

ORAL MEMOIRS

OF

JAMES L. POWELL

An interview conducted on

June 22, 2021

Interviewer: Laurie Dickmeyer

Angelo State University

West Texas Collection

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DICKMEYER: Uh, so this is Laurie Dickmeyer and I'm here with Mr. Jimmy Powell in San Angelo, Texas and it is June 22nd, 2021. Uh, so... Mr. Powell, first we'll just start off, uh, with some background information about you. So could you tell me when and where you were born, please?

POWELL: In 1930 I was born in San Angelo, Texas...

DICKMEYER: Yeah.

POWELL: ...My mother and father were living in Menard County on a ranch.

DICKMEYER: And did you grow up in San Angelo too, or on that ranch in Menard?

POWELL: From, uh, Menard, Texas my family moved to Sutton County and I went to school, first grade, in Senora. At the time, the ranching business had expanded into West Texas, Big Lake, and Rankin country.

DICKMEYER: Mhmm.

POWELL: And we moved to San Angelo, my father knew it would be, uh, a good place for me to complete school and give him an opportunity to go either, uh, southeast or due west, whichever was required for his ranching business.

DICKMEYER: Um, and... so, I-I have a couple of questions here, just about West Texas since you are a West Texas native. Um, so, if you had to define West Texas, where would you say it begins?

POWELL: Well, West Texas obviously begins probably a little bit east of San Angelo and goes, uh, goes all the way to the New Mexico border. Which is, uh, a rather extended border in different directions, as you know. I think El Paso wonders at times whether or not they are a part of Texas, with Austin being the capital of the state.

DICKMEYER: Mhmm.

POWELL: The state, uh, has many different, um levels of production. Many years ago, the farm industry began to plow up some of the very good grass lands that were cattle producing and sheep producing lands and today, uh, those properties are high producing, uh, capital acreages, uh, quite different from livestock, but livestock has pretty well maintained the condition of the, um, state of Texas in so far as the condition of the properties are concerned.

DICKMEYER: Okay, and I think you-you talked a little bit about what my next question related to this was, which is, um, "What you think is kind of unique about West Texas, compared to the rest of the state" for instance.

POWELL: Well, the Eastern part of the...

DICKMEYER: Yeah.

POWELL: ...Of the state, um, is basically farming. There's quite a- there's quite a few cattle raised over there and not many sheep. It's not a grassland that would be conducive to sheep production. West Texas, uh, is an excellent area for both sheep, goats, and cattle. Having, uh, both long staple, um, grasses and-and short running grasses that the sheep like, as well as weeds. The uh, large tree producing areas of the state will be mostly in the We-Eastern part, where there's a lot of water and there is a good bit of lumber production in that part of the state. Uh, I-I-I realize that the forest department comes to West Texas and they ask you if they can, um, determine, uh, the forest products in West Texas. Well, they're sure looking at different size plants, like mesquite, uh, Live oak, and those trees won't produce a lot of timber like they need, uh, pine trees to build buildings with and that's where the lumber industry is. Now, I have often wondered what they- what the state does with those figures that they get from West Texas. Uh, it would be a good, uh, place that you could go to find out how much brush you need to remove...

DICKMEYER: Mhmm.

POWELL: ...To increase grass and weed production so that you could increase your livestock, and that's one of the main objects, uh, methods of branching is-is to control livestock numbers and, um, in order to increase those numbers you need to eliminate the nonproductive brushes. Uh, prickly pear, tasajilla [sic], the stickers, um, even mesquite and uh, there is, uh, east of Big Lake do not, uh, produce many beings which are excellent food products for livestock. But, uh, the mesquite is, um, plant that absorbs a great amount of moisture that can be used to produce grasses

DICKMEYER: Mhm-hm

POWELL: And that's one reason they're taken off of the property and they're-they produce rapidly, mesquite does. They're- Mesquite is used, um, beneficially, I'd say, from Big Lake west.

DICKMEYER: Uh, so now I want to turn to your service, uh, but I have one kind of broader question about the military in West Texas first. Uh, so, how would you characterize West Texans' relationship to-to the military?

POWELL: We had quite an experience with, um, of loss of, um, help from the ranches beginning in the first war. 1941- the draft took our youngsters, and uh, we were left. I was eleven years old and I-I learned, uh, work livestock as well as, um, I guess I possibly could at that age. My father was able to keep one man, uh, possibly over the age of thirty-seven, I think that was

the maximum age for draft-drafting youngsters for the military. He also hired, uh, high school boys, mostly juniors and seniors if they would work and we, I-I-I met quite a few high school children when I was at the age of eleven, twelve years old in those years and still know them. That was the way that dad was able to work livestock without having a short handed, being short handed.

DICKMEYER: Did you have any family members who served in World War II?

POWELL: Oh yes, I had- I had two that were in the Marines, and two in the Navy. Um, they were quite a bit older than I, of course, being somewhere in their twenties, maybe thirties. But, uh, an interesting fact about those boys was that they were immigrants to Texas from states like Tennessee

DICKMEYER: Mhm-hm

POWELL: -from which my grandfather was reared, and they came to Texas and worked and uh, made excellent sheep- ranch hands. But we lost those- they came back after the war, we didn't lose any to the war, uh, they were in some pretty deep fighting. I could never get those boys to talk about their experiences

DICKMEYER: Mhm-hm

POWELL: I suppose they were in such a difficult situation that they didn't want to try to remember it. I suppose I'd have been the same.

DICKMEYER: [laughs] I think that happens quite a lot.

POWELL: Yeah.

DICKMEYER: Yeah. Uh, so, maybe we can fast forward a little bit and talk about how you, um, became involved in the military yourself. Um, so, when and where did you enter the Armed forces?

POWELL: When I went into college, uh, they were still drafting boys, so I went into the ROTC, the Naval ROTC at Rice as a sophomore. I had four years to spend in the ROTC, I had three years left at Rice, which I spent becoming aware of the Navy and learning what I was taught. And, uh, as a senior in Rice, I knew I'd have to spend one more year, and I-one more year and I wanted to get, um, get better training in, uh, business and, uh, I was asked-I asked to transfer to the University of Texas and go into the training for another degree in, uh, in business and they had courses Rice didn't have...

DICKMEYER: Mhm.

POWELL: ...Which I did, and I got my, uh, commission in the Navy as a {ensign?} at the University of Texas. That was in 1954 and I was, uh, inducted into the Navy then after graduating in May and I was inducted in June. And I-I spent the rest of the years in that war and the Navy, and then came home and we were, I was in, in the Navy off the coast of Korea, uh which had come along after the war was over. I think the war was over 'bout 1947-40-45, and um, Korea began I think in about 1952 or so, '51 or 2. And that lasted until President Eisenhower finally ended it, uh, that was about 1953. I was in the Navy at the time and then the...

DICKMEYER: Mhm, did...

POWELL: ...On...

DICKMEYER: ...You know the same rank, uh, at the end of your service, or had you been promoted?

POWELL: What?

DICKMEYER: Did you- what was your rank during your service?

POWELL: Oh, I was on an aircraft carrier as a signalman.

DICKMEYER: Mhm.

POWELL: And um, I had been trained in the, uh, atomic field. I don't know whether we had one of the bombs on the ship or not, but we might have. I think I was about the only officer, young officer, trained in that manner and I was responsible for coding-decoding messages. At that time carrying a rank for that purpose.

DICKMEYER: Mhm, and you said that the initial reason that you became involved in the ROTC is because you're-the college was still drafting men?

POWELL: That's true, they were still drafting and I knew that if I got a-a degree in, in, uh, Rice, '50-'51 I'd probably be drafted so I decided to take the necessary steps in being inducted after I graduated and I was able to serve five years in college before I did go into the Navy.

DICKMEYER: Yeah.

POWELL: And uh, immediately was placed on this aircraft carrier which I stayed on for the time that I served. We served two, um, two trips to Korea. Being stationed in Japan and moving into the, um, sea of Japan-Korea, off the coast of Korea we served, I guess we'd served forty-five days.

[loud church bells- then the bells cut off]

DICKMEYER: Okay, so, I wonder if you could tell me a little bit as well about your training? Where-where did you get, did you get any training after college before you...

POWELL: In the service...

DICKMEYER: ...Uh, joined the aircraft carrier?

POWELL: Oh, I got- I got training for the work that I was doing on the aircraft carrier in Hawaii.

DICKMEYER: Oh, in Hawaii?

POWELL: They sent me to school there, where I got the atomic warfare training and, um, communication training. That's what my business was in-on the carrier, having uh, at that time the Navy had several codes and, um we had to decode quite a bit of communication and um, and in code quite a bit that went out. At times we'd have the uh, Chief of the Navy, who was stationed in uh, an admiral who was stationed in Hawaii would come aboard and spend sometimes a week, maybe two weeks, aboard the ship. During the function, the activities, we flew-the ship flew airplanes twenty-four hours a day, bombing everything from the Chinese border in North Korea, all the way down to the, I think it was the 43rd parallel, and that's where the final, uh, border was established for South Korea. I was asked to go and observe that border I-I-I spent a week in, um, South Korea with those boys up there on the line and um, I've walked along the line and I've been almost arms length to the North Korean military that was walking along beside me. I just crossed the border.

DICKMEYER: Really cool, um, do you recall some of the men that you worked with while you were enlisted? So, some of your fellow Navy-men, um, do you remember any of them, what working with them was like?

POWELL: Working with and?

DICKMEYER: Yeah, your-your fellow servicemen?

POWELL: Oh, yeah. I guess those boys that came in the same time that I did, or maybe a little earlier, were highly intelligent and they were learning as well as I, but their interest was more in, um, sailing the aircraft carrier and obeying the rules of the road at sea

DICKMEYER: Mhm-hm

POWELL: - with other ships, and analyzing the formations, and I was at an operative function. They had- some of them had very serious duties in seeing that the machinery that operated the ship were probably realizing that that ship had to get their speeds up to thirty-five, forty knots in order to launch some of the aircraft, it was not- there was little wind blowing at the time, and it depends on the- whether there's a wind to travel into and how fast you need to go to launch the aircraft. Some of the aircraft was launched with, uh, equipment, some launched themselves on the very short runway on the, uh, the ship.

DICKMEYER: Mhm, um, one other question I have about this period of time is, uh, if you recall what race relations were like, uh, around this period.

POWELL: What the- what?

DICKMEYER: Race relations? Uh, so, what were the relationships between perhaps white servicemen, black servicemen, Latino servicemen, that kind of thing, if you recall.

POWELL: The difference in, um, race relations?

DICKMEYER: Yeah, the-yea the relationships between them.

POWELL: We had, well we had very good relations with both the, um, African Americans and the Latinos. My roommate in the latter part of my service was a African American who graduated from the University of Southern California and he was just as smart as he could be. He was a conference boxing champion, and uh, he was asked to establish a boxing team on the ship and some of those boys that he tried out wanted to box him {laughs} and he goes- quite humorous for us to watch him knock that old boy on the deck when he-when he really wanted to fight and he knew how to do that, he was a middle weight, but you just not gonna box a known boxer if you- if you're not one yourself, I don't think. But he was an operating guy, uh, he could-he could manage the ship on the serve-four hour service at sea. The Latinos I met-I met were signalmen and uh, they had the ability to read the Morse code by light and it was a real interesting function to watch someone talk with other ships with the light when you weren't allowed to use, uh,uh, electronics, uh, Morse code electronics and um, there were times when-when you were in there and you could only use light for transmission.



