

## WH6406-14-3855

**Date:** 1964-06-23

**Participant:** Lyndon B. Johnson

**Participant:** Robert S. McNamara

**Start Time:** 17:44

**Place:** Oval Office

SCROLLER TITLE: "I'm Here with the Parents of These Boys"

SCENE SETTER: While meeting in the Oval Office with the parents of Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman—two of the three civil rights workers who had gone missing in Mississippi—President Johnson phoned Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara to ensure that the Federal Bureau of Investigation and its director, J. Edgar Hoover, had whatever military assets they needed to aid in the search for the three young men.

**President Johnson:** Mr. Secretary, I'm here with the parents of these boys that have not been heard from in Mississippi since night before last. You have—are making available everything that you have to the FBI [Federal Bureau of Investigation] for—in their rescue and search, I assume.

**Robert S. "Bob" McNamara:** Yes, sir, we have.

**President Johnson:** You be sure, now, to tell [J. Edgar] Hoover—

**McNamara:** We have helicopters that are being used at present along with some naval security cars.

**President Johnson:** Well, you be sure to let them know that every facility of the Department [of Defense] is available to them, and see that Hoover knows that, and see that he utilizes it to every extent possible.

**McNamara:** I will indeed, and we've had people working with Burke Marshall today on it.

**President Johnson:** Uh . . . Uh . . . So—OK, thank you.

**McNamara:** All right, thank you.

*End of excerpt.*

CITATION: "Lyndon B. Johnson and Robert S. McNamara on 23 June 1964," Tape WH6406.14, Citation #3855, *Presidential Recordings Digital Edition [Mississippi Burning and the Passage of the Civil Rights Act]*, vol. 8, ed. Kent B. Germany and David C. Carter] (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2014–). URL: <http://prde.upress.virginia.edu/conversations/9080029>