

**Dwight D. Eisenhower meeting with Leonard Hall,
Chairman, Republican National Committee,
11:10 a.m., 4 January 1955 in the Oval Office**

**Dwight D. Eisenhower meeting with Sinclair Weeks, Secretary of Commerce
and Robert Murray, Assistant Secretary of Commerce,
3:15 p.m., 4 January 1955 in the Oval Office**

[Dictabelt No. 1]

**EL-IBM-139-1
Time: @30 minutes**

Description of Conversation

Recording begins with the conversation in progress. After a brief discussion concerning the dry weather, Leonard Hall tells DDE that he came to discuss the Civil Aeronautics Board. DDE responds "I'm so sick of that god-damned body. It must have been doing a horrible job or there wouldn't be so damned much fighting."

DDE and Hall discuss the Amon Carter's views on Oswald Ryan of the CAB. With regard to Carter, DDE says that he "got two letters from him, sixteen pages long, but I have come to the conclusion that this fellow, there must be something wrong or he wouldn't be the center of so much controversy. Now Amon says the only reasons that he is a center of controversy is because he has fought to a standstill George Lee, who is taking over the commission." The discussion then turns to the views of the airlines, especially American and Pan-Am, concerning Ryan. They then discuss several possible replacements for Ryan on the CAB.

DDE and Hall talk about Florida politics. DDE complains about supporting candidates that do not work hard on their own behalf. He says "Now if you just, if you hold them right up to the, if you hold them up to the standard, I'll have my picture taken with them. I'll do my part of it. Damned if I'm going to do my part if they don't. What they think is my part."

There is a long pause and several different voices can be heard. DDE greets Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks who begins with "When do you want to see about Ryan?" DDE answers "Every other person who comes in wants to talk about Ryan. I'm so sick of the name that I could practically choke, but go ahead." Weeks defends Ryan's record as "long and honorable" and urges DDE not to remove Ryan from the CAB. The role of the airlines and Amon Carter are discussed at some length. The conversation then turns to members of Congress who are either for or against Ryan continuing at the CAB.

The tape ends with an interruption.

**Dwight D. Eisenhower meeting with Sinclair Weeks, Secretary of Commerce
and Robert Murray, Assistant Secretary of Commerce,
3:15 p.m., 4 January 1955 in the Oval Office**

[Dictabelt No. 2]

**EL-IBM-139-2
Time: @30 minutes**

Description of Conversation

Conversation continues from previous recording. Eisenhower complains about the situation at the CAB by saying "I'm sick of it." Weeks discusses the Reorganization Act and how it affects the CAB's relationship with both the President and the Secretary of Commerce. There follows a lengthy discussion of possibly making a recess appointment to the CAB, but Eisenhower is not favor of this.

The membership of the CAB is discussed at length with Josh Lee, Oswald Ryan and Chan Gurney figuring prominently. Other possible candidates for appointment to the CAB are mentioned. Weeks and Murray defend Ryan's record with the CAB. Murray says "He does so much better than anybody else over there on the board. The reputation of the board is not predicated on Ryan's reputation..." Ryan's voting record concerning major airlines, Pan-Am and American in particular, is discussed. Weeks and Murray say that he has often voted against these Pan-Am and American in CAB decisions.

There is an interruption and a woman's voice can be heard. The tape ends.

**Dwight D. Eisenhower meeting with Sinclair Weeks, Secretary of Commerce
and Robert Murray, Assistant Secretary of Commerce,
3:15 p.m., 4 January 1955 in the Oval Office**

[Dictabelt No. 3]

**EL-IBM-139-3
Time: @30 minutes**

Description of Conversation

Recording begins with background noises and the sound of a woman's voice. The President's conversation with Weeks and Murray continues, but another person enters the room. Based upon the conversation up to this point, the new person is probably Sherman Adams. Eisenhower seems to address his remarks to Adams about a FBI report containing rumors or allegations of wrongdoing concerning Oswald Ryan. He says that Weeks reports "the FBI found that this was absolutely untrue and given him a clean bill of health." He continues to say that Weeks and Murray believe that Ryan is "the finest man we've ever had on that board...believe him to be the only honorable man of the board outside of Chan Gurney's record and there you are."

Eisenhower says that he wants "someone to bring stature to this board." Eisenhower mentions Governors Crosby or Pyle as possible appointees to the board. Adams tells Eisenhower that he has "no objections to Ryan personally. I think Ryan and, I agree with Murray, that there is nothing in this record on which would base a charge of even unwarrantedly bad judgment, bad conduct." However, he continues by saying that "you ought to have administrators running that agency that continually as a result of their action didn't put these problems, permit these problems in the lap of the President of the United States."

Weeks defends Ryan's record at the CAB and tells Eisenhower that even "the best new man on earth" would take a long time to adapt to the board. Adams says that "this is a fact, in representative government that it's a good thing, occasionally, to have new faces. It's a good thing to have a turnover." The conversation turns into a lengthy discussion of the type of man and qualifications they want for the job.

Eisenhower says "Okay, thank you very much." Papers are heard rustling and there is a long pause. A woman's voice is heard and Eisenhower tells her "If they don't get that damn Ryan thing settled I'm going to go nuts."

The tape ends with an interruption.

Dwight D. Eisenhower in the Oval Office, January 4, 1955

[Dictabelt No. 4]

EL-IBM-139-4

Time: @4 minutes

Description of Conversation

The conversation is very brief and largely unintelligible. Two staff members are present in the Oval Office. A woman who is probably his secretary, Mrs. Ann Whitman, is heard speaking to the President. It appears Ann Whitman is demonstrating the operation of the dictabelt machine to the President. Following their exchange, Eisenhower addresses several remarks to an unidentified man.

**Dwight D. Eisenhower meeting with Senator Walter George [D-Ga.], Chairman, Senate
Foreign Relations Committee,
11:30 a.m., 7 January 1955 in the Oval Office**

[Dictabelt No. 1]

**EL-IBM-141-1
Time: @30 minutes**

Description of Conversation

Eisenhower and George greet each other. The President expresses his appreciation for George's cooperation with the administration. DDE says "What I wanted to talk to you about a little bit was this confounded Bricker Amendment." DDE believes that any treaty or executive agreement that violates the Constitution should be null and void, but to go beyond this general proposition, such as in certain sections of the Bricker Amendment, would be mistaken and dangerous. DDE believes in a strong executive, especially under the circumstances of the moment [the Cold War]. He doesn't question Bricker's sincerity or the legitimacy of his concerns. DDE says he has listened to every side, including the opposing side, and has visited with Bricker. He also has listened to the opinions of Dulles and Attorney General Herbert Brownell. Dulles is opposed to even Section I, although DDE could go along with that much of the resolution because he feels it would be good "to show that we're not trying to set a treaty or executive agreement above our Constitution . . . but when we go beyond that I get lost, Senator, I really get deeply concerned."

After thanking George again for his support in the Senate, DDE comments about George's cigars, states his respect for George, and his leadership in the Senate. DDE states that he does not want "one or two or three--or forty--violations here or there" to upset the trust that has developed over the years between the three branches of government..." George tells the President "I can appreciate your attitude . . . Mr. President, and that you're concerned about it. Now, last year we did have a talk, and I agreed with your position. I refused to go along with the rest of the resolution." George discusses how difficult it has been to come up with appropriate wording, how he had tried to substitute innocuous language that would satisfy Bricker and his supporters, but these efforts had failed. Senator Bricker approached George about another version, but George would not support that one either because it had not been materially changed.

They talk at length about the constitutional and political issues underlying the proposed amendment, and its possible negative effects on foreign policy in Europe, particularly with France and West Germany. A long discussion ensues of the prospects for the amendment in Congress. DDE and George discuss how both of them could live with the amendment if it were limited to Section I because it would assure people. DDE says "Every time I get these long letters from the country it is, 'I don't want a treaty to destroy our Constitution'." They discuss how a year earlier Bricker was about to accept a limitation.

The tape ends.

Note: large portions of this recording are unintelligible.

**Dwight D. Eisenhower meeting with Senator Walter George [D-Ga.]
Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee
11:30 a.m., 7 January 1955 in the Oval Office**

[Dictabelt No. 2]

**EL-IBM-141-2
Time: @21 minutes**

Description of Conversation

Eisenhower and Senator George continue discussing the Bricker Amendment, and legislative strategy. As they discuss the Senate Judiciary Committee members, they mention Harley Kilgore and Frank Holman. Much of the conversation is unintelligible, especially George's comments. George departs.

There is a long break followed by the sound of papers being rustled. DDE asks for lunch to be brought in. He is given a finished letter to General Omar Bradley for his signature. He complains to a staff member, probably Sherman Adams: "I have to sign so much god-damned paper I haven't had a chance to read these days!" The staff member assures DDE by saying, "I know. I'm very careful with these things."

