Robert I. Bouck, Oral History Interview – 6/25/1976

Administrative Information

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Biographical Note

Bouck, Secret Service Agent from 1939-1969, discusses John F. Kennedy's tape recording systems within the White House, among other issues.

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Robert I. Bouck

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Oral History Interview

with

Robert I. Bouck

June 25, 1976 Washington, D.C.

By Dan H. Fenn, Jr.

For the John F. Kennedy Library

FENN: You might want just to start by telling me what your responsibilities were

during those White House years.

BOUCK: In the Kennedy [John F. Kennedy] period. That's the only period you are

interested in.

FENN: Well, yeah, except that there are a couple of questions about the installation of

the thing which may take us back into the Eisenhower [Dwight D.

Eisenhower] period.

BOUCK: No. This would be in the Kennedy era, all of this that you have. My name is

Robert Bouck, B-O-U-C-K and during the Kennedy Administration I was in

charge of a Secret Service unit known as Protective Research which provided,

among other things, protection against bombs and protection against threats in the mail and verbally, safe transportation of baggage and people, and the protection against all kinds of technical intrusions against the President and family.

FENN: Okay, now in your recollection when was the taping system installed?

BOUCK: Well, it was some time after President Kennedy was elected. I am going to

have a very hard time putting a date on that. It was not immediately after the election. It was, I think, probably a year or so later and I would guess that the earliest dates on the tapes would be more of an indication of the time than I could guess at. I just wouldn't have anything that I know of that would pinpoint when this was done because we kept almost no records. Besides the President himself, only a few people were aware that this was done.

FENN: Who were those people?

BOUCK: Well, there was Mrs. Lincoln [Evelyn N. Lincoln], of course,

[-1-]

and the President, and an assistant I had, Chester Miller.

FENN: Where is he now?

BOUCK: He is in charge of the Secret Service office at San Diego, California. He was

only involved to the extent of monitoring the system in the event that I was

sick or otherwise could not.

FENN: Who actually physically installed...

BOUCK: I did.

FENN: You did.

BOUCK: I procured the equipment and installed it.

FENN: I see. What role did the Signal Corps [Army Signal Corps] people play in it?

BOUCK: The only role the Signal Corps played was that—we did not have funds for

that kind of an operation—they made available to me the equipment that I

needed on a loan basis.

FENN: I see. Did the Signal Corps do any covert recording?

BOUCK: Later on I think the Signal Corps might have done some telephone tapings. I

did not have anything to do with those. I know telephone tapings were done at other periods, but I don't recall whether they were done simultaneously with

this.

FENN: Who asked you to put the system in?

BOUCK: The President himself.

FENN: He did. Did he give you any reason? Did the say because of such and such?

BOUCK: There was concern. The tensions with the Russians were kind of great during

that period, and I think initially his concern was to record understandings that might have been had in those relations. He didn't discuss this particularly with

me. He just indicated that he would like that capability. And I might say that contrary to the Nixon [Richard Milhous Nixon] capability, which was a sort of an all-the-time recording, the installation that I put in was controllable by the President. He only recorded what he wanted to. He did not record everything. He recorded as he saw fit. He had the capability to record in the cabinet room, his office and in his library in the house. He had concealed means of turning the equipment on and off.

[-2-1]

FENN: So that there were three places where he could record. The cabinet room, the

oval office, and up in the mansion.

BOUCK: Yes. Although he did almost no recording in the mansion. It was almost all

done in the cabinet room or in the office.

FENN: But all the mikes went to a central place.

BOUCK: No, there were two places. The office areas went to a place in the basement of

the offices and the mansion office went to a place in the basement of the

mansion.

FENN: What about that room which I always assumed was the Signal Corps room,

right under the President's office? If instead of turning into the right and going

into the White House mess or left into the men's room, you went straight

ahead there was a room right there that had all kinds of devices...

BOUCK: Well, that's been used for various things over the years. I think during the

Kennedy period the White House photographer was in there for awhile with

all his gear. It keeps changing.

FENN: That wasn't the room that you used.

BOUCK: No. That was not. The room I used was Mrs. Lincoln's private file room. She

had a room for private presidential files in the basement.

FENN: And that's where the machines were.

BOUCK: Yes.

FENN: Did you...

BOUCK: With the taping machines.

FENN: Somebody had to watch it and change tapes and that kind of thing...

