

TELCON

Donald Klopfer (Random House)/Kissinger

9:37 a.m. - 5/14/73

K: Hello.

DK: Mr. Kissinger, this is Donald Klopfer at Random House. I just wanted to have one word with you. I did talk to Mr. Kalb yesterday at your suggestion.

K: Right. Now you remember I haven't even seen that book.

DK: I know you haven't seen it. Now from what Phyllis told me, evidently there's some derogatory things in there that Norton wanted to take out, or am I wrong?

K: That I have no reason to know either. Apparently what they wanted him to do was to compress the Vietnam chapter and to take out all references to the President.

DK: Oh.

K: On the theory that the less they tie me with Vietnam, the better off I am. If I understand it correctly.

DK: How do you feel about it? Of course I can't talk intelligently without seeing the manuscript obviously, but. . .

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K: I feel about/that a respectful author ought to be able to say anything he wants. I don't judge publishers - you know if they did a filibrose type book like the one on Nixon about me, that would affect me, but if a respectable person does a serious book that's not totally flattering in every chapter I don't . . .

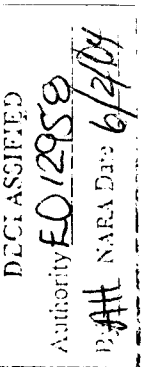
DK: I think that's fine. I think that young fellow from Houghton Mifflin published a rather fascinating book about you.

K: Now that I thought was - you know I don't hold that against the publisher but that I thought had major errors in almost every other page.

DK: Yeh, well he's 24 years old and prone to error I guess.

K: Even that I wouldn't hold against the publisher.

DK: It was an interesting book though.



- K: I never read it from cover to cover. That book I found somewhat annoying but not enough to hold against the publisher.
- DK: Right. Well, that's the main reason since I know that Bob Bernstein has been talking to you and since we are vitally interested, I didn't want to do anything that would offend you in any way.
- K: I wouldn't have called you if I - I haven't seen the book and maybe after I see the book I will get offended.
- DK: The whole thing is that we use our own judgment about that.
- K: But I would say this - that unless the book was a deliberate hatchet job that a serious publisher should have seen through, I would not see any way a book could offend me.
- DK: Good.
- K: The author might offend me but certainly not the publisher, but. . .
- DK: That's very good of you to give me this time, but I did want to check it directly with you, frankly, before even looking at the manuscript.
- K: No, I think you should go ahead and deal with it on its merits.
- DK: On the merits, only. Thank you very much.
- K: Right.
- DK: Bye.

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