The staff member tells DDE that social secretary Mary Jane McCaffree wants to go over a list of invitees for the Vice President's and Speaker's Dinners scheduled at the White House the week after next. DDE responds "Oh, for Christ's sake, I don't give a damn about this...Have her come in." DDE is irritated. As they go over the list, her voice is heard very faintly. There is apparently a problem with the numbers. DDE asks, "Well, why do you have to ask so many congressmen? I think it's silly." The staff member tells Eisenhower "You may recall, last year we had the chairmen of the standing committees in both the Senate and House and we had about four Democrats. This year if we had just the chairmen of the standing committees we'd have very few Republicans, so Jack [Martin] wondered about the possibility of getting the chairmen and ranking minority member from each committee." Eisenhower complains that he wants to have dinner where he can invite friends such as Leonard Hall. He then says that Jack Martin should hand-deliver the invitation to Senator Walter George.

DDE is unhappy with not only McCaffree, but also Mamie about dinner list and too great attention to the official angle and protocol. Still going over the dinner list, an exasperated DDE states "Certainly some of them will be sick or dead or something." DDE leaves.

Several staff members can be heard talking, but they are too far from microphone to be understood.

The tape ends.

Note: large portions of this recording are unintelligible.

**Dwight D. Eisenhower meeting with Representative Frances Bolton [R-Ohio],
Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee
9:30 a.m., 19 January 1955 in the Oval Office**

**Dwight D. Eisenhower meeting with James C. Hagerty,
Press Secretary to the President
10:00 a.m., 19 January 1955 in the Oval Office**

**EL-IBM-140
Time: @28 minutes**

Description of Conversation

Recording begins after conversation had already begun. Eisenhower and Bolton mention Ray Bliss and Ohio. DDE speaks of Bolton's seniority in Congress and discusses Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby's plan for education. DDE says the plan addresses what the federal government should do while it "abstains from trying to take over education in any direct or indirect way."

Bolton expresses her interest in educational matters and her desire to work in Ohio in that field. She wants to see "if the schools can't take over some of the responsibilities for discipline that the families are not taking." DDE and Bolton discuss the need for American youth to have discipline. Bolton suggests a universal training program to help youth prepare for the future. DDE talks about establishing a system that is careful not to generate resentment of the system. He states that "the obligation of the government to train its citizens is as great as the citizens to perform his obligations to the country."

Bolton talks at length about how difficult it is for her to talk directly with Mrs. Hobby about her proposed legislation. Bolton complains that she has talked only with Mrs. Hobby's "people." She is especially critical of Lucille Petry, the Public Health Nurse. DDE states that Mrs. Hobby wants much the same type of legislation that Bolton is describing. Bolton again complains that she has had to deal with Mrs. Hobby's "liaison." DDE states that the Congressional committees and the Departments should work together to solve their differences. DDE states "I don't like it myself to write down and put my name at the bottom of the details. I don't know enough about the details."

There is a lengthy discussion of school funding, nurses training, the White House Conference on Education, and the Kestnbaum Committee. Bolton criticizes Petry and Hobby in the area of nurses training. She then reads a message to DDE that commends his personal qualities and his leadership skills. Bolton departs.

Press Secretary James Hagerty enters. DDE asks about the situation with the offshore islands. Hagerty has nothing new to report and makes reference to a press conference at 10:30. The captured airmen and the Communist Chinese are discussed. DDE states

that he is “responsible under the Constitution for carrying out the foreign affairs of the United States.” They then talk about Latin America, specifically Panama, Cost Rica and Nicaragua.

The door slams and indistinct voices can be heard. The tape ends.

**Dwight D. Eisenhower meeting with Mr. Roy Howard, Scripps-Howard Publications
2:15 p.m., 24 February 1955 in the Oval Office**

EL-IBM-254

Time: @28 minutes

Description of Conversation

Eisenhower and Howard greet each other, and briefly talk about treatment for DDE's bursitis.

Howard discusses his upcoming trip to Honolulu, Manila, Formosa, Hong Kong, Saigon, Karachi, Afghanistan, and Beirut. Eisenhower asks "You're not going to stop in India?" Howard says he was going to, but "they've thrown Pan American out of there." A lengthy conversation follows concerning India and Communism in Asia; Nehru and the Vice President of India are also mentioned. DDE and Howard agree that the Indian Vice President is a "charming and fine" man, but DDE says "When you're talking to Nehru, you feel this guy thinks he's kidding you."