BOUCK: Well, yes, I did that. We had two recorders, and we recorded, as I recall, at a

fairly slow speed, perhaps at 3 ½ or something like that. It was designed so

that when one tape was filled up, it would automatically stop that machine and

start a second machine that was freshly loaded. I had an indicator device, connected by telephone line, in a desk drawer in my office across in the Executive Office Building, so that I could tell when one machine had run out. He did not record most of the time. Often it would be a day or days between tape changes. Almost never did it require changing more than once in any one day. Sometimes it went several or more days. If he was out of town, it might be a week or more between changes. I forget just how long we had on the two machines. As a matter of fact, I seem to recall that for awhile I had a third stand-by machine. So he could do quite a lot of recording in a day or two's time and

[-3-]

he wouldn't run out of tape. And I watched it fairly close. I guess occasionally he ran out of tape in all the time I was doing it, but not often.

FENN: What kind of equipment was this?

BOUCK: It was Tandberg recording equipment.

FENN: What happened to it after the assassination?

BOUCK: Well, all of the equipment was removed immediately after the assassination

and when I left the Protective Research section it was in a Secret Service

storeroom.

FENN: It was pulled out...

BOUCK: It was pulled out before Johnson [Lyndon Baines Johnson] came into office.

The same day as the assassination I pulled it all out—the entire installation.

FENN: I see. Both the mansion one and the other one. But Johnson subsequently

knew that capacity, that capability had been available, I guess.

BOUCK: Well, if he did, I didn't know that. I mean I don't know that he knew it. I

never told him. If he knew it, he must have gotten it from somebody else.

Maybe Mrs. Lincoln might have told him. She was still around there for

awhile after President Johnson came.

FENN: What did you do with the tapes after you took them off the machines?

BOUCK: I took them off the machines. I never knew what was on the tapes.

FENN: Right.

BOUCK: As each tape was finished, I took it off the machine. I put it in a plain office

envelope and sealed it up and took it up to Mrs. Lincoln. It was my

understanding that from her appointment book she could pretty well tell what

was on the tapes. She and the President had a close liaison to when he was taping. I never really knew what he taped.

FENN: Do you know whether she transcribed them or had anyone transcribe them?

BOUCK: No, I don't think she did. She got a Navy corpsman to transcribe them after

she moved over to the EOB [Executive Office Building].

FENN: Right.

BOUCK: I arranged through Signal Corps to get some transcribing equipment that the

tapes would work on with a foot control and ear phones.

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This navy corpsman worked for quite a long time on transcribing. I gathered it was a rather slow process and I have no idea whether he did them all.

FENN: Was that George Dalton?

BOUCK: I think that is the man...

FENN: But as far as you know she didn't have any transcribing done before the

assassination

BOUCK: As far as I know she did not.

FENN: Can you tell me now there was.... Where was the mike in the oval office and

how was that activated?

BOUCK: In the oval office there was one in the kneehole of his desk and there was one

disguised on the coffee table between the two davenports at the end of the

room.

FENN: And how did he activate the one at the desk?

BOUCK: There was a little push button under his desk. It looked just like a button you'd

press to signal your secretary—like a buzzer button.

FENN: And the other one.

BOUCK: The other had a little glass indicator, that if you looked at it just right you

could see when it was lit or not lit. It was cycled so that one push on an

adjacent buzzer-type button would turn the equipment on and a second push

on the button would turn it off.

FENN: That was on the table.

BOUCK: That was on the table. Normally, I think he turned it on at the desk before he

went over to the sofa.

FENN: I see. I see. I heard something about a foot activated thing.

BOUCK: No. I never provided any foot activated switch.

FENN: And then in the cabinet room.

BOUCK: In the cabinet room the mikes were in two spots on the outside wall of the

room where there had at one time been wall fixtures. The fixtures had been

taken off and some draperies covered the boxes. There was ample room to put

a microphone in each of these. Now these were not just plain microphones. They were amplifying and discriminating microphones. They contained noise frequency filters and they were particularly sensitive to voice. They also had a low level built-in amplifier right in

[-5-]

the microphone. They were on the outside wall located opposite the cabinet table.

FENN: How did he activate those?

BOUCK: At his position at the cabinet table there was also a switch of the kind you

might buzz a secretary with.

FENN: Did Mrs. Lincoln have the capacity to activate it?

BOUCK: Initially, not unless she went into his office or to the cabinet room. As I recall

at first she had no capacity in her own office.

FENN: At no time?

