

1714

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A comment regarding this transcript was interfiled on this date in the Chron transcript series.

DATE: 1/31/64

TIME: 9:25 am

CALLER: Bill Moyers

PAGES: 3

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COMMENT: Transcript only; no recording has been found

Irene Parra
Archives Specialist

Date: 6/26/96

Processing Note

The following transcript was interfiled on this date in the Chron transcript series.

DATE: 1/31/64

TIME: 9:25 AM

CALLER: Bill Moyers

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Charlaine Burgess
Archivist

Coversation between Bill Moyers and Doug Kiker, 9:25 a.m. Jan. 31, 1964

K. I know why you called; I know why you called.

M. Well, you know doug, when you want to do a reliable story all you have to do is call me -- you know I wouldn't call you and complain about a story unless there was a legitimate reason to complain. You're just writing out of thin air.

K. No, I'm not. No, I'm not. I talked to at least a dozen people --

M. You didn't talk to anyone here, at the WH; no one close to the President.

K. Well, I'm not going to tell you who I talked to but I checked that story out --

M. Let me point out -- if you can tell me how anyone can predict a situation like the shooting down of a plane than the Herald Tribune ought to be running the government. Second, if you can tell me how you deal with a ...

K. That's not the point. The State Department is definitely concerned with the fact that the President is not anticipating the problems of foreign aid.

M. But you don't say so.

K. Yes I do. Right in that paragraph I said. Listen, I'd like to talk to you. I just got up 'cause I didn't get in until late but if you got a few minutes, when I get down to the office I'd like to talke to you about it.

M. Well, I want to talk to you and I don't want you to get the reputation that Kiker writes a mean story just because he's being nasty.

K. Well --

M. "In at least one recent instance, word of fresh foreing trouble was somewhat delayed in reaching Mr. Johnson because he was busy discussing old troubles with outsiders and his aids were resistant to interrupt."

Doug, that just doesn't happen. I sit at this door day in and day out. Almost everything that goes in -- On the Vietnam situation

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we got word and the President was in a conference with Humphrey and -- and I buzzed him from here and said 'Mr. President we've just got word that there is a problem in Vietnam. The whole facts aren't all in but we'll get it right in as soon as the story is in.'

He went back into the meeting and when the message came in I took it right in. I think probably what you said --

K. I wrote this story for two reasons: one to do a service, and two because it was a story ...

M. But why didn't you call me on this. Our relationship is such that I have always been honest with you -- we've been honest with each other.

K. You're right. Perhaps I should have called you.

M. This bothers me. There are three people involved; Bromley Smith, Forestal and me. You didn't talk to anyone -- that's my point.

K. I talked to several people over at State. I didn't even know that Smith -- well maybe they talked to somebody over at State. Bill, if I came to you and asked you about something like this -- you work for the President and you couldn't tell me.

There are a lot of people over there who are really concerned about this -- over at State.

M. Well, you know we'll always have this -- the State Department doesn't know a damn thing: ... about his personal activities.

K. Well, I talked to people at the White House on this --

M. You didn't talk to top people. My point is you have the best contact in the White House in me and all you have to do is call.

K. But this is a feeling that is held without your knowing it, Bill.

M. It doesn't bother me that the feeling is held. You can never dispell ill feeling for the White House but that's why I'm here -- to give you the actual facts before you write a story like this.

K. Well, if you think my story is bad, watch out for next week's Time. They're really coming down on this. They've got a cover story on France and right -- well at least a third of