The conversation then turns to the topic of Taiwan and Chiang Kai-shek. DDE talks about how, with the military help of the United States, it is easier to defend of the Formosa Strait than the two islands of Quemoy and Matsu. Dien Bien Phu is briefly mentioned. DDE tells Howard "...I was the only one around here who was against American forces going in..." They return to the subject of the Communist Chinese and a possible attack on Formosa. DDE again talks about Quemoy and Matsu. He says "But let me ask you this. If you were going back to the mainland, where would you land? On two islands you had to get off of? A fool wouldn't land there." The discussion of Taiwan continues, but much of it is unintelligible as DDE and Howard seem to be moving toward the door.

The tape ends.

Note: large portions of this recording are unintelligible.

**Dwight D. Eisenhower meeting with Mr. Paul G. Hoffman,
Chairman of the Board, Studebaker-Packard, Corp.
March 5, 1955 in the Oval Office**

[Dictabelt No. 1]

**EL-IBM-253-1
Time: @30 minutes**

Description of Conversation

Recording begins with brief remarks concerning Hoffman's family matters. There follows a lengthy discussion on government defense contracts. Helen Reid is mentioned several times and a planned lawsuit involving General Motors.

Hoffman complains that the smaller automakers "are used to doing things in a smaller way than Ford. We could have saved the taxpayers \$100 million...we don't need big contracts." DDE replies that Hoffman "made one mistake. After all, Charlie Wilson is the one who comes up and gets the orders. ...Now, I've constantly urged the point, a need for spreading, spreading contracts company by company, and by factory and by this person and by geographically and so on. And I've also said that I never would be suing General Motors for an antitrust act and then have it shown that, by golly, the government itself under my direction is responsible for it...Now, nevertheless, he [Charlie Wilson] is a man who by the nature of things believes General Motors is the greatest company of all, but secondly, he also believes this. He believes in bigness..."

DDE continues "Remember this, when Standard Oil was broken up. It wasn't that Standard Oil wasn't bringing coal oil and gasoline at that time to the people of the United States cheaper than they could get any other way, but, by golly, the thing was that the only way you could get any coal oil or gasoline was from Standard Oil and it was broken up. It was all over the country. Now the thing is if we keep going on to get the General Motors position you're talking about they're going to be broken up too..."

The conversation turned to whether Hoffman would leave Studebaker. DDE said that "I would certainly be unwilling to see you leave up there. " He further stated that Hoffman was someone who understood the government's position and who knew "the philosophy of the whole system." There was a brief discussion of advertising in which DDE states that "I won't listen to radio and television, but goddamn. First of all, I think the programs are lousy, on top of that they ...talk a lot ... then they repeat." Again Hoffman led the conversation back to government contracts. DDE mentions Navy shipbuilding and procurement.

The tape ends when there appears to be an interruption.

**Dwight D. Eisenhower meeting with Mr. Paul G. Hoffman,
Chairman of the Board, Studebaker-Packard, Corp.
March 5, 1955 in the Oval Office**

[Dictabelt No. 2]

**EL-IBM-253-2
Time: @30 minutes**

Description of Conversation

Recording begins with conversation already in progress. DDE is speaking of the political situation in the country and difficulties he is having with Congress.

DDE brings up the subject of a Special Assistant or a Cabinet rank official for disarmament. He says that he is "going to make him the American expert on disarmament." This person would "correlate the views of Defense and State and everybody else on the Hill and me and somebody else, how do we speak with one voice on this thing and make it logical and appealing and sensible and make some progress?" He states that he is going to take his time to get the one person he believes can do the job, Harold Stassen, but "Congress is raising so much hell about him because I think it's because they don't like Harold." DDE discusses the importance of having someone representing him with all the agencies involved in disarmament. He says "I don't attend the OCB and I need someone that is representing my views there, bring it back to me and keeping me in touch all the time...you're organized so poorly in the top office here that you have to take specialists and I have never yet found a ...a good man or a better man."

After a brief discussion on public service, DDE mentions the need to bring in younger people so they might gain experience. He talks of Bob Anderson, Herbert Hoover, Jr., Chris Herter, Charles Halleck and his brother Milton. He says that they have energy and new ideas that could benefit the country. He talks about "the demands made on my time by people that come in ...it's terrific and it's a wear and tear." He talks about during the war when he had difficulty sleeping "and now, this has happened to me a couple of times to me here and it's been very annoying. Of course, one of the reasons is I have this bursitis. It gets to hurting so about 3:00 in the morning, the pain. And I would get up and take aspirin, take a pill, and so on."

The conversation continues, however, much of it is unintelligible. DDE thanks Hoffman for coming in. The tape ends with the sounds of chairs moving and papers shuffling.