

WH6408-05-4694

Date: 1964-08-04

Participant: Lyndon B. Johnson

Participant: Lee C. White

Start Time: Unknown

Place: Oval Office

SCROLLER TITLE: "Call the Families"

SCENE SETTER: Having received word that the bodies of James Chaney, Michael Schwerner, and Andrew Goodman had been discovered in an earthen dam outside of Philadelphia, Mississippi, President Johnson directed White House counsel Lee C. White to call the families of the three civil rights workers to inform them of the development and to let them know that the White House would soon be announcing the news.

President Johnson: [*speaking aside*] They found the three bodies in Mississippi. [*Unclear.*]

Pause.

White House Operator: There you are.

President Johnson: Lee?

Lee C. White: Yes, Mr. President.

President Johnson: Yeah, they found those three bodies six miles south of . . . [*unclear*] southwest of Philadelphia, Mississippi. Six miles west from where they [*were*] last seen. They don't know that these are the bodies. They moved them into Jackson to identify them. They [*were*] off Route 21. [*White acknowledges.*] It's right near the site of a new dam that's been built. They have every reason to believe they are the bodies. So call the families and tell them that we'll be announcing in the next 10 or 15 minutes. And we'll, as soon as we get proper identification, let them know further.

White: All right. I'll call all three of them right now.

President Johnson: Yeah. All right.

White: All right.

President Johnson: Tell them I asked you to.

White: I will, Mr. President.

End of excerpt.

CITATION: "Lyndon B. Johnson and Lee C. White on 4 August 1964," Conversation WH6408-05-4694, *Presidential Recordings Digital Edition* [*Lyndon B. Johnson: Civil Rights, Vietnam, and the War on Poverty*, ed. David G. Coleman, Kent B. Germany, Guian A. McKee, and Marc J. Selverstone] (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2014-). URL: <http://prde.upress.virginia.edu/conversations/4002759>

