

TelCon
Robert Bernstein/Mr. Kissinger
12:32 p.m., May 14, 1973

K: Hello.

B: Hello.

K: Hello, Bob.

B: How are you. I'm sorry I couldn't get to you yesterday.

K: That's all right. It wasn't really anything that concerned me. And I've dealt with some of your people on it since then. There were two newsmen here that are doing a book on me that they were going to give to Norton.

B: Yeah.

K: And then it turned out that Norton, probably in order to protect me, wanted them to confess the Vietnam chapter to a point that they considered unreasonable. And also to disassociate me totally from the President. Which they correctly didn't want to do.

B: Yeah.

K: So I told them as far as I was concerned I didn't give a damn whether you know--I said the position I would take is, if a publisher does a deliberate hatchet job on me, you know to publish a Philip Rose type book on Nixon and me, that would affect my attitude towards the publisher. But if they publishes a book that has critical passages, that is up to the author, and since they wanted to leave Norton, I thought I'd call you to see whether you were interested.

B: Oh, all right. I spoke to my office and I wasn't sure of the facts, and they told me that Donald Klopfer who was, you know, ~~gone~~ was Bennett's partner, had spoken to you.

K: Yeah, he had spoken to me. It's really all settled. I haven't read the book, so I don't know whether it's favorable or hostile, or I would suspect in between. And I have no interest in it one way or the other. Don't publish it to please me. But don't fail to publish it if it's got critical passages.

B: I think what you are saying is, publish it if you would normally publish it, and don't publish it if you wouldn't normally publish it.

K: That's right. And anything that I might do later on isn't going to be in the slightest affected by

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- B: By whether it's good or bad.
- K: By whether it's publisher has brought out books that weren't--that didnt share my high estimate of myself.
- B: I understand completely. okay, I'll be back Thursday.
- K: Well, I'll be in Europe, I'll be with the North Vietnamese.
- B: Yeah, and you'll be there quite a while.
- K: I don't think so, four or five days.
- B: All right, well it was good talking with you.
- K: Good, nice to talk to you.
- B: Casper Weinberger is coming down here to speak to us. What kind of a man is he.
- K: To speak to--who is that.
- B: The association--Im at the meeting of the Association of American Publishers where I'm outgoing chairman.
- K: He's a decent, not especially imaginative, solid guy.
- B: That's good these days.
- K: Yeah, but I would have said this about a lot of guys that turned out to be otherwise.
- B: Well, let's not get into it.
- K: Okay.
- B: When are you going to Europe.
- K: I'm leaving Wednesday.
- B: Okay, I'll have to wait on--there's some good things coming. My book is going to be a book by Gorvey Dowe on the time of Aarom Burr. I haven't read it but I understand that it shows that Washington then was very little different from Washington now. At any rate I'll send it to you when we get it.
- K: Good, be glad to see it. Nice to talk to you.
- B: Bye

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