

## WH6508-12-8660\_scroller

**Date:** 1965-08-27

**Participant:** Lyndon B. Johnson

**Participant:** Dwight D. Eisenhower

**Start Time:** 11:30

**Place:** Mansion

SCROLLER TITLE: "He's Giving Me Lots of Problems"

SCENE SETTER: Concerned that Senator Robert F. "Bobby" Kennedy [D–New York] would criticize his foreign policy during a tour of Latin America, President Johnson turned to former president Dwight D. Eisenhower for help and proposed that Eisenhower's brother, Milton S. Eisenhower, be dispatched to head off Kennedy's attacks.

**President Johnson:** I'll tell you one thing I've got a problem with. I sure wished I could get some—a little help—and I guess I oughtn't to. I don't want to shove it, but I mentioned it once before. You remember you talked to me about a certain young man, and he's giving me lots of problems. You told me about what he's doing to your foundation and . . . in the other administration, he was kind of running it. Now, he's getting ready to make a tour of—over the country. And he's shown a little unhappiness, and he says that I'm listening to [Everett M.] Dirksen [R–Illinois] too much, and I listen to other groups too much. And—

**Dwight D. Eisenhower:** Now, who is this fellow? Just remind me—

**President Johnson:** [Robert F.] Bobby [Kennedy] [D–New York]. Bobby Kennedy.

**Eisenhower:** Oh, yeah!

**President Johnson:** You remember you told me the first week you were in some of the problems that you thought I'd have with him and created—

**Eisenhower:** [*Unclear*] the first day I saw.

**President Johnson:** That's right. And so that's a[n] accurate prediction. Now, he's getting ready to go off on a big tour [*Eisenhower acknowledges throughout*] to Latin America. And he's going to tell them that—what we've done in the Dominican Republic and other things . . . Not right. He's already criticized us. Now, the polls show that about 85–10 approve what we've done, and we've tried to save that country. I just wish there's some way that we could blow it up, and puff it up, and take a nice jet airplane, and take whoever he wanted, and get Milton [S. Eisenhower] to visit five or six capitals in a week as my special representative before this other thing occurs.

*End of excerpt.*

CITATION: Conversation WH6508-12-8660, 27 August 1965, Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library, Draft Transcript, Presidential Recordings Program, Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia.