

TELCON  
The President/Mr. Kissinger  
7:00 p.m., June 1, 1973

P: Hello.

K: Mr. President.

P: You had told me that McGeorge Bundy had the affrontry to tell you that Bobby Kennedy in that period didn't have any taps.

K: That's right, yeah.

P: Have you heard the figures?

K: Al mentioned them to me.

P: Let's get away from the bullshit. Bobby Kennedy was the greatest tapper. 300 in 1963 -- almost 300 --. 250 in the rest. And I'm getting the names and I'm going to publish the names next Thursday.

K: I think --

P: And let their assholes know that they're going to get this, Henry.

K: I think you should, absolutely.

P: Because they have done us in on this thing. Now the biggest tapper was Bobby Kennedy. Now Johnson doesn't appear to be so big but he had the Secret Service do it. And I've ordered Rowley to give me the names of the Secret Service taps and I'm going to put these on it too.

K: I think --

P: They started it. They want to have a gut fight; they're going to get one, Henry, you understand.

K: I think so.

P: They think they know how to fight but they've never fought anybody before. But, you see, Bobby Kennedy was the biggest tapper of all. Now I want you -- now this is not going to go out till Monday but leak it to somebody. Talk to one of your liberal friends and say we've got a blockbuster coming out. Now, will you do that?

K: Certainly I can.

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- P: You can say, look, this whole business of tapping, they have really opened it up. Because Bobby Kennedy -- Hoover told me this, you see and I knew this and I recollect it. Remember I told you . . . . . McGeorge Bundy was lying. Well, Hoover told me. He said Bobby Kennedy had me tapping everybody. I think that even I'm on that list.
- K: I wouldn't be surprised.
- P: And so my point -- I don't mind but my point is I don't want this goddamn hypocrisy.
- K: Well, if we can get the names, Mr. President, we ought to put some of them out.
- P: Not some, all of them! Everybody is going to go out. I'm going to put the whole damn list out.
- K: Well, then they'll force us to put all of ours out.
- P: Oh, I don't give a damn about that. Let's put ours out. We're going to force them right now if they're going to play this game. Ours will get out anyway, Henry. You understand?
- K: But what we should do, in any event, is to get this list out.
- P: That's what I mean, yeah. Well, we're going to do that Monday but just let one of your Liberal friends know that there's a real blockbuster coming, that the most tapping was done in the Kennedy Administration the study has shown and the facts are going to come out. You see, Eisenhower's figures averaged about 110.
- K: Right.
- P: Bobby Kennedy's averaged 240.
- K: Humph.
- P: Good, God! You see what I mean?
- K: Absolutely.
- P: Johnson was very high his first year, in '67. Then in '68 it dropped to 80. But that year, everybody knows, he had the Secret Service do the tapping because Ramsey Clark was Attorney General.

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K: Exactly.

P: Get the point?

K: Of course.

P: Our figure was 120 -- 110, very small.

K: And most of those were intelligence taps.

P: I know that's right. But I just want for your reassurance but don't let McGeorge Bundy give you any of that bullshit anymore.

K: Okay.

P: It just gets beyond belief.

K: Beyond belief.

P: Double standards. But, anyway, on the positive side, our trip I think was --

K: I think it's going very well, Mr. President. Everyone now is writing. It's always . .

P: . . . a little time. The thing I told Al though, Henry, is look, they've #\*@¢+ on everything we've done, the Shanghai Communique, the Russian summit, everything else. We could do something that was perfect and they're going to #\*@¢ on us so let's not worry about --

K: Well, they didn't really #\*@¢ on it. They are now saying that the door is unlocked, the Pompidou press conference today helped.

P: Yeah.

K: And they're writing it quite straight.

P: Yeah, all right. But remember on this tap business, it's going to catch some of your friends incidentally. Because I know some of the names.

K: Well, I wouldn't be a bit unhappy.

P: I know some of the names and boy, if they want a brutal fight, they're going to get one and they're going to get it goddamn soon.

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K: Well, they've been asking for it a hell of a long time.

P: Well, okay.

K: Right, Mr. President.

P: Be sure McGeorge Bundy knows that this is coming out. That would be a very good one.

K: Right.

P: Okay.

K: Bye.

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