BOUCK: Well now wait a minute, it seems to me that later on we did give her a switch.

Not in the beginning, but later on I believe I did give her the capacity.

FENN: Do you have any recollection as when that might have been?

BOUCK: No. But I believe it was not more than a few months before the assassination.

As I say we kept no records of any kind on this at all. The only writing I ever

did on it was on a little slip of paper in the envelope with a tape. Each time I

gave Mrs. Lincoln a tape, I would write on a slip of paper the time that the tape was put on the recorder and the time that I took it off. That's about the only written thing. I suppose if I could go back to the Secret Service and dig into my old records there—I don't know, they maybe even have been destroyed by now—I probably could piece together when these things happened.

FENN: Oh boy, that would be very helpful because...

BOUCK: But the Secret Service record retention program would, I believe, have

destroyed those records by now.

FENN: We have a lot of Secret Service records at the library. Now I am not sure

exactly what they are.

BOUCK: Well, I believe those are long-range records. Ordinary memoranda-type stuff

would have a very short retention period.

FENN: I see. Do you remember any request to have the switch on Mrs. Lincoln's desk

taken out?

BOUCK: No. I can't say so. I believe that I pulled it out when I pulled all the rest of the

system out. It is possible I didn't, but I would think I would have. I remember

taking the system out but I don't remember all of the particular items I took

out. Even if it had been left in, it would have been useless because the microphones and

[-6-]

recorders were removed.

FENN: What about those mansion tapes? Did you handle them in the same way? You

would bring them over to her?

BOUCK: Yes. But as I say, I think it was only rarely used. I am not even sure there was

more than part of a tape in all the time it was in. Except for possibly one or

two short recordings, I don't think it was ever used.

FENN: Okay.

BOUCK: I checked it regularly, but it was almost always unused.

FENN: He didn't use it. The one story which we picked up was that the Eisenhower

Administration had had the capacity to do this on a request basis; the Signal

Corps, the White House communications outfit could be asked by Colonel

Eisenhower [John Eisenhower], Adams [Sherman Adams] or Goodpaster [Andrew J. Goodpaster]. "Listen we want to record this thing this afternoon," and they could do that fairly readily. And that they had recording equipment and personnel in that room underneath the President's office. I would just be interested in discussing this...

BOUCK: Signal Corps had the capability and the equipment. If they ever made any

recordings for Eisenhower, I did not know about it. The ability to do it, at request, would have been no problem for them, but whether they ever did, I

have no knowledge.

FENN: Okay, that's fascinating. Why did he ask you to install this special thing when

the Signal Corps had the capacity to?

BOUCK: Well, I think for one thing that he felt that the Signal Corps had vast numbers

of people, and I think he felt that the Secret Service could keep the activity

more confidential. I am only speculating.

FENN: Yeah, it sounds like...

BOUCK: Yes, keep it more closely confined. In those days he, I think, confided in us on

matters he wanted to keep confidential more than he did with some other

agencies. The Signal Corps served him well and he had good relations with

them but certain types of confidential things he had us do. My impression always was that he had us do it because he felt that perhaps we'd respect the confidentiality of it better.

FENN: Yeah, yeah and there was a personal sort of relationship not the institutional

relationship that you had with...

[-7-]

BOUCK: The Signal Corps had some ability to confine things, but normally instead of

just being one as several persons there would be a number of persons involved

in an operation of this kind.

FENN: And more transient...

BOUCK: One crew would install the stuff; another crew would maintain it; another

crew would watch the tapes and so forth...

FENN: Somebody told me that after the Bay of Pigs, about six weeks after more or

less, the President and Mac Bundy [McGeorge Bundy], specifically Mac

Bundy, asked that the navy establish the situation room. At that time this

Signal Corps taping capacity was also greatly sort of expanded and to use a phrase he used "plushed out." Does that ring any bells with you at all?

BOUCK: It may very well be true but I know nothing about it, either way. I do know

that there was a situation room and that it was quite elaborately equipped and

seemed to have all kinds of devices in it. But whether or not this was a

capability I don't know.

FENN: The tapes, you didn't have anything to do with the dictabelts on the telephone

recording. Did you know about that?

BOUCK: I knew about it, but I didn't have anything to do with it.

FENN: Do you know when that would.... Was that installed pretty routinely right at

the start?

BOUCK: I think it was installed fairly early. It might have even preceded the tapes. As I

say, I was responsible for the technical security of the White House and I only

know about it from the standpoint that I ran into it in the routine checks of

telephones. And upon making inquiry I was informed that this was the President's wish and that it was equipment that was known to him and installed for him and he wished it to remain there.

FENN: Where was that?

BOUCK: Well, I think the only place I recall it being and it may have been more, but

the only place I recall was in his bedroom.

FENN: Not the office off the oval office.

BOUCK: I don't recall it.

FENN: Or in Evelyn's office.

BOUCK: Now, yeah, I think Evelyn had a phone recording capability.

[-8-]

FENN: Uhunh, okay, Evelyn had a capability.

BOUCK: Well, she could turn on, yes, I think that was there from the beginning. But it

seems to me the one in the bedroom came in a little later. Yes, I believe, all

the time Evelyn had the capability of phone recording if she wanted to.

FENN: Yeah.

BOUCK: Of course, you know, I have to deduce some of these because they aren't

things that I did. They are things that I came in contact with and became

aware of...

FENN: And became aware of...

BOUCK: And I did not really concern myself much with them, except to be sure that the

President was aware of them and that they were only doing what he was aware

they were doing. Otherwise I didn't really get involved.

FENN: Right, would you have thought that you installed the taping system earlier

than the summer of 1962? That was a year and a half into the administration.

BOUCK: It would seem to me that that is about when I installed it but.... Do you have

any records as to when a high-level Russian representative, I don't think it

was Khrushchev [Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev], went up to visit Kennedy

at his home in Hyannis Port?

FENN: Unh unh. It couldn't have been Khrushchev.

BOUCK: No, it wasn't Khrushchev, but it was a very high-level representative. I think

the microphone recording at the White House was started soon after that. If

we could pinpoint when that happened it would help establish the time.

FENN: Yeah we could certainly find out. So, not Dobrynin [Anatoly F. Dobrynin],

but somebody like Gromyko [Andrei Andreevich Gromyko]...

BOUCK: It might very well have been Gromyko. It was a well-known Russian

representative...

FENN: Went to Hyannis Port.

BOUCK: They had an afternoon meeting, half-a-day meeting. It had quite some

publicity at the time and I think it only happened once. But I would think that

maybe about a year and a half after he came in office would be somewhere

near the time I installed the equipment.

FENN: Somebody said that he had installed it because some comments were

made by some people about positions they'd taken in the Bay of Pigs debates which did not meet anybody else's...

BOUCK: No it was not installed at the time of the Bay of Pigs.

FENN: It was not in at the time of the Bay of Pigs.

BOUCK: No, it was not. And if he was concerned about statements that people were saying, I was not aware of that.

FENN: Okay. It was about the time of the Russian visit when he talked to you about it.

BOUCK: Well, it seemed to be a big issue at the time. He didn't tell me why, but I deduced that he wanted to record any agreements he made with the Russian visitor. But there may have been much more to it than that. He just asked me to do it. He didn't really discuss with me why.

FENN: So, it could have been as late as the summer of '62. It related in time to that visit to Hyannis Port. Did it relate in time to any other events? Can you remember any other things that were sort of going on at the time which would help us get a lead on this?

BOUCK: No, that's the only one that comes to my mind at the moment. Recalling the events of the time, it seems to me it was not very long after that Russian visitor recording was made at Hyannis Port that the equipment was installed in the White House.

FENN: The.... Two other things that's interesting is if he installed it considerably earlier and didn't use it and then suddenly in the summer of '62 started to use it...

BOUCK: No, he used it about at the same rate right from the beginning.

FENN: He did? Right from when it was installed?

BOUCK: There were gap periods when he was traveling a lot and times like that. But when he was in Washington he used it quite consistently judging from the amount of tape he consumed.

FENN: Right.

BOUCK: He used it pretty consistently throughout the time it was in. Now, there were times like the missile crisis when he had it on quite a lot. He used up quite a

lot of tape over the several days or so of the missile crisis. But otherwise it was pretty uniform. He was using it so much at the time of the missile crisis that I stayed down there day and night for several days in order to change the tapes.

[-10-]

FENN: He was going through those tapes so fast.

BOUCK: He was in the office all day and all night for several days.

Okay. So that the theory that some people have expressed, namely that it sort FENN:

of lay fallow for awhile, and then some people have felt that it was after Mrs.

Lincoln had a switch installed in her desk that it began to be used a lot.

BOUCK: No, I don't think so.

FENN: Okay.

BOUCK: On the basis of the amount of tape that was used, I would say that it was fairly

> consistent from the time it was installed. It seems to me the first few days he didn't use it so much, but from then on it was pretty consistent. Month in and

month out.

[BEGIN SIDE II, TAPE I]

Could the communications unit also have been making covert recordings? FENN:

BOUCK: I don't think so. I was in and around those places a number of times

> everyday. Every day there was a technical search made of the telephone and the spaces above and below and on both sides of the cabinet room and his

office.

FENN: So it is not—it is just not likely that he would have turned to the

communications unit there and said, "I want to record something Thursday

afternoon," and you would not know about it.

BOUCK: No, it would have been unlikely.

FENN: Yeah.

BOUCK: If he wanted to record something to go on the radio or something like that,

now he often did that, which was not uncommon, and the recording process

was not concealed...

FENN: Yes. BOUCK: ...which Signal Corps would have handled.

FENN: Right and you know that taping there are...

BOUCK: But surreptitious taping, outside of the telephone, I don't think Signal Corps

during that period did any at all or very little.

FENN: Yes, and that taping system that people were talking to me about the overt

one—you know you use when you talk to the chorus at Little Rock, Arkansas?

[-11-]

BOUCK: Oh, sure, there was a lot of that going on all the time. I am talking about the

complete covert concealed ones. I am positive they were rarely if ever used

during that period. Now there were other times when they did. But not during

the Kennedy years that we're talking about.

FENN: Just out of.... We have pretty good relationships with all the other presidential

libraries being part of the same system, part of the National Archives, and I

don't want to get the Eisenhower Library all upset and indicate that we think

they're trying to hide something or something, but would you think that there was enough chance that he did some spot taping of important meetings that he wanted to have recorded that I ought to call them and say inquire and check around....

BOUCK: I wouldn't, I wouldn't preclude it either; I think there is a better than fifty-fifty

chance that he did not. But I would not say that they don't have some.

FENN: Yes. Yes.

BOUCK: Now I think if you go back before that, I would doubt if you'd find much if

anything in the Truman [Harry S. Truman] Library.

FENN: Yes.

BOUCK: But there might be a little. Now I think, if you come forward, you might find

some in the Johnson Library.

FENN: Oh yes, oh yes, I think so too. But, but I am just thinking of the...

BOUCK: I suppose it's worth an inquiry but I do not think there were any permanent

installations during the Eisenhower administration. However, I would not

preclude that he might have asked for it to be done on a spot basis.

FENN: Well, it would, it'd seem reasonable in the normal course.

BOUCK: The Signal Corps all during that period had the equipment and the capability and the personnel to have done it on a moment's notice. It would not have been a difficult thing for them to have done. But I would feel fairly sure that when we were asked to take this over during the Kennedy administration that the President was not using Signal Corps for this purpose.

FENN: Yes, all right, you mentioned that Evelyn, the President, Chester Miller and

Kenny [Kenneth P. O'Donnell] were aware of the recording.

BOUCK: I don't know if Kenny knew. I never told him but he might have. I never

discussed it with Kenny. However, Kenny knew most everything

[-12-]

that was going on.

FENN: Right.

BOUCK: There weren't many secrets kept from him. It's even possible that Dave

[David F. Powers] might have known.

FENN: Well, Dave tells the story of the President one day—trouble is, people have a

tough time pinning down the dates—saying to him, "Hey I want to...." Sort of

sheepishly in the way he would, "I want you to be careful about your

profanity because I don't want to hear your bad words coming back to me." So Dave sort of laughed and he went out and he said "Kenny, what the hell is he talking about?" And Kenny said "Well he's got this taping system installed in there."

BOUCK: They didn't know to my knowledge, but they were close enough that I would

not be surprised if the President inadvertently or casually revealed it.

FENN: Now, what about other staff members?

BOUCK: I never dealt with them. Never.

FENN: You dealt with Evelyn and with him.

BOUCK: The President. Yes.

FENN: What about Shepard [Tazewell T. Shepard, Jr.] and Clifton [Chester V.

Clifton, Jr.]? No reason for them to have known?

BOUCK: No, I never had any dealings with them on it. Of course, I don't know they

didn't know. I doubt the President would have told them. There would be no

reason for him to do so. It's possible. I know the President kept it close to his belt, but I don't know who he told and who he didn't.

FENN: Do you know that he ever listened to any of them or ever made use of them?

BOUCK: Who? The President?

