

SC134\*

Telcon  
Secretary Kissinger  
Robert Bernstein  
8/28/74; 11:01 a.m.

RELEASED IN FULL

K: Hello.

B: Hello, Dr. Kissinger, Bob Bernstein of Random House.

K: Yes.

B: I am calling -- our editor got a call from a newspaper yesterday, from a reporter -- not the Washington Post, -- the other Washington paper, I believe.

K: Yeah.

B: Saying that somebody in your behalf had called Fowler Strauss and had asked them what they would be interested in . . .

K: That is an outrageous lie!!

B: I thought so. I absolutely thought so. But I just got nervous.

K: It is an outrageous lie! It was in Newsweek magazine. I have had no talks. I have never had formal talks with any publishers as you well know.

B: That's right.

K: I have permitted one or two publishers friends a year and a half ago to tell my lawyer what they thought the situation was at a time when I thought I would leave the government in 1973.

B: That is exactly what I thought.

K: I did not permit even them -- even then any publisher to make a formal offer.

B: I know that.

K: You remember it.

B: Of course I do.

K: Because when you talked to me I told you that ~~it~~ it was highly inappropriate and you told me it didn't make any sense anyway.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Martin McLean, Senior Reviewer



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B: I agree with you. Your memory is 100% perfect.

K: And therefore it is totally incorrect since that time which was -- as I happen to remember -- at the time of the Gridiron dinner in 1973.

B: That's right.

K: Since that time there have been no talks with anybody.

B: What I was going to say really is there are a lots of possibilities and I just -- my understanding . . .

K: I will not discuss publishing contracts while I am in office.

B: That's what you said.

K: I will not entertain offers while I am in office. No one is authorized to negotiate for me.

B: As I . . .

K: While I am in office.

B: As I understood it as such time as you were willing you would let me know and we would be allowed to make an offer.

K: Absolutely and until then I don't want an offer.

B: I understand that.

K: And I am outraged by these stories.

B: Well . . .

K: In fact, Norton is publishing a collection of my speeches and I didn't even take any advance for that.

B: Yeah.

K: You know that is another story that is around that I asked for a million dollars for that.

B: We got a call from a reporter who was evidently trying to find out if we had been approached in any way and we said no of course we haven't.



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K: Well, nobody has ever been approached. Everything has been at the initiative of publishers and for one two-month period in early 1973 I permitted publishers to write to Carl Maw who has instructions to file them -- not to show them to me -- and I will -- and that too is finished.

B: I understand that. The real purpose of my call -- I didn't want to tell/ feel . . .

K: Look, I give you my assurance that when I get ready to write -- which will not be until after I have left.

B: You are not doing it in your spare time now?

K: I will talk to you first.

B: All right. I really was calling as much to tell you the rumors are around.

K: The rumors are outrageous. I am not in business!

B: All right. Frankly, I was thinking the other day -- in your position there are going to be a lot of outrageous rumors.

K: Well it is totally untrue.

B: All right. Nice speaking to you.

K: Nice to talk to you.

B: Bye-bye.