

Date: September 16, 1993

Processing Note

Re: Telephone Conversation between the President and Senator Smathers (t), 11/30/63, 2:05 p.m.

While working on preservation of the dictabelts, the archives staff observed the following inaccuracies in the transcript:

On page 1, the transcript reads:

LBJ: "...Fine..well...Byrd has agreed a little bit to do that and he gave me a list of witnesses to write to to ask them to do that..now..Ikard wasn't on that list..but I can do that.."

On page 1, in the last paragraph, the transcript reads:

GS: "...I said now what are you going to do about the tax bill..why he said we can't pass it until next year anyway...now in the event...."

The archives staff heard:

GS: "...Fine..well...Byrd has agreed a little bit to do that and he gave me a list of witnesses to write to to ask them to do that..now..Ikard wasn't on that list..but I can do that.."

GS: "...I said now what are you going to do about the tax bill..why he said we can't pass it until next year anyway...I'm against it...."

Claudia Anderson
Archivist

November 30, 1963

2:05 p. m.

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TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND SENATOR SMATHERS
(t)

LBJ George...are you out on the golf course?
GS No sir...I'm here at home..I was just at my office and was enrouté... you want to get out and walk around the golf course?
LBJ No..No..No..I just wanted to visit with you and they told me that they thought you were there and I didn't want to interrupt you if you were...
I didn't have anything important..I was just checking with you .. you said the other day you wanted to visit with me..and I thought this might be a good time..we can do it Monday or do it Tuesday afternoon.. either one..
GS Fine..
LBJ I was free a little bit for awhile and I thought maybe I'd say howdy..listen..Frank Ikard was talking to me..he says that they've got two witnesses...that Gore pokes at them all the time and criticizes them...they couldn't afford to run..but he says they like a number of other people...don't give a damned about testifying..they wished somebody up there would just say...now, anybody that doesn't have to.. put your statement in the Record..it is just as good in the Record as if you made it orally and said they would all include them and it wouldn't take any time at all. Fine..well...Byrd has ~~agreed~~ agreed a little bit to do that and he gave me a list of witnesses to write to to ask them to do that..now..Ikard wasn't on that list..but I can do that..
LBJ Ask ~~the~~ him if he can't do it..then call Ikard and tell him..so he can say there's people that the Chairman says it is just as good orally..it is just as good in the Record as orally..it saves time and expense and everything.
Now..you are going to close the hearings on the 6th...is that right?
GS Yes..this was the original date..now Byrd...not Byrd..but Elizabeth Springer who sort of runs that thing..in a tyrannical way..she said well..because we had two days out..we're now going to have to run it..instead of on the 6th..we're going to have to go over two extra days..but this is why I'm sure we can get those witnesses to submit their statements.
LBJ How long do ~~you~~ they think it will take it to mark it up..a week?
GS Oh..no..it will take longer than that.
LBJ Well..they tell me they marked up the one last year in a week and it was a whole lot more complicated..
GS We can...there's no question about it..we could mark it up..in a week..but Gore ..he talked to me about it the other day..and ..you know..you're in...and he said "no."...I said now what are you going to do about this tax bill..why he said we can't pass it until next year anyway ..now in the event..and so on...and I said well now Albert..we ought to be able to finish marking it up..and have it ready for floor action..when we first come back in January..he said well, I don't believe you can do it..but I know Lyndon thinks that I'm..I don't like him..and so on..but that's not the truth..he doesn't like me...but he said I'm against this Bill..and I'm going to have to fight it. Now two weeks before that he told me that he was going to defeat this bill all by himself. I said well, Albert, that's a lot of junk...I remember when you said you were going to defeat the Telestar bill...you talked for four months

and you got 11 votes...and this is just a little stupid..but he's got himself in a bad position..see..he's been down there and it is easily understood that those Tennesseans decided you ought to run the government like you run your farm.. and if you've got less money coming in..then we don't want to spend more than you've got coming in..you know..this is what happened to him a year ago..but then he took that strong position and now he can't seem to get off of it..and the National Tennessean is giving him Hell and everybody is giving him Hell..it has just made him more stubborn about it..than he ever was before...so I don't know what he's going to do. Now Herman Talmadge, of course..is for the bill...but the civil rights thing stands in his way and however he voted with us on the ... when it was nine to eight and he voted with us on several crucial times.. Long was down politicking down.. with Gillis..in Louisiana...and I just had to vote along twice without knowing exactly how he was going to vote...but just assumed that he would vote for the ceiling..which he did, of course..later...but the whole thing is a 9 to 8 deal all the time..and Herman I think would vote with us to mark the bill up and get it ready...and the only thing that bothered him was civil rights ..and I don't really think that's bothering him too much, either...because he's going to be against it...but ..I don't believe myself that the Southerners^{position} could visibly improve and I don't believe your position has improved any by delay on a , debate on the civil rights...I don't think you could pass it..of course, now it is too late..but, Strom Thurmond & Dick sort of agreed with him..from time to time... I think maybe more like a labor union leader agrees with one of his lieutenants just to keep him pacified..but the more time that transpires between this talk about needing the civil rights bill and the day that civil rights bill is actually voted on..the stronger position that the Southerners would be in..because they think that the white reaction to this civil rights legislation up north..and I'm sure there is..on the other hand..now that you're President..I should think that they would agree that the sooner we can get a civil rights bill overwith..the best part of it has ended...now..in another way..the better off..the South is going to be and ~~everybody~~ the better off the South is going to be and everybody is going to be..and they wouldn't hide behind the tax bill..and hiding behind a lot of other bills ..just on the pretext of being against them when the real fact is they're against the civil rights bill.

LBJ

Ummmmhmmmm.

GS

Now.. Victor is the one, of course...as you know..who is the leader on that.. but I noticed in these meetings that we've had.. say like the labor union leader ...that he's got some divisions even within his own little group.. Russell Long and me and Fulbright and maybe Sparkman.. who would like to get the damned thing overwith and we're not bitter about it either way..and he's got Strom Thurmond and Harry Byrd and the Ellenders and the Hollands who are against anything..and then.. you know.. so then it is divided .. so Dick sort of goes along with that group ..to some extent..but I would think that if we could get the tax bill marked up it would be a miracle..we'd have to..and we'd need Harry Byrd..do that because we're going to have motion to table and if we don't have Byrd.... Won't the Republicans vote for the motion to table?

GS I don't think so..I don't think so..

LBJ Well..there's those little insurance amendments and those oil amendments
...

GS Well..you'd think that they would..but I don't think that Dirksen would..he's said many times he didn't you ought to have a bill until next year..I think they'll vote for some but I don't think they want to get really quite through with it and I think the ~~bill~~ deal that we have to make with them is ...two things..we're going to have some dealing with Byrd..in which you acquaint him with your effort to have expenditure control and on the basis of his being fairly well satisfied with that...if the Budget can stay..I don't know that it can...of course you DO know so much more about this..but if it could stay under \$100 billion...

LBJ Now..it is \$102..

GS That's right...but I think you could trade out with the economists on the theory on Heller and them on the grounds that \$2 billion ...we'd keep talking about the definite need to spend..actually...if you delayed the tax bill..6 ~~months~~ months... you take out of the..you have withholding of over \$2 billion dollars...which means that people don't get to spend that money...and as far as the total economy is concerned..why you're not any better off...as far as economy is concerned.. to have \$180 billion Budget or \$102 billion Budget..you're just as well off having \$100 billion Budget if you passed the tax bill in January..

LBJ Would you feel Byrd out and give me a pretty full good report..Tuesday..when we have breakfast..

GS All right..

LBJ OK.. Much obliged...thank you pardner...

GS All right..thank you.