



Department of Justice

3

OF

4

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM B. SAXBE

5

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

6

7

WITH

8

THE MARTIN AGRONSKY EVENING EDITION PROGRAM

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25

The Attorney General answered questions on the following topics:

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. AGRONSKY: Good evening.

3 It will certainly take more than openness and infor-
4 mality and open door and accessibility to solve the problems
5 that President Ford inherited when he took over the Oval
6 Office just 18 days ago.

7 And it will take more than that, too, to restore
8 public confidence in what the Attorney General of the United
9 States has called a battered Department of Justice.

10 William Saxbe is our fourth Attorney General in
11 five years. He bridges the two Administrations.

12 His own reputation for openness and informality has,
13 for eight months now, refreshed some and infuriated others.

14 Mr. Saxbe's primary goal, he says, is to restore
15 full public confidence in his Department.

16 Tonight, on Evening Edition, a discussion with Mr.
17 William Saxbe, former Republican Senator from Ohio, and now
18 Attorney General of the United States, of the pitfalls and
19 problems that lie between him and the achievement of the
20 refurbishing of the Department of Justice.

21 Mr. Attorney General, we might as well get the
22 current events out of the way very quickly.

23 I am sure you are aware of the Newsweek Magazine
24 report that you may be replaced in this Administration by Mr.
25 William Ruckelshaus.

1 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: I don't think I'm leaving,
2 and I don't think he wants the job. That's about as direct
3 as I can put it.

4 MR. AGRONSKY: Well, that's pretty direct.

5 How often have you seen President Ford since he took
6 office?

7 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Well, he's been there ten
8 days. I think I've seen him four times, which is a whole lot
9 more than I saw President Nixon in almost six months.

10 MR. AGRONSKY: I'd like to hear from you because
11 you know Ford reasonably well personally. You have a feeling
12 of the atmosphere as it existed before Mr. Ford took over from
13 the Nixon Administration and the way it is now.

14 Tell me what is it like now, and then compare it to
15 then.

16 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Well, I think that Presi-
17 dent Ford is the type of a man that you want to do your best
18 for, because you believe in what he says and you know he means
19 what he says.

20 He actually wants to pick up the loose ends. He
21 wants to fight inflation, which he rightly says is the No. 1
22 enemy. And he wants to operate the Government in an open and
23 fair manner.

24 Now, it isn't all that easy. But when you start
25 out from there, it's very helpful.

1 All of us that are in the Cabinet -- at least the
2 ones that I have talked to -- are determined to do everything
3 we can to help him with this, and to not burden him with the
4 problems that we can solve, because we know what our mission
5 is. I do in the Department of Justice. And I think the
6 others are the same way.

7 MR. AGRONSKY: I don't want to intrude on personal
8 conversations with the President, but I do think one can get
9 a feeling of what a President is like -- you've had how many
10 Cabinet meetings?

11 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: We've had two -- well, we
12 had a short meeting which had to do with the Vice President.
13 It was just a symbolic meeting to announce that.

14 But we had two other meetings, one immediately
15 after he was appointed, and then the meeting that we had today
16 in regard to the economic affairs.

17 MR. AGRONSKY: What was the mood like?

18 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: It was excellent. And the
19 people that come into those meetings come prepared, the ones
20 who have a part in the presentation.

21 He is a "no foolishness" man. He has stated he
22 doesn't like small talk. He wants you to state your business
23 and get on with it.

24 And for a man as busy as he is, I think that's good.

25 MR. AGRONSKY: Have you seen him personally aside

1 from the Cabinet meetings?

2 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Yes, I have had two
3 personal meetings with him.

4 Frankly, I wanted to determine my status as soon as
5 possible --

6 MR. AGRONSKY: That was the first time?

7 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: That was the first time.

8 And to state some things about our housekeeping and
9 day-to-day affairs that I think he should know that he
10 couldn't read in the paper: some of the pending cases, some
11 of the pending decisions or what we think they are going to
12 be, the direction that we are heading on some things.

