

RELEASED IN FULL

telcon  
Sec Kissinger/Ted Koppel  
7/9/76; 12:30 p.m.

Koppel: I apologize. I give you credit for your decision and found out the President is having a news conference.

K: The President is having a news conference and I didn't want to be overshadowed.

Koppel: Okay. I am sorry.

K: I hope it is ruining your weekend.

Koppel: It makes my Saturday. You are going to be the lead of my show tomorrow night.

K: If I am the lead of your show the portion of the news conference will be stale.

Koppel: I am going to come and have brought in a young correspondent -- his name is Scali -- who wants to come to you. Have you heard of him?

K: John Scali?

Koppel: Yes.

K: Was it a bad idea to have it tomorrow? I figured I couldn't have one for a few weeks.

Koppel: It was a marvelous idea. Saturday is a slow day. We have so many tough questions to ask you.

K: Like what?

Koppel: Why we don't have cameras at the briefing. All kinds of material the American public is dying to know. Why don't we have cameras?

K: Because you would rattle my guy beyond description.

Koppel: We rattle him anyway. Why don't you try television people.

K: We have tried a number of them.

Koppel: Mes Osmer would be good or Barbara Walters.



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K: When Barbara joins your network and you get cut to a minute . .

Koppel: They are not cutting me to a minute. I am pulling out to become an author. This place is not going to be interesting enough.

K: How do you know Carter isn't going to keep me. Did you read Safire?

Koppel: I saw it. You didn't say that about the Kurds.

K: Look, off the record, I started the Kurdish operation. The Pike Committee got this a big issue. They accused me of starting the Kurdish situation and betraying them.

Koppel: That was my understanding. By God he is going to write that on your tombstone.

K: I don't think even the Pike Committee said so wait to see that.

Koppel: The irony to me is our correspondent covering Carter when he made his foreign policy speech, he said he really goes off after the Kissinger policy. I said I don't understand. You are saying what is the Kissinger policy. The policy is exactly the same.

K: That is right so I can't change my policy because Carter has accepted it.

Koppel: My long-range prediction is you will be back in 8 years. You are going to have a marvelous 3 months and somebody will be snipping at you and afterwards you will be back in the government.

K: You will be back in the government too. You will have a terrible 6 months and if you survive them, you will be a close friend.

Koppel: I am having a great time writing this book.

K: Am I a fictional character?

Koppel: Yes. The character resembles you -- not physically -- you will be terribly pleased.

K: Is it friendlier than the Ehrlichman book?

Koppel: Yes.



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K: I don't think Kob(?) has made an impression on anybody.

Koppel: You will even like the name.

K: What is it?

Koppel: Vanderberg.

K: Okay, Koppel. But of course Ford is going to win and I may still be here 8 years from now.

Koppel: If he wins you are going to need the money. If he wins I owe you \$5. If he loses you are going to be so rich you can afford to pay me \$5.

K: I don't know whether he is going to win or get the nomination.

Koppel: It is true.

K: I think Carter is beatable.

Koppel: He is not beatable by the genuises you have in the White House.

K: When you have peace and prosperity and a guy who makes you uneasy as Carter does, it is easy to beat.

Koppel: They did not vote on the issues. They vote on the aura. It makes you and me uneasy but I don't think it makes the American public uneasy.

K: It will make them highly uneasy once they have done their deed. Once they have made their point they are sick of whatever they are sick of and they are stuck with something. . . .

Koppel: The campaign issue is bring out the guy with the German accent and bring out the guy with the Polish accent. Brezinski will last 6 months before he is peeled little by little. He lacks your sense of humor and relations with the press.

K: Besides he will shift too quickly.

Koppel: I can see him over at NSC. Can't you?

K: Yes.

Koppel: I think that would be the kind of job he would like to have.



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K: It would be the wrong job to give him, incidentally.

Koppel: Do you think so? Why?

K: You need somebody who's inwardly detached. Even Haldeman said I gave all the options to Nixon and this is sort of a balance situation. You don't need an intelligent Rostow. What you need is somebody who can balance the President.

Koppel: He is going to need a lot of balancing. One day I would like to talk to you about how and why Carter was picked for the trilateral commission.

K: Do you know?

Koppel: No. You are the one with the Rockefeller and I feel the other family has its family coming.

K: I didn't think he would be a potential president.

Koppel: To think Jimmy Carter without any powerful support has become a candidate for President.

K: He may have support.

Koppel: I get the impression there were some powerful people who I don't think this was a spontaneous thing.

K: That could be true. That I genuinely can't judge.

Koppel: You are going to be out of town?

K: No. I will be here. You will be at the convention?

Koppel: Yes. Where are you going in early August?

K: I am not going to the Middle East. I know Marvin Kalb says I am going to the Middle East.

Koppel: I was hoping.

K: I would like to but it doesn't make any sense. It will raise unbelievable aspects.

Koppel: When are you going to Iran?



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K: About the 3rd or 4th. I may go to Afghanistan and Pakistan also.

Koppel: On that same trip?

K: Yes.

Koppel: How about the Asia trip?

K: I may cancel that and Portugal I may go to on the way over.

Koppel: Okay. That would be lovely. Before I peel off.

K: Are you peeling off?

Koppel: Yes. I want to devote myself to writing. I am not interested in covering this building once you are gone. It holds no great fascination for me. I am sure you have said the same thing. After you it is going to be a dull place. (Ted's wife) will be starting law school the end of August and will go into semi-retirement to write and go back next summer.

K: Then you must take the swing.

Koppel: Oh, I will. Absolutely.

K: Good, Ted.