

WH6603-07-9888_scroller

Date: 1966-03-14

Participant: Lyndon B. Johnson

Participant: Cartha D. "Deke" DeLoach

Start Time: 19:49

Place: Oval Office

SCROLLER TITLE: "That Scares Me"

SCENE SETTER: Speaking with FBI deputy director Cartha D. "Deke" DeLoach, President Johnson expressed his fears about contacts between Communist embassies in Washington and prominent Senate critics of his Vietnam policies. Johnson used the opportunity to criticize former assistant secretary of state for Security and Consular Affairs Abba P. Schwartz, who had resigned his post amid charges that he was being targeted for removal.

President Johnson: I just wished he'd [J. Edgar Hoover] watch them like hawks, and I wished he'd watch their contacts with opinion molders and with the Hill. That scares hell out of me when I see where Chinese Communists give 3,000 dollars to somebody, and then they up there the next day talking to [Wayne L.] Morse [D-Oregon], and then the next day I see Morse's speech. That scares me. And when I see [J. William "Bill"] Fulbright [D-Arkansas] stopped there till one o'clock till dinner, and the next day he's examining [Dean] Rusk.

Cartha D. "Deke" DeLoach: Yes, sir.

President Johnson: And that scares me. And the thing I'm more frightened about than anything else in our government now is not whipping them in Vietnam.

DeLoach: Right.

President Johnson: It's not the economic situation. It's not our being strong militarily with [Robert S. "Bob"] McNamara. The thing I'm afraid of is these sons of bitches boring from within. Now, you take this Abba [P.] Schwartz. He had just *murdered* me, just *murdered* me over here, and he's a no-good bastard.

DeLoach: Well, not enough people know of his background, Mr. President. He has a bad background, and it could be easily leaked out to several good, trusted contacts, and I think turn the tide regarding him. That man's no good.

President Johnson: No, he's not. But we—I think I've cut his peter off.

DeLoach: I think—I hope so.

End of excerpt.

CITATION: Conversation WH6603-07-9888, 14 March 1966, Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library, Draft Transcript, Presidential Recordings Program, Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia.