

April 7, 2008

Reference No. 12822

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DATE: 3/18/68

TIME: 5:15 PM

CALLER: Richard Daley

Pages of Transcript: 2 pages

Barbara Cline  
Archivist

CONVERSATION BETWEEN MAYOR DALEY AND W. MARVIN WATSON  
Monday, March 18, 1968, 5:15 p.m.

DALEY: Hello.

WATSON: Hello, Mayor.

DALEY: How are you, Marvin?

WATSON: Very good, just fine thank you, sir. I wanted to ask you a question - I'm trying to contact Mr. Ben Heineman, whom I understand is going to be in the city tomorrow for the President to visit with him. I need your advice - what's your analysis of him, his loyalty and his ability. I'd like to be in a position to recommend him to the President for some rather meaningful place in the Administration - Cabinet or sub-Cabinet recognizing the problem of the year that he might have to look at, but I sure need your accurate analysis of him.

DALEY: You mean of him?

WATSON: Yes, sir.

DALEY: Oh, he a high type fellow and the best there is, if you can get him. You may have difficulty getting him, but he is a high type fellow.

WATSON: I know one thing, that you have probably been reading about this commission from Kennedy. We've started reading about it.

DALEY: Oh, yes.

WATSON: I want to tell you what we know about it. Mel Elfrin, of Newsweek magazine, tells us he got his original tip from a freind of Ted Sorensen, he then called Mankiewicz, who is Senator Kennedy's Press Secretary to ask him about it and he confirmed it and then the Press just descended upon the White Ho use and the President was in Texas. They, then descended on the Pentagon and the Department of Defense and finally Mr. Clifford called the President and said, "Now what are we going to do, because, what they're putting out is not entirely true'and so finally the President said, well you go ahead and tell exactly what happened, because the President just could not have anyone laying down a commission or proclamation that would give aid and comfort to Han~~oi~~ and so that is the way it got out. We sure didn't start it.

DALEY: Thanks.

WATSON: And I know -

DALEY: Ok, Marvin, fine. (Daley hung up)