

TELEPHONE CALL

Sept 9, 1961

General Eisenhower called President Kennedy. The General started out by saying that he had had last Saturday a message asking for what help he could give on foreign aid bill. He had talked to Senator Dirksen, who gave him the analysis of the situation as he, Dirksen, sees it. Dirksen's people are pretty well ready to go down the line, but they are unhappy about the failure of the House leadership to put on real battle. It leaves the Republicans supporting something that they are unhappy with political and that is unpopular and on which they have got to stand in the coming elections.

Kennedy said that he had the Appropriations Committee report and that Otto Passman had come to see him; Passman said he could beat it on the floor, but that Passman had agreed, as much as you could trust his agreement, at a figure of 4 billion. Kennedy thought that was better than engaging in a fight. There was considerable talk about the split of the money. Kennedy said he had asked Dirksen to come to the White House to talk the matter over; both agreed Dirksen was a fine fellow. He, Kennedy, hopes the Senate will vote 4.1 billions.

Both General Eisenhower and Kennedy agreed that Passman was a "psychopath" and Kennedy says that Clarence Cannon supports him.

Kennedy told the President (General Eisenhower) that at five o'clock the announcement would be made that we would resume testing. He reported that the Russians had set off another atmosphere test of major size.

About Berlin, Kennedy asked DDE what he thought. DDE said "I think you can't give an inch." He said further he did not think too much could be made about breakoff of exists. Kennedy said the real trouble was in morale (of West Berliners). DDE said they had gotten prosperous.

Quite lengthy conversation.