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TELECON
Mr. Jack Valenti/Secretary Kissinger
October 28, 1975
Time: 5:30 p.m.

RELEASED IN FULL

V: You were fantastic today. That was a touching toast by Sadat.

K: Aren't you nice. We are going to be at the same function on Thursday night. I wanted to ask your opinion. I am going as a favor to Evans to that dinner, now they have asked me to make some remarks about him. I believe it is inappropriate.

V: May I talk to you off the record?

K: I am talking to you off the record.

V: Good There is no problem about your being there.

K: I am at the margin by being there.

V: No, there is no problem with that. If you are there and you don't speak you make it clear you are there out of friendship but my advice is not to speak.

K: That is what I wanted you judgment on.

V: It is not a place to talk about the Middle East -- you could be humorous, but you do that best in a serious situation.

K: I think people would wonder what I was doing making a speech at a testimonial for Evans when I have refused some people who were -- on the surface -- much more deserving. What is this award?

V: It is an award for a man who is outstanding in the visual field. It is a prestigious award in that field. There will be television executives and people in the theatre there. It is a legitimate award and worthy. I have been to others -- one where Schlosser and Lemon received it.

K: They had me on the program for a 10 minute speech. I really would have trouble knowing what to say.

V: My firm instinct is that you shouldn't speak.

K: Are you afraid that I would get a few democrats on my side?

V: No, it is just showing support for him if you are there.

K: You can say my being there shows the many friends he has. You confirm my judgment. I will tell Bob there are other senior guys that have asked me to speak at things like this and I have turned them down.

V: Just being present is a great gift you have given Bob. It was a wonderful lunch today. I was touched by Sadat.

K: He is a remarkable man. For this man to say that in November of 73 he would make peace with Israeli and go step-by-step and to brave all the attacks

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on him, it took a lot of guts.

V: I was touched by his embrace of you. It is no small matter for the head of an Arab nation to embrace you like this.

K: It shows tremendous courage on his part.

V: I liked it very much. Say, I am grateful for your invitation.

K: O.K. See you soon.

V: See you Thursday. Oh, something else. I tell you, when I think of the press -- these people talking about integrity and then everyone evesdropping on a dinner like that.

K: And then the way they played it in the newspapers. As you know it was a two sided conversation, but they only printed my side. I was favorable to Nixon. That lady sitting next to me asked if he was such a good president then why was he disliked. I answered then that he was a cold man.

V: You were very complementary. I must say no one around Nixon could deny that statement.

K: No, not even his wife probably.

V: Well you are right. See you on Thursday.

K: Right. Thank you, my friend.