“He Just Like[s] Beans”

Date: 1964-03-18  
Conversation: WH6403-11-2550  
Participant: Juanita Roberts  
Participant: Zephyr Wright  
Start Time: Unknown  
Duration: 02:27  
Place: Unspecified

SCENE SETTER: In response to questions about President Johnson’s diet, White House secretary Juanita Roberts and longtime Johnson family cook Zephyr Wright discussed the President’s affinity for beans of all kinds.

**Juanita Roberts**: We have [correspondents/correspondence] asking us if the President [Lyndon B. Johnson] and the [Johnson] family . . . likes beans. Well, I know enough to say yes. [Chuckles.]

**Zephyr Wright**: Uh-huh.

**Roberts**: But I wanted to check with you.

**Wright**: Mm-hmm.

**Roberts**: What would you say if you were asked that question by a responsible person?

**Wright**: Oh, I would say yes!

**Roberts**: And . . .

**Wright**: They didn’t ask what kind, did they?

**Roberts**: No, but I know that he particularly likes pork and beans.

**Wright**: He like[s] pork and beans; he like[s] pinto beans; he like[s] lima beans . . . green beans.

**Roberts**: That’s green limas or dried?

**Wright**: Mm-hmm . . . green limas.

**Roberts**: Green?
Wright: Mm-hmm.

Roberts: Mm-hmm. And the green . . . fresh green beans?

Wright: Mm-hmm.

Roberts: Uh-huh.

Wright: And he like[s] the Blue Lake canned green beans, you know, marinated and use it as a salad.

Roberts: Uh-huh.

Wright: Marinated in French dressing.

Roberts: Uh-huh, yeah.

Wright: So, he like[s]—well, that’s not a bean, though, that’s a pea. I started to say green peas. But he just like[s] beans.

Roberts: Now, the green limas, you don’t—

Wright: Baby limas.

Roberts: Green baby limas . . .

Wright: Mm-hmm.

Roberts: How do you prepare those for him?

Wright: Just in salted water. And cook them and add a little oleomargarine and pepper.

Roberts: Uh-huh . . . uh-huh.

Wright: And cook them for a good long while until the juice in them is kind of thick.

Roberts: Yes. Uh-huh.

Wright: Mm-hmm.

Roberts: You used to use the Velveeta, but you don’t do that anymore?

Wright: Well, I do that—

Roberts: For parties?

Wright: —for parties. Uh-huh. [Roberts acknowledges.] We use the Velveeta . . . also mushrooms. You know, you call it Lima Beans with Cheese and Mushroom Sauce.

Roberts: Uh-huh. And the pintos, I guess you cook like I do with salt pork?
Wright: Uh-huh. That’s right.

Roberts: Or ham bones?

Wright: That’s right.

Roberts: And pork and beans, do you doctor them up?

Wright: Not for him. He like[s] them just plain. He doctors them himself with some kind of pepper sauce or something like that.

Roberts: Uh-huh, all right. Zephyr, do you know where any of the chili cards are? Chili recipe cards?

Wright: Uh-uh. I sure don’t. I may have one or two here.

Roberts: Well, somebody’s got some, and I’ll find them, because I need that one also.

Wright: OK.

Roberts: Nice talking to you.

Wright: Okeydoke.

Roberts: Thank you a lot.

Wright: You’re welcome.

Roberts: Bye.

Wright: Bye.

End of excerpt.


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Full information about this conversation: “He Just Like[s] Beans”