

rufus and barbara phillips

From: Ed Miller [emiller@fas.harvard.edu]
Sent: Thursday, May 01, 2003 4:23 PM
To: barufe@attglobal.net
Subject: book and tape

Hi Rufus:

The book on the Strategic Hamlet program is:

Philip Catton, DIEM'S FINAL FAILURE: PRELUDE TO AMERICA'S WAR IN VIETNAM (U. of Kansas Press, 2002).

I'll look into the matter of the tape. A quick glance at the library's on-line finding aid shows that there is a recording of a meeting on 10 Sep 1963 entitled "Vietnam (Mendenhall and Krulak reports)". I'd say this is most likely what you are after. This tape is described as open, but I'm not sure if it is available for purchase--if it is, you can have it mailed to you. I'll be in touch after I find out more.

Cheers,
Ed

rufus and barbara phillips

From: Ed Miller [emiller@fas.harvard.edu]
Sent: Friday, May 02, 2003 10:38 AM
To: Rufus Phillips
Subject: FW: research question: Presidential Recordings

Hi Rufus:

Bad news on the tape of the 10 Sept 1963 NSC meeting. The reply I received from the archivist at the JFK library this morning (below) indicates that the portion of the tape covering the meeting is not open after all. I believe that you can probably make a very strong case for bringing this up for review--after all, the memos detailing what was said at the meeting have been publicly available for years. I've never put in such a request at the JFK library, but I'm told that they are pretty good about acting on these in a reasonable amount of time. My advisor, Ernest May, has been heavily involved in the efforts to transcribe and publish the JFK tapes; I'll ask him about the best way to expedite the process.

Best,
Ed

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Kennedy Library [mailto:Kennedy.Library@nara.gov]

> Sent: Friday, May 02, 2003 10:20 AM

> To: emiller@fas.harvard.edu

> Cc: File File

> Subject: Re: research question: Presidential Recordings

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> Dear Mr. Miller:

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> The tape is not open in full. The only portion that is open is
> the section on domestic affairs, a three minute snippet that is
> included in our Tax Cut Proposals set (Tape/Transcript set DD).
> If you look at the finding aid, you'll see that the "open"
> indicator is placed in line with particular subjects.
> Unfortunately it can be a little ambiguous.

>

> Yours truly,

>

> Reference Archivist

> John F. Kennedy Library

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> As of December 20, 2002 our telephone and fax numbers have
> changed. The new numbers are now 617-514-1629 (Reference Desk)
> and 617-514-1625 (fax).

rufus and barbara phillips

From: Ed Miller [emiller@fas.harvard.edu]
Sent: Friday, May 02, 2003 2:57 PM
To: Rufus Phillips
Subject: update on JFKL tape

Hi Rufus:

Ernest May informs me that the efforts to open additional tapes at the JFKL have lost steam of late. Apparently, there was an archivist at the library who was pushing for this, but unfortunately that person is no longer working there. I believe that you can still put in a request for a review of the particular section you need, but you will probably have to wait a while before getting a decision. In the meantime, May suggests that you might be better off seeking help from the Center for the Study of Intelligence at the CIA. Since you are on the tape, I imagine that your request will be seen as particularly persuasive. I hope that this information is useful, and that you can figure out some way to hear the tape. Please let me know if there is any other help I can provide.

One more item: are you planning on attending the Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) conference next month? It takes place at George Washington U. on June 6-8. I hadn't planned to go, but it seems that there are a fair number of Vietnam panels this year, so I may head down after all. If you're interested, you can see the conference schedule at <http://www.gwu.edu/~shafr/>. I'm going to France later on in June, and will spend most of July there.

Ed