13 And then I had another short meeting with him last
14 week on some more private affairs that I can't discuss.

15 MR. AGRONSKY: What was the give and take like in
16 terms of dealing with him as compared --

17 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Well, in the first meeting,
18 we had almost an hour. He's a listener. He's willing to
19 listen to my problems.

20 And I told him that these are things that I have
21 to bring to you. They aren't things that I can take care of
22 myself, but some of them are strictly information.

23 And he told me what I wanted to know, when there
24 were questions to be decided. Last week, in a meeting that
25 we had together, he told me exactly where he stood on some

1 things, and some things, as I say, I can't talk about, that
2 are coming up, that he needs my help on.

3 Now --

4 MR. AGRONSKY: Mr. Attorney General --

5 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: It's open, it's friendly,
6 and you feel that you are getting across.

7 MR. AGRONSKY: Did you ever have the chance to talk
8 to Mr. Nixon as he neared the end of his Administration?

9 One would have thought that he would have had to
10 have some recourse to his Attorney General.

11 Did he ever come to you with a problem?

12 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: I think this was one of
13 his weaknesses, not that I could have helped him a great deal
14 in those days, but I might have beforehand.

15 But, as you know, the prosecution of the charges
16 was with the Committee and the Special Prosecutor. The
17 defense was with his counsel, Mr. St. Clair and his group.
18 And this consumed so much of his time that he didn't have time
19 to talk about the day-to-day things that had to do with the
20 management of the various departments.

21 MR. AGRONSKY: Did you ever volunteer any advice or
22 help in the whole area of Watergate at the end?

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: In the Cabinet meetings,
24 but it wasn't particularly well received.

25 MR. AGRONSKY: What was his mood?

1 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Well, I was always amazed
2 that he was as calm and collected in the face of tremendous
3 problems as he was.

4 And this continued right up until the last Cabinet
5 meeting, which was just a couple of days before his decision.

6 At that meeting --

7 MR. AGRONSKY: When he insisted he wouldn't resign?

8 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: He said he wasn't going
9 to resign, and most of the meeting was concerned with economic
10 problems.

11 He was very cool about it and proceeded very
12 business like.

13 MR. AGRONSKY: In these two private conversations
14 you had with President Ford, I have to assume that you must
15 have raised the problem of his predecessor and what will go
16 on as far as Mr. Nixon is concerned in relation to the
17 Government of the United States.

18 Is that a very proper assumption?

19 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Only briefly.

20 That certainly wasn't the continuing theme of our
21 meeting. It was just raised in passing.

22 MR. AGRONSKY: Raised in passing or raised in
23 detail?

24 Can you give me any indication whatsoever as to the
25 President's views on that matter?

1 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: No.

2 The President gave me no views on the matter that
3 he hasn't stated publicly; that the proceedings will take
4 their course and that he is not going to be involved in them.

5 MR. AGRONSKY: Did you give him any of your views?

6 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Only that which coincided
7 with that. I think that's correct.

8 MR. AGRONSKY: Let me read you an exchange, a
9 colloquy, that occurred when Mr. Ford was before the Senate,
10 Judiciary Committee for confirmation as Vice President of the
11 United States, where he said something that involves you
12 very, very directly, and we can carry it on from there.

13 Senator Cannon asked Mr. Ford -- this is in the
14 confirmation hearings --: "Do you believe that any President
15 or Vice President of the United States should claim absolute
16 immunity from prosecution while in office?"

17 Mr. Ford answered, "As I understand the Constitution,
18 the President has to be impeached and convicted before he can
19 be prosecuted. But once impeached and convicted by the
20 Congress, he is not immune under any circumstances to crimi-
21 nal prosecution."

22 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Yes, I'm aware of that.
23 I think that's correctly stated.

24 That's all.

25 MR. AGRONSKY: What does it mean to you?

1 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: It means simply that the
2 President now as a private citizen is subject to those actions
3 which may be taken if there is violation of the law.

4 MR. AGRONSKY: Let me be even more specific.

5 Earlier, Senator Cannon said to Mr. Ford, and this,
6 by the way, was eight months ago, but he asked prophetically,
7 "If a President resigns his office before his term expires,
8 would his successor have the power to prevent or to terminate
9 any investigation or criminal prosecution against the former
10 President?"

11 Mr. Ford: "I don't think the public would stand
12 for it. I think -- and whether he has the technical authority
13 or not, I cannot give you a categorical answer -- the Attorney
14 General, in my opinion, with the help and support of the
15 American people, would be the controlling factor."

16 You are the Attorney General, Mr. Saxbe.

17 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: I certainly have heard
18 nothing from him to change his position on that.

19 He is correct, however, in that statement. And
20 Senator Cannon was correct.

21 The President does have the power to pardon, even
22 before an accused is brought to trial, any time after the commis-
23 sion of the act, he can pardon. So he does have that power.

24 He has shown no inclination to do so in anticipa-
25 tion of the fact.

1 Now, the Special Prosecutor, Mr. Jaworski, under
2 his charter, which I agreed to before the Senate Committee,
3 has the authority normally vested in the Attorney General and
4 still vested there and delegated to him to analyze, to
5 determine and to proceed as he sees fit.

6 MR. AGRONSKY: Are you telling me then that you feel the
7 that particular decision, as far as you are concerned, should
8 remain in the hands of Mr. Jaworski; that you would subordi-
9 nate your authority to his in this matter?

10 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Yes.

11 MR. AGRONSKY: Do you intend to stand aside?

12 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: I don't intend to stand
13 aside if he comes to me. I would certainly take a part in
14 it. But the authority under the charter is directed to him
15 concerning all of the matters dealing with the election of
16 1972 and the facts surrounding it, which most of Watergate
17 springs from, if you recall.

18 Now, I have protected Mr. Jaworski when I thought
19 he needed it, and I have left him alone when he didn't. And
20 it is my intention to continue to do that unless he asks for
21 a change in that relationship.

22 MR. AGRONSKY: Well, let's quit fencing around.

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: All right.

24 MR. AGRONSKY: What do you think we should do with
25 Mr. Nixon and who should do it?

1 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Well, that's one answer
2 you're not going to get from me until Mr. Jaworski does it,
3 because, frankly, I intend to support him and I intend to
4 give him the room to determine if there is an area of indict-
5 ment and proceed from there.

6 For me to second-guess him when he's got the
7 investigators, has the files, and the responsibility would
8 not be seemly.

9 MR. AGRONSKY: Mr. Attorney General --

10 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: What I am saying is that I
11 intend to back Mr. Jaworski as long as he is the Special
12 Prosecutor.

13 MR. AGRONSKY: I understand you, and you've made it
14 very clear. You have never deviated from that particular
15 position; I understand it.

16 I was merely trying to get from you, an expres-
17 sion of your own feeling about the situation as the Attorney
18 General of the United States, with the concern that you have
19 for justice, for equality under the law; how you feel about
20 the situation; what should be done about it.

21 After all, a man in your position speaks for the
22 Justice Department. I may go beyond that and say he speaks,
23 in effect, for justice and for the law.

24 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: And it would not be
25 justice for me to come here and to make a statement like I am

1 going to see him in jail; I'm going to see him free; I'm
2 going to see him not prosecuted; I'm going to see him prose-
3 cuted, when it's not going to be me that makes that decision.

4 But I have to back it up whichever way it goes.

5 MR. AGRONSKY: Mr. Attorney General, I'm afraid you
6 are going to find me difficult, but let me quote you an
7 observation that you made on June 24th.

8 You said it's hardly reassuring -- you were speaking
9 now of sentences that were handed out in the Watergate affair
10 -- you said it's hardly reassuring when one man goes to
11 prison for years for theft, while another, involved in a con-
12 spiracy to steal our freedoms, is in and out of jail in the
13 wink of an eye.

14 You said criminal violations cannot be tolerated
15 on the part of anyone, no matter what position of public trust
16 they may have held, no matter how glib their attempts at
17 justification may be.

18 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: I not only said that, but
19 I went further and I said that there must not only be fairness
20 but there must be the appearance of fairness. And this is
21 what many of the American people want to see.

