



## “He Just Like[s] Beans”

**Date:** 1964-03-18  
**Conversation:** WH6403-11-2550  
**Participant:** Juanita Roberts  
**Participant:** Zephyr Wright  
**Start Time:** Unknown  
**Duration:** 02:27  
**Place:** Unspecified

SCENE SETTER: In response to questions about President Johnson’s diet, White House secretary Juanita Roberts and longtime Johnson family cook Zephyr Wright discussed the President’s affinity for beans of all kinds.

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**Juanita Roberts:** We have [correspondents/correspondence] asking us if the President [Lyndon B. Johnson] and the [Johnson] family . . . likes beans. Well, I know enough to say yes. [*Chuckles.*]

**Zephyr Wright:** Uh-huh.

**Roberts:** But I wanted to check with you.

**Wright:** Mm-hmm.

**Roberts:** What would you say if you were asked that question by a responsible person?

**Wright:** Oh, I would say yes!

**Roberts:** And . . .

**Wright:** They didn’t ask what kind, did they?

**Roberts:** No, but I know that he particularly likes pork and beans.

**Wright:** He like[s] pork and beans; he like[s] pinto beans; he like[s] lima beans . . . green beans.

**Roberts:** That’s green limas or dried?

**Wright:** Mm-hmm . . . green limas.

**Roberts:** Green?

**Wright:** Mm-hmm.

**Roberts:** Mm-hmm. And the green . . . fresh green beans?

**Wright:** Mm-hmm.

**Roberts:** Uh-huh.

**Wright:** And he like[s] the Blue Lake canned green beans, you know, marinated and use it as a salad.

**Roberts:** Uh-huh.

**Wright:** Marinated in French dressing.

**Roberts:** Uh-huh, yeah.

**Wright:** So, he like[s]—well, that's not a bean, though, that's a pea. I started to say green peas. But he just like[s] beans.

**Roberts:** Now, the green limas, you don't—

**Wright:** Baby limas.

**Roberts:** Green baby limas . . .

**Wright:** Mm-hmm.

**Roberts:** How do you prepare those for him?

**Wright:** Just in salted water. And cook them and add a little oleomargarine and pepper.

**Roberts:** Uh-huh . . . uh-huh.

**Wright:** And cook them for a good long while until the juice in them is kind of thick.

**Roberts:** Yes. Uh-huh.

**Wright:** Mm-hmm.

**Roberts:** You used to use the Velveeta, but you don't do that anymore?

**Wright:** Well, I do that—

**Roberts:** For parties?

**Wright:** —for parties. Uh-huh. [*Roberts acknowledges.*] We use the Velveeta . . . also mushrooms. You know, you call it Lima Beans with Cheese and Mushroom Sauce.

**Roberts:** Uh-huh. And the pintos, I guess you cook like I do with salt pork?

**Wright:** Uh-huh. That's right.

**Roberts:** Or ham bones?

**Wright:** That's right.

**Roberts:** And pork and beans, do you doctor them up?

**Wright:** Not for him. He like[s] them just plain. He doctors them himself with some kind of pepper sauce or something like that.

**Roberts:** Uh-huh, all right. Zephyr, do you know where any of the chili cards are? Chili recipe cards?

**Wright:** Uh-uh. I sure don't. I may have one or two here.

**Roberts:** Well, somebody's got some, and I'll find them, because I need that one also.

**Wright:** OK.

**Roberts:** Nice talking to you.

**Wright:** Okeydoke.

**Roberts:** Thank you a lot.

**Wright:** You're welcome.

**Roberts:** Bye.

**Wright:** Bye.

*End of excerpt.*

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