

[July 24]

TV SCRIPT

SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY WITH GUEST WILLIAM C. FOSTER

Bob Coar: This is Washington, and this is Senator Hubert H. Humphrey with a distinguished guest reporting to the people of Minnesota. Here is Senator Humphrey.

Senator: Ladies and gentlemen, we surely do have a distinguished guest today, and this guest is a most timely one, because he is deeply involved in and engaged in one of the most important developments of our time. The recent negotiations in Moscow relating to the Nuclear Test Ban proposal, the negotiations that have been going on for these many months in Geneva, Switzerland on the subject of disarmament; yes, the whole subject matter of our Foreign Policy and our programs of national security are a part of the life and activity of the gentleman who is our guest today. And I am very pleased to present Mr. William C. Foster who is the Director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency of the United States Government. But before I give you Mr. Foster, and ask him some questions, I want to tell you a little bit about him.

He came to Washington many years ago for just 30 days as a consultant, I believe, during World War II.- He comes from American business, the chemical business and the steel business.

And he has given up that business in order to serve the public interest, and the people of this nation, and I believe, of the entire world. He has had a remarkable career serving in three administrations, Republican and Democratic Administrations, and serving with distinction in each and every position. He has been Undersecretary of Commerce, he was the Director of the Marshall Plan, the old ECA as we called it, Deputy Secretary of Defense; he was our chief negotiator back in 1958 at Geneva, Switzerland, for the surprise attack conference, yes, he has been up to his ears in the world of public service and always in the interest of our national security. In terms of our national strength, and dedicated to the welfare and security of this nation. So, I am very proud to present a gentleman that I have grown to know and privileged to know, and a good friend, and a remarkable official, a fine gentleman. Mr. Foster, welcome. Thank you, Hubert, you are very good. Well, I am happy to introduce to the people of Minnesota, and by the way many people view these broadcasts, and so this is a rare privilege for me and for them.

Mr. Foster: And, for me, I might add.

Senator: Thank you.

This is a broadcast, of course, telecast that is being filmed. And by the time you may see this, maybe some of the developments we talk about will be consummated. In other words, the negotiations at the hour we are filming this particular telecast are

under way at Moscow. I am hopeful that by the time this film and this presentation comes to you that these negotiations will be in the form of an agreement, that they will have been initialed and presented back to the Congress of the United States and to the President for further consultation and negotiation. So, with that in mind, I want to ask our Mr. Foster a few questions. You know, I introduced the legislation to establish the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. This was an Administration proposal with the support of our President, but perhaps you could best tell this audience what is the duty, the role of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

Mr. Foster: Well, Hubert, consistent with National Security our purpose and our instruction is to work toward World peace and toward general disarmament and complete disarmament as an ultimate objective. In order to do that we are charged as the major agency in the United States Government to develop these policies. First, we are carrying out research, on which the policies can be based. Second, we are supervising the negotiations with other nations toward that end. Third, we are disseminating information concerning that to various interested parties at home and abroad. And, of course, fourth, we are coordinating this whole activity within the U. S. Government. And in that role, the Director of the agency is the principal advisor as you so well know having introduced this legislation to the President of the United States, and to the

Secretary of State. But, he does not do this, I want to underline, in a vacuum, or unilaterally; he does this in coordination and consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Department of State, the C I A, the Atomic Energy Commission, this is a rounded coordinated approach in all policies which actually come up to the President for decision.

Senator: I am happy that you emphasized this matter of your role as a coordinator in the policy formulation of our national security policies as they pertain to arms control and to disarmament. Because there is so much misinformation, you ought to see the mail I get, and I am sure that you get it too.

Mr. Foster: I do.

Senator: Saying that we are engaged in some sort of nefarious activity, just disarming the U. S. Now the truth is that, as I understand it, and we have worked together on these matters, every decision that is made, is made in concert with the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Director of our Central Intelligence Agency, the Department of State, and the President and his other advisors. You just don't go ahead and make a proposal, you do it after it has had the combined and coordinated thinking of a number of people of our government who are designated to take care of our security. That is true, is it not?

Mr. Foster: That is absolutely true, and the group you mentioned plus the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, make up a so-called committee of principal with whom, committee of principles, with whom each of these policies is discussed before we make a recommendation to the President. There is not always unanimity in that, that's one of the tough parts of the President's job, he sometimes has to make a decision, he sometimes he has to make a decision ~~between conflicting~~ between conflicting views. But by and large the policies which have been put forward have had very broad support in that group, ~~and I think~~

Senator: I think that its fair to note that the so-called disarmament policies are considered a part of our national security policies, because we are talking about a balanced type, a step ^{type of} by step/program in which the obligations of the other countries are every bit as great as ours. Is that not the case?

Mr. Foster: The instructions are that anything recommended must be consistent with the national security, they are on a safeguarded step by step balanced basis and directed as you have indicated, to the deep national interest of the U. S. of America.

