

WH6602-07-9654-9655-9656-9657_scroller

Date: 1966-02-22

Participant: Lyndon B. Johnson

Participant: McGeorge Bundy

Start Time: 09:04

Place: Mansion

SCROLLER TITLE: "What I'm Really Worrying About"

SCENE SETTER: During a long conversation with National Security Adviser McGeorge "Mac" Bundy about the war in Vietnam, President Johnson turned to coverage of the situation by major news outlets and alluded to long-standing, anti-Semitic theories that an organized Jewish cabal controlled the media. Johnson also discussed the appointment of NBC president Robert E. "Bob" Kintner as White House adviser, which served as an attempt at improving his media relations.

President Johnson: I think we ought to talk further about [Robert E. "Bob"] Kintner.

McGeorge "Mac" Bundy: Mm-hmm.

President Johnson: And—

Bundy: He's coming to lunch today, isn't he? With Bill [D. Moyers]?

President Johnson: Yes, yes, I think so, and I think that we might just have him in and meet him. I rather think we ought to have Clark [M. Clifford] there today, too.

Bundy: Mm-hmm.

President Johnson: Clark Clifford.

Bundy: You have rather a big meeting if you're going to talk names of people. That's the only—my only worry. My [unclear]—

President Johnson: Yes?

Bundy: But still.

President Johnson: But—

Bundy: They're all trustworthy, I think. This is a terribly important appointment, this Kintner appointment.

President Johnson: Yes, I think so.

Bundy: It's a very good one the more I think about it.

President Johnson: Kintner has the alcohol problem.

Bundy: Does he?

President Johnson: And that's all I believe that worries me. And it means we take on NBC [National Broadcasting Corporation], and I don't know whether we can take on *New York Times* and NBC. I don't know whether you can ever beat the *Times* in this country, because—not what the *Times* does in New York, or what it does in Washington, or what it does all over America. It—the—every person that I know, from Marianne Means, to the . . . [William S.] Bill White, to the *Country Weekly*, read it—

Bundy: Sure.

President Johnson: —and then sit down and rewrite it as their own. [*Bundy acknowledges.*] Now, they don't always—Bill White doesn't agree with it. The *Weekly* doesn't necessarily, but most of them do. They're lazy intellectually, and they don't dig out these things, and then they take them and read them. And that's what we're getting. And I think we're getting a terrible beating on NBC and CBS [Columbia Broadcasting System] every day. I watch it very carefully, and there's no question what [A. Eric] Sevareid's very much against us. There's no question what [Walter L.] Cronkite [Jr.]'s very much against us. And I didn't think he had any conviction on anything. There's no question in my judgment what [William S. "Bill"] Paley has let the boom down. And there's no question what [David] Sarnoff, in my judgment, is against Asia. And what I'm *terribly* fearful of is *all* the Jews are.

Bundy: [*Unclear*]—

President Johnson: That's what I'm really worrying about, because they're looking.

End of excerpt.

CITATION: Conversation WH6602-07-9654-9655-9656-9657, 22 February 1966, Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library, Draft Transcript, Presidential Recordings Program, Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia.