

6:52 p. m.

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND CON. GERALD FORD

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GF Hello Mr. President, how are you?

LBJ Happy Thanksgiving...where are you?

GF I'm home, sir.

LBJ You mean Michigan?

GF No...I'm here in Washington.

LBJ Well, thank God, there's somebody in town! I was getting ready to tell McGregor Burns he's right about the Congress..they couldn't function.

GF I thought your speech was excellent, sir.

LBJ Well thank you Gerry...Gerry I've got something I want you to do for me..

GF Well, we'll do the best we can, sir..

LBJ I've got to have a top blue-ribbon Presidential Commission to investigate this assassination...I'm going to ask the Chief Justice to head it and then I'm going to ask John McCloy and Allen Dulles ...and I want it non-partisan ..I've got 5 Republicans, 2 Democrats...you forget what party you belong to and just serve as an American and I want Dick Russell and Sherman Cooper ...John Cooper of the Senate...Dick is on the Armed Services over there and I want somebody on appropriations who knows CIA over in your shop.. I'm covering armed services with Russell ..going to ask Hale Boggs and you to serve from the House..will be McCloy and Dulles and Ford and Boggs Cooper and Russell and Chief Justice Warren as Chairman.

GF Well you know very well I will be honored to do it and I'll do the very best I can..

LBJ You do that and keep me up to date and I'll be seeing you.

GF All right. Thank you very much and I'm delighted to help out.

LBJ Thank you Gerry.