FENN: Yeah.

BOUCK: Not up to the time that I gave the tapes to Mrs. Lincoln. He never did. He

never listened to any in my presence or to my knowledge.

FENN: Yes.

BOUCK: He never asked "Are you getting it?" or "How do they sound?" or anything

like that.

[-13-]

FENN: And did you tell me where she put them? She got them from you.

BOUCK: I don't know for sure where she put them. She told me, one time, that she had

a special lock safe file cabinet that she was keeping them in. They may have

been down in her file room.

FENN: She didn't say anything to you about what she did with them after the

assassination? You didn't talk to her about them or anything?

BOUCK: Well, yes because she wanted to transcribe them.

FENN: Oh, oh I see.

BOUCK: And she had this navy corpsman.

FENN: She had George Dalton.

BOUCK: George Dalton, yes. And George didn't have any equipment, so they came to

me. He wanted to know what speed are they recorded and how many channels

and all of this. So I not only gave him that information but I again borrowed

equipment from Signal Corps that was compatible with the recordings so that he could transcribe them. I think he had quite a job trying to transcribe them because he didn't know most of the names and terms, although, I think, Mrs. Lincoln in her appointment list had some ideas as to who was at these various meetings.

FENN: Yes. We have done a little checking back in that too. Can you give me

anymore detail on.... They were Tandberg. Do you remember anymore characteristics, in case we have to check the tapes because there are some gaps and some spots on them. And....

BOUCK: They were Tandberg's best recording equipment. They were not recording

playback. They were just recorders. I don't recall the model number now, but

it was the best recorder that Tandberg made.

FENN: And did Signal Corps purchase them for you or did you actually?

BOUCK: They purchased them for me. I was particular as to what equipment I wanted

and they weren't able to supply equipment of the quality. At that time I was of the opinion that Tandberg was probably, outside the broadcast field, the best

available.

FENN: They might have a record of the purchase?

BOUCK: Models. They did not stock any models of Tandberg.

FENN: Now them would be who? McNally [George McNally] or Bogart [Walter J.

Bogart]?

BOUCK: McNally. I dealt with McNally only. McNally certainly didn't

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go out and buy the items himself but he had his people accumulate the equipment and deliver it to me. I told McNally I couldn't tell him why. I suppose he had some ideas.

FENN: It's pretty obvious, isn't it?

BOUCK: I'm sure he had some pretty good thoughts, and I suppose some of the Signal

Corps put two and two together pretty much.

FENN: Yeah.

BOUCK: But beyond delivering to me the recorders, I bought the microphones and

control supplies from miscellaneous funds we had in the Secret Service. We

still had it when I left the Secret Service, it was still in our supply room. We

had not turned it back. We never got such a request from Johnson. I think Johnson turned to Signal Corps for any tape recording he might have desired.

FENN: I see; I see. Okay. Do you know enough about how that Signal Corps thing

operated so that Bogart.... Do you think Bogart probably would have known? I

mean McNally would have said "Hey, listen you have somebody get me this stuff." Would that be the way it would go?

BOUCK: Oh, it's entirely possible, of course, that he might have talked to the military aide or someone and said "Hey, Secret Service doesn't have any funds and they got a confidential job and they won't tell me what it is but here is what they want." Now it may be that the military aide also put two and two together. But insofar as persons being advised, I think it was very, very limited.

FENN: Yes.

BOUCK: I would guess that even, maybe like Powers and some, if they knew it was

from deduction or happenstance.

FENN: It was accidental.

BOUCK: It came about accidentally.

FENN: Okay. Is there anything else that occurs to you about it either in time, in terms

of time or information?

BOUCK: Signal Corps furnished the tapes too. They furnished me cartons of boxes of

tapes.

FENN: Oh, they did? So that might show up on their records, too.

BOUCK: I think there may have been more than one shipment of tapes. They

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furnished me fairly large quantities of it. If you could pinpoint in their records the purchase of Tandbergs it will quite well indicate the date the recording activity started at the White House.

FENN: Tandbergs.

BOUCK: Or if the Secret Service records would show the purchase of the amplifying

concealable microphones, the recording would have probably began within a

few days or several weeks after that.

FENN: All right. I might do one other thing and that is check for tapes from the

mansion office recorder.

BOUCK: Probability is there were few if any tapes. I know the futility. I went over there

day after day for months and found that just nothing had happened.

FENN: Okay.

[END OF INTERVIEW]

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