and I talked it over and he thought his Committee had it..jurisdiction..other committees thought they had jurisdiction..and they were all going to start putting in resolutions..and of course, a few have put them in..we've buried them in the Rules Committee and I think this will shut it up..I think that's what you should do ...

LBJ And you'll protect my flank on it.

CA Yes sir..and I'll tell you one other thing..I'll never bother you but whenever you need me, I'm there.

LBJ I know that..I know that..and thats what makes it possible to do this job. I thought you'all treated me very good the other day..and you were quite generous..

CA Listen..it was terrific..I have not heard ONE word...not ONE word..

LBJ About 100 to 1 with the wires..

CA Well it was....it was...

LBJ I got 7...got from Knoxville Tennessee and one..two or three from Mississip; criticizing me and one from Pennsyivania...six from the South..and they'll all critisied the civil rights part of it..about 100 to 1..

CA I have not heard ONE word..and I've heard some Southerners from right down the middle of the Scotth say that it was the only thing you could do.. many people have ranked it as one of the great speeches that has been delivered on the Hill in this century!...you'd be surprised..I mean it.. and it was..take it from me..I think I have touched as many bases as anybody and I know on the House side..I know that only one or two people from Mississippi had to say that they wished you hadn't dealt in civil rights..but privately,....they were all right..

LBJ Well, incidentally, they want me to help them get their Postmaster back.. wish you'd talk to me about that and see what we ought to do about that. Talk to them..I don't know whether we ought to or not..but you think about it and I'll be talking to you.

CA All right, sir.

LBJ Bye

CA Bye

Date: September 16, 1993

Processing Note

Re: Telephone Conversation between the President and Cong.
Albert (t), 12/29/63 (sic.), 6:37 p.m.

While processing the December 1963 folder, the archives staff found a copy of the conversation with Carl Albert which took place on November 29, 1963, but was dated December 29, 1963. Other copies of the conversation had been corrected. The archives staff moved the document to the November 1963 folder.

Claudia Anderson
Archivist

December 29, 1963

6:37 p. m.

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