22 And I haven't changed on that. I think as the
23 events work out that the American people will be satisfied
24 with the outcome.

25 But as to my coming here and saying what the course

1 of action is going to be, I'm not about to.

2 MR. AGRONSKY: Mr. Attorney General, let me compare
3 it a different way --

4 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: An end run?

5 MR. AGRONSKY: An end run, if you like.

6 Your predecessor, the Attorney General, Mr.
7 Richardson, in the case of the Vice President, the then Vice
8 President of the United States, Spiro Agnew, permitted him, to
9 use the criminal term, to cop a plea -- to use more elegant
10 language, to plead nolo contendere.

11 Mr. Agnew left behind him a 42-page document in which
12 the Justice Department set forth any number of unresolved
13 counts which could have been brought to bear against Mr.
14 Agnew.

15 The Attorney General, in explaining why he took
16 that action, said that it would have been intolerable for a
17 Vice President of the United States, in that position, to
18 have been going through the courts at a time when the position
19 of the President himself was in jeopardy and perhaps on a
20 criminal count. And, therefore, he excused that position.

21 So, Mr. Agnew, in effect, having copped a plea on
22 the most minor of a series of infractions and allegations of
23 criminal action, walked away, walked away clean and free.

24 Had you been the Attorney General at that point,
25 would you have agreed with that reason?

1 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: I don't know because you
2 can't put yourself in a position in the time and place. You
3 can only guess.

4 I don't want to second-guess Mr. Richardson, because
5 I know what he did was, in his thinking, in the best interest
6 of the country.

7 He was worried that we were going to wind up with a
8 Vice President who was indicted and being tried as a criminal.
9 And if the President died, or otherwise made the spot vacant,
10 that we could have a convicted felon as President of the
11 United States.

12 And he thought the price was cheap in getting him
13 to cop this plea.

14 Now, whether I would have done the same thing, I
15 don't know, because there's no way I can put myself in those
16 circumstances.

17 But I do know this, that the American people, if I
18 have any feel for it, were so glad to get rid of Mr. Agnew
19 that they generally accepted this.

20 Now, one of the interesting developments on this is
21 that we are constantly arguing this fact about prison: do we
22 need prisons? There is this large group of people who want to
23 convert everybody: "Prisons don't rehabilitate so we are going
24 to burn down the prison."

25 Therefore, if you have a prisoner who is not a

1 threat to the community, then you are only wasting the tax-
2 payers' money by putting him in jail.

3 These same people come in and say, well, Agnew should
4 be under the jail. No one alleges he is a threat to the com-
5 munity but, at the same time, they argue one way for the
6 common criminal, the mugger and the burglar, and they argue
7 another way when it comes to Mr. Agnew.

8 All I ask for is consistency.

9 MR. AGRONSKY: Let me move it to a more elevated
10 plane.

11 We are not talking about Mr. Agnew. That was a
12 first stop en route to another question.

13 We are talking, really, again about Mr. Nixon,
14 again not in a vindictive sense at all, not necessarily in
15 terms of whether his punishment so far fitted the crime and
16 all that.

17 Let's look at it in another way.

18 Of thirty-eight, I believe, defendants in the
19 various aspects of the Watergate trial that have come to
20 trial, many have been sent to jail.

21 John Dean, if you remember, who as much as anyone
22 else enabled all of this information to come to light, got
23 one to four years.

24 Now, the question that is obviously raised in the
25 minds of everyone, and the question that must trouble you,

1 as the Attorney General, is: what would the American people
2 think about a system of justice if all of these men who are
3 involved, in effect, as accomplices of the President of the
4 United States in the commission of these crimes were to be
5 punished and the man who was at the center of the entire
6 conspiracy were not to be punished?

7 Does it bother you in terms --

8 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Yes.

9 And I get thousands of letters stating one side or
10 the other.

11 I think this is a general concern in the country at
12 the present time. And the question that comes up more often
13 than not is, well, should we be trying a President: what's
14 the effect on our foreign affairs; what's the effect upon the
15 guy on the street who is arrested for a simple crime; what's
16 going to be the overall effect?

