



## No “One-Way Deal”

**Date:** 1966-02-02

**Conversation:** WH6602-01-9607-9608

**Participant:** Lyndon B. Johnson

**Participant:** Orville L. Freeman

**Start Time:** 10:01

**Duration:** 01:34

**Place:** Mansion

SCENE SETTER: President Johnson told Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman that he wanted to place conditions on aid to India, a country suffering through a series of food crises. India's criticism of his Vietnam policy had frustrated Johnson, and he stipulated that any agreement between the United States and India would not "be a one-way deal."

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**President Johnson:** How—I'm getting awfully skittish on the Indian thing, because I get—any contact—a burnt child dreads a fire—and any contact I have on it, I'm misunderstood. I'm by implication committed to underwrite the famine, and by implication committed to give them 10 million tons, or by implication committed to do it all between now and the 1st of May, or by implication this. Then I get 14 memos from everybody in the government. It starts with [Chester B.] Bowles, and then it goes to the [Department of] State, and then it goes to every Indian lover in town, and then it goes to all the do-good columnists, and then [Department of] Agriculture, and then [Robert W.] Bob Komer, and then [McGeorge “Mac”] Bundy, and so on, and so forth.

Now, I don't want to do it that way, and that makes me immediately—just to save myself, I feel kind of like they're getting ready to rob my bank.

**Orville L. Freeman:** Mm-hmm.

**President Johnson:** I have to put up the bars, and close the doors, and wait till it all dies down, or until I can get it started.

Now, what I'm going to tell [B. K.] Nehru today is very simple. I'm not going to make any big commitments, and I'm not going to underwrite anything. I'm going to say to him today just what I said a long time ago: “I'm waiting to see what kind of a foreign policy we can have with your people.”

**Freeman:** Mm-hmm.

**President Johnson:** I just want to see what—it's not going to be a one-way deal. [*Freeman acknowledges.*] I'm not going to just underwrite the perpetuation of the government of India and the people of India to have them spend all their goddamn time dedicating themselves to the destruction of the people of the United States and the government of the United States.

*End of excerpt.*

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