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Bob F.

INTERVIEW WITH VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY BY CBS NEWS
CORRESPONDENT MARTIN AGRONSKY TODAY (MONDAY AUG. 17, 7:05 AM
EDT) ON THE CBS MORNING NEWS WITH MIKE WALLACE. TRANSCRIPT
FOLLOWS:

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MR. AGRONSKY: Mr. Vice President, what is your feeling about the extraordinary intimate revelation about the late President Kennedy's thinking which Schlesinger wrote in his book? For example, do you think Mr. Schlesinger's reporting that Mr. Kennedy regarded Secretary of State Dean Rusk as indecisive and in fact even regretted choosing him as Secretary of State has been harmful?

Do you think, by the way, that it is true?

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I think it has been harmful. I think it has been mischievous. I don't think it has helped the country. And I don't think it is a fair reflection upon Dean Rusk, whom I consider to be one of the great Americans.

This is a grand and wonderful man. He is an adviser that is highly regarded by his associates and colleagues. He is an adviser. He isn't running the foreign policy of the country. The foreign policy is conducted by the President.

I don't know how other people would judge Mr. Rusk. I watched him for a long time. I think members of Congress have watched him carefully. I would say that he has more support in Congress than any Secretary of State in my memory, and I would also say that he is regarded as a man of integrity and of very great ability.

I have never said this publicly. I was just thinking about

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it now when you asked me the question. But quite frankly at a time when our country is facing decisions, when we are trying on the one hand to preserve the peace without accelerating the struggle and at the same time trying to preserve the country without leaving it without support such as in Vietnam, where the Secretary of State is an important official in this whole matter of designing policy and advising the President, I don't think it helps a great deal to be talking out of school. After all, there are some things that ought to be intimate, personal.

You know, Martin, in government if we can't talk frankly to one another without having somebody report it the next day, no one is going to say anything.

One of the reasons you asked me a while ago about "Do you speak up," and it can be very dangerous to speak up if somebody is going to go right out and tattle-tale on you the next minute.

MR. AGRONSKY: Well, it is a very interesting and, I think, an important observation. I would say on behalf of Dr. Schlesinger--

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: You know I think very well about him.

MR. AGRONSKY: -- and Mr. Sorensen ¹ ~~Sargent~~ and generally those who do report so-called inside information whenever they can get it, that their motivation, of course, could be completely patriotic, too.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: Oh, I don't think there is any

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doubt about it. I don't doubt either's motives.

MR. AGRONSKY: I don't mean in that sense. I mean in the sense that if, for example, Dr. Schlesinger feels that it is in the country's interest to demonstrate what President Kennedy thought of Dean Rusk and thought that it was in the national interest that the nation should know that President Kennedy regarded Dean Rusk as ineffective, then perhaps one can understand his motivation.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I don't think President Kennedy ever did. I do not think that President Kennedy ever felt that way. I knew President Kennedy -- maybe not as well as Mr. Schlesinger, but I do not believe that the late beloved President, whom I admired very much and loved very much, would have sent the Secretary of State up to Congress time after time to talk to us if he didn't have faith in him. I just don't believe it. I think President Kennedy loved America too much to do that.

MR. AGRONSKY: That answers the second half of my question. Is it true to your knowledge?

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY: I think I have answered that.



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