17 And I am sure all of these are before Mr. Jaworski,
18 as he makes his decision. And if Mr. Jaworski asks me to take
19 it over, I'll take it over. He has not, and I am not going
20 to second-guess him as he goes through this agony.

21 MR. AGRONSKY: Well, you're telling me --

22 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: And I am sure he is.

23 MR. AGRONSKY: You are not ducking it. You are just
24 saying it's in Mr. Jaworski's jurisdiction.

25 It will remain there unless he gives it up?

1 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: It's in Mr. Jaworski's
2 jurisdiction.

3 And if he wants to turn it over to me, that's his
4 privilege. But I am not going to violate my promise to
5 Congress that I would not interfere. And I did promise them
6 categorically that I would not interfere with his proceedings.
7 I am not going to fire him and I am not going to let any-
8 body molest him. And he is going to have the privilege of
9 going ahead as he sees fit.

10 I am not going to second-guess him.

11 MR. AGRONSKY: Okay.

12 The President was given very high marks, as you
13 know, for opening up this whole question of amnesty for Viet-
14 nam deserters and evaders so very early in his Administration
15 before an audience of VFW, Veterans of Foreign Wars, that
16 was, you know, admittedly hostile.

17 Now, he has asked you to work up a study on amnesty.

18 Is it to be conditional amnesty?

19 Has the President indicated it is to be amnesty to
20 be decided case by case? Mr. Ford used a phrase that everyone
21 has been puzzling about; he said the young men in question
22 might, as he put it, work their way back.

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Earn.

24 MR. AGRONSKY: Work their way back into society.

25 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Right.

1 And another place he said they must earn it.

2 MR. AGRONSKY: Or earn their way back.

3 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Right.

4 MR. AGRONSKY: Now, you've started on this study?

5 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Yes, we've spent a lot of
6 time --

7 MR. AGRONSKY: Can you give me any idea on some of
8 your thinking on this?

9 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Well, first, we have two
10 questions.

11 We have the deserter. That's a man that stood up
12 there, raised his hand, took the oath and has become a
13 member of the Armed Forces.

14 MR. AGRONSKY: And went over the hill.

15 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: And went over the hill.

16 And many of them went over the hill for many other
17 reasons than the Vietnam War.

18 They shot the cook. They fragged the Lieutenant.
19 They married a native against regulations. They went on
20 leave and never came back.

21 MR. AGRONSKY: Right.

22 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Well, maybe one in ten is
23 genuine.

24 Now, the no show --

25 MR. AGRONSKY: There were others who --

1 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: There were others, sure.

2 MR. AGRONSKY: -- on principles.

3 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: And there were cowards.

4 MR. AGRONSKY: Yes.

5 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: The no show, the fellow
6 who didn't show up at the Draft Board --

7 MR. AGRONSKY: He's a draft evader.

8 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: He's an evader.

9 MR. AGRONSKY: Yes.

10 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Now, this man is entirely
11 different, and it is pretty hard to sort them out.

12 Some of them may be cowards and some of them may
13 have other reasons, like neglect, they just didn't go. But I
14 think you have to assume that most of them are genuine enough
15 that they had ideological reasons.

16 MR. AGRONSKY: Now, I take it that's what you mean
17 when you say decided case by case?

18 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: That's correct.

19 MR. AGRONSKY: Yes.

20 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: They are going to be
21 decided case by case.

22 Now, what about the numbers?

23 Well, as near as we can determine from Selective
24 Service, we've got about 3,500 in Canada or elsewhere.

25 MR. AGRONSKY: Yes.

1 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: We've got about a thousand,
2 or maybe a thousand here.

3 MR. AGRONSKY: Yes.

4 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Many of these are hard
5 cases. They are not going to make any act of contrition.
6 They want to come back as heroes or not at all.

7 MR. AGRONSKY: Yes.

8 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: They want the country to
9 declare that it was wrong. And, of course, we are not about
10 to do this at this time.

11 Now, these people are, therefore, limiting them-
12 selves by this to at least half, so we are talking about
13 maybe 2,000 no shows at most.

14 MR. AGRONSKY: You are insisting on --

15 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: An act of contrition.

16 MR. AGRONSKY: -- an act of contrition, meaning the
17 admission, "I was wrong. I'm sorry."

18 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Yes.

19 MR. AGRONSKY: Go ahead.

20 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Well, it follows from what
21 the President said. We haven't discussed it further. We're
22 going to give him some options.

23 But whatever, they have to come in to either the
24 Draft Board, the U. S. Attorney, the State Selective Service
25 Headquarters, or a special commission, and they say, "I'm

1 sorry. I want to take my medicine."

2 MR. AGRONSKY: The medicine being?

3 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: The medicine being -- it
4 can run from the extreme of two years of substantial assist-
5 ance to some hospital, some public works, some good works of
6 various kinds. This is what we ask of the CO's.

7 The CO's came in and said we don't believe in war,
8 we don't believe in Vietnam, so they would send them out to
9 a state hospital to be an orderly. And many of them did this,
10 particularly the religious sects: the Mennonites, the Amish,
11 the Jehovah Witnesses, others, whose feeling was so strong
12 that they were CO's.

13 Now, that's the most that we can expect. Nobody
14 wants to put them in the Army or in the ACTION package of
15 VISTA or Peace Corps, anything like that. Nobody wants to do
16 that.

17 Now, the minimum would be that they come in and
18 present themselves, and in a quasi-judicial type of operation,
19 they say we will suspend any prosecution if you behave your-
20 self for two years or six months.

21 MR. AGRONSKY: Yes.

22 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: And that's the minimum.

23 MR. AGRONSKY: You keep talking now about those who
24 make the case that they did not go into the service on
25 principle.

1 What about the others, those that went over the
2 hill, who were drafted?

3 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: The deserter?

4 MR. AGRONSKY: Yes.

5 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Well, that's a military
6 problem because they are not subject to civilian law.

7 The reason the Justice Department is in this is
8 because those who did not show are the only ones subject to
9 the Justice Department. The rest of them are subject to
10 the Uniform Code of Military Justice. And they have to make
11 their case on an individual basis, that they went over the
12 hill for reasons of the Vietnam War, not because they shot the
13 cook or ran away or were cowards.

14 Those people are going to be right back where they
15 were.

16 In 1947 --

17 MR. AGRONSKY: But subject to military justice --

18 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: That's correct.

19 MR. AGRONSKY: -- which certainly is not going to
20 be a great encouragement to them to come back.

21 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: Well, if they can make a
22 case --

23 MR. AGRONSKY: You are not going to make any excep-
24 tions in their cases?

25 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: They are going to make

1 exceptions if they have no bad time, if they weren't bad
2 actors. They can come back and they could get the same treat-
3 ment that we are talking about in the no show.

4 MR. AGRONSKY: Oh, they can?

5 I didn't realize that because you indicated you are
6 making a line there.

7 Those who were deserters were still subject to
8 military justice.

9 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: But this is only procedural.

10 MR. AGRONSKY: I see.

11 ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE: The no shows will come to
12 us or our representative.

13 The deserters will come to the military, because we
14 have no jurisdiction over them.

15 We can't say that if you don't do thus and so, we
16 are going to prosecute you, because we don't have the power
17 to prosecute.

18 But, what we are talking about here is we
19 are going to give these people a chance if they want it.
20 And it is not going to involve prison.

21 Now, if they are staying away because they are
22 afraid of going to prison -- and this is what the President
23 said -- we are going to say, you come back and you are not
24 going to prison. And we think this will take a good chunk of
25 them that want to come back but don't want to go to prison.

1 Now, there's unanswered questions.

2 The guy that went over the hill was prosecuted and
3 served his time. We are going to have to pardon him.

4 How about the guy in Canada who wants to come and
5 visit his folks? We've got a problem there.

6 MR. AGRONSKY: I wish we could go on, Mr. Attorney
7 General.

8 Thank you very much.

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