

Notes 126N, Copy 2

Mr. John Martyn

The Pentagon

Washington, D.C.

May 21, 1959

**THIS INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT MAY BE USED FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES
ONLY. IT MAY NOT BE QUOTED FROM, CITED OR PUBLISHED EXCEPT BY
PERMISSION OF THE GEORGE C. MARSHALL FOUNDATION.**

Interview with Mr. John Martyn, Administrative Assistant Dept of Army, 21 May 59, By Forrest C. Pogue, The Pentagon

Gen. Marshall's kindness displayed by his unfailing interest in the children of Mr. Martyn's brother whom he was responsible for when his widowed brother died.

Eisenhower's coming to Washington - did not know why but all felt it was grooming him for something. Discussion of Gen. Marshall not being made Supreme Commander.

Sec War and Gen. Marshall briefings.

Offices held by Gen. Marshall and others in Pentagon.

Martyn was there during time of March, Pershing and Harbord. Gen. Harbord really ran things when Pershing was C of S.

Hurley colorful but everyone loved Mr. Stimson. Unselfish group in Army at that time to help Stimson and Marshall - all very loyal.

No Democratic or Republican policy - policy was to win war.

Stimson could get angry. Told story about alert bothering him when Martyn had told him ahead it would be that but he would not have to worry about it.

Stimson had lawyer's interest in handling one case at a time. Mr. Martyn said that that was right - he would stay right with it until it was completed. It was a mistake to sell a paper to him - he wanted to see both sides of the picture from a lawyer's view point.

Re Pearl Harbor - some say Roosevelt brought in Stimson because he hated Japs so that he would play along with the idea of War in Pacific. Then they go along with idea that Mr. Stimson and Gen. Marshall kept their mouths shut so Japs could come in to Pearl Harbor. Mr. Martyn said it was a lot of bunk.

As far as he could recall there was no feeling that there was going to be something happening the day of Pearl Harbor. He was home but when he heard it over the radio, he came to the office. Does not think Mr. Stimson thought that anything was going to happen either.

Mr. Martyn says he thinks any idea that Mr. Stimson and Gen. Marshall held anything from the Board of Inquiry about Pearl Harbor is untrue. It would be out of character for both of them.

Asks if Tansill, Morgenthau, Beard, Theobald and Kimmel, all of whom developed theme of conspiracy to keep news from people at Pearl Harbor and an attempt to keep certain things out of the record, had talked to Mr. Martyn. He answered negatively.

He said he did not help pick any of the material for Pearl Harbor inquiry. Stimson was not a stooge for the President. If he disagreed with something the President was doing, he would say "I

will have to go over and talk to that young man." But they had an affection for each other, and trust, too.

Stimson operated through Hopkins very often.

Discussion of Hopkins' value and selflessness, and confidence Stimson and Churchill had in him.

Re Marshall's appointment as C of S, and campaign of Gen. Drum which was very active. Thinks he made too much of a campaign. Personal influence. Did not have extensive dealings with Gen. Marshall when he was DC of S.

Duties he handled for Mr. Stimson as his civilian assistant were: signed his name to great many papers. Stimson told him that his job was to relieve him of all details and that is the way we operated. Correspondence was prepared in AG, UndSec Offices and perhaps 99% of them would pass over his desk, unless hand-carried to the secretary.

Stimson's way of getting over his policy. Met with his staff once a week. Consisted of Marshall, Somervell, Arnold, UndSec, and AsstSec. Every two weeks would have a purely civilian staff meeting, with Petterson, McCloy, Harvey Bundy, George Harrison, a consultant, now dead, who was President of New York Life Insurance Co. He was in charge of the group for development of the atomic bomb. Arthur Paige was also a consultant toward the end of the war.

McGeorge Bundy, Harvey Bundy's son, helped write Stimson's book and saw Mr. Martyn several times in connection with it. Harvey Bundy was asst to Mr. Stimson in State Dept.

Mr. Martyn has been in front office for 38 years - since Mr. John Weeks had the job. Had been with him in the Senate. Mr. Weeks was father of Sinclair Weeks, who was Secretary of Commerce. Mr. Martyn did not get title of Admin. Asst until 1930. My counterpart in Navy Dept is man named John Dillon.

Appts of generals were left to Gen. Marshall but he did not play any part in selection of Mr. Stimson's assistants. Mr. Stimson did approve certain military assignments but statutory assignments had to have Senate approval. Does not know of any cases where Gen. Marshall's recommendations were not approved by Stimson.