Senator: And it's so important that we carefully study these policies, and therefore, as you properly emphasized there are

research programs, study programs, going on in the matter of perfecting better and newer weapons in case we need them. It's the opposite side of the coin, is it not, this arms control and disarmament of what you might call our preparedness program.

Mr. Foster: It is the opposite side of the coin, and it is entirely possible that the security of the nation is better served by some limitations on uncontrolled building up of weapons, as against that sort of spiraling race.

Senator: Alright, now just let me get right down to cases.

Mr. Foster: May I say just one thing before you get down to case. I overlooked something that bears on this as one of our major duties, and that is the verification of any agreements undertaken. We are also instructed to plan for and supervise any verification procedures which bear on any agreements which are signed in this field.

Senator: So as to avoid cheating, or evasion.

Mr. Foster: Evasion or breaching of the contract without opportunity to do something about it.

Senator: I think the best way to put it is that Mr. Foster sees to it that when our negotiators sit around the table with the Soviet Union that they are trained for the job of

negotiation, they are prepared as our soldiers are prepared for combat, so our negotiators and diplomats must be prepared for the clever operations that the Soviets negotiators present to protect our national interests. Now we get down to this negotiation that has been going on in Moscow, you have worked with Mr. Harriman, and Mr. Harriman, of course, is carrying out the policies of our government, policies that have been designed through the coordinated efforts of your agency as advisor to the President. What do you think, how do we justify, let me be, as they say the devil's advocate for a while here, how do you justify a nuclear test ban treaty of the nature that is being discussed now in terms of our national interest.

Mr. Foster: Well, first and foremost it has within its possible terms the opportunity of making a start toward a control of arms. It has a possibility of building a base on which more significant disarmament arrangements can be built. It has an immediate effect on the possible future contamination of the atmosphere through radioactive fallout. All of these are very important. It also, and I think perhaps of greatest importance is a start on limiting the proliferation of nuclear weapons to other governments. Perhaps getting into less responsible hands so that the danger of a frightful thermonuclear war would be increased through this proliferation, and this is a step to begin to control that so that we

reduce the dangers of war by accident or miscalculation.

Senator: Well, why do you think the Soviet Union has been as cooperative in this endeavor as it has, Mr. Foster.

Mr. Foster: Well, one finds it a little difficult to explain exactly why they do things, but I think that it is perfectly clear that we have common interests in this. They too are concerned by contamination of the atmosphere, they too are certainly concerned by the threat of an all-out thermonuclear war, they too are concerned by the increasing costs of a continuation of this sort of a race, and they have real economic pressures which they would ^{like} to minimize through the diversion to these perhaps more constructive purposes. And lastly, of course, they are concerned by the apparent split between their country and the Chinese at this moment, and therefore, if there could be agreements with us, it would give them time and opportunity to do the things that would make their life a little better.

Senator: I think that we should note at this point for our television audience, that there has been very careful consultation, close consultation with the members of Senate. It is a fact, is it not, that the negotiations if successful will come in the form of a treaty to the Senate.

Mr. Foster: Yes, but when that happens the arrangement would first be initialed with additional members of the Senate in addition

as you know, to the appearances which we have had and the informal talks we have had. And following that, and following the signing of the treaty by a designated representative of the United States, there will be the formal process of obtaining the advise and consent of the Senate before it could become a binding treaty of the United States of America.

Senator: And, at this point I think that I should say ^{I believe} /the prospects for the ratification for the proposed draft treaty are relatively good. At least, in so far as we have been able to ascertain now. There isn't any party line on this, this is a bi-partisan matter, the former President, Mr. Eisenhower, proposed a similar proposal to the Soviet Union, in 1959, and in 1960, and again in this Administration; so you see, security and defense and foreign policy are beyond what I call the narrow limits of partisan politics. And they well ought to be. Just this quick question, we have just a few minutes here, or seconds here. Do you think this treaty is safe, you know many people are going to ask us that. Is there any safeguard in it for us?

Mr. Foster: If it was not safe, I can assure you, that the President would not go forward with it, nor would the Secretary of Defense, nor the Secretary of the State, nor would I. It has built into it every kind of safeguard against the events that could take, that we could devise. Obviously, there is a risk in every treaty. We believe the risks in this are minimal;

the advantages are great, and

Senator: And there is the escape clause, where we can withdraw in case our national interests are violated.

Mr. Foster: Absolutely.

Senator: And we will keep our testing apparatus in the state of readiness.

Mr. Foster: Our testing apparatus and our laboratories will be maintained, and in a complete state of readiness should the occasion demand restoration of testing.

Senator: Well, Mr. Foster, you have every right to feel very good over your work, and your contributions to the welfare of this nation. If this negotiation ends successfully, if it brings about a treaty, it could well mean the beginning of the turning point in the relationships between what we call the East and the West. It could at least open a door for more constructive and meaningful negotiations. We hope so. If this treaty is successful in its ratification, and negotiation, it would be a wonderful day for all of humanity. And I want to thank you so much for being with us, and two weeks from now we'll have another guest for you. Thank you.



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