DICKMEYER: Okay, great. Um, in general, did you find your service challenging? So, serving in Korea, was it a challenging experience for you?

POWELL: Well it was a challenge, uh, we got very little sleep, uh, we were in what amounted to four and eight, four hours on and eight hours off. And then, when we were in the general quarters, which everybody on the ship was in up and minding- attending their responsibilities and sometimes those general quarters might last eight, ten hours depending on the reason for the general quarters. Most of the general quarters that we had were unidentified aircraft, and 'course those general quarters were maybe thirty minutes, maybe longer but not- not much.

DICKMEYER: Okay, so, during this period of time when you were enlisted, uuh, what kind of conception did you have of the United States? So, what did America symbolize to you, what did you think it stood for?

POWELL: Well, it was obvious to me that the people I became acquainted with were some of the most intelligent that you'd meet. You'd also realize that the operations were well conducted and well designed. Uh, I had some ability to- to see the intelligence films that the boys brought back when they were launched to bomb or strafe North Korea and they knew exactly where the ox carts were at night and they would bomb those or strafe them and the film would come back and you'd see dead oxen but you'd also see dead men whom were Chinese that had been directed to go to North Korea and fight with the North Koreans. I think a large percentage of the people that were fighting in North Korea came from China and that was one reason that, uh, the commander of the operation at the time was relieved. He found the Chinese establishing a base in China on the border of North Korea, training those men and then putting them across the border in the hands of the North Koreans and the North Koreans had those boys following the ox carts going down to the front. In the later stages of the Korean war, the trenches had been abandoned because they were easy to hit with aircraft for probably, mostly, an aircraft with props that flew a good bit slower than the jets so they went into a jungle-type warfare where they were divided into gangs- there was no line- and they'd penetrate at night and fight and that's where a good bit of the African American U.S. forces were. Utilized in the, um, they were excellent night fighters, they would be- if they found a group of North Koreans they would penetrate that group on the ground and if they were stable, not walking, they'd reach over their shoulder and touch the collar of the man. They had U.S. emblem on the collar, well they- they knew they were still on there in the area where the U.S. were, but oftentimes they'd be in the North Korean area and if they didn't have that indicator on the collar, well they would shoot 'em.

DICKMEYER: Mhm.

POWELL: And they- they were excellent night fighters.

DICKMEYER: Um, So, do you recall which unit you served in during the war? Which specific unit you were in, do you recall?

POWELL: Well we were in the 7th fleet, but uh, there're divisions and I don't remember, I'd have to go back to my orders to...

DICKMEYER: Oh, okay.

POWELL: ...I got those in my file.

DICKMEYER: Oh, yeah?

POWELL: I should've brought 'em with me.

DICKMEYER: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, maybe we can take a look at those another time. Um, so, could you tell me a little bit about, um, where you were during various parts of this? So, you were often on the ship, right? Working on coding and decoding, but were you also, you said you were also sometimes close to North Korean troops along the line?

POWELL: Well I was...

DICKMEYER: Yeah.

POWELL: ...I was directed to go over there for observation of the, uh, that was when the truce was...

DICKMEYER: Okay.

POWELL: ...introduced and there was no fighting and I was asked to join, I think it was six of us that went over there, and um we spent, y'know, several days. Of course, we had to fly off the ship over there and then they flew us back. But I-I-I really don't remember too much about that because we didn't do very much, just look, see.

DICKMEYER: Mm.

POWELL: And uh, the South Koreans, that ground over there is-is not like our ground, it's just a powder and the wind blows a lot and you-you have a lot of dirt everyday when you- when you start to bed and you need glasses if you- if you want to keep a lot of it out of your eyes and I didn't see many, other than the men that went with me, I didn't know anybody, of course, that I saw.

DICKMEYER: Mhm-hm

POWELL: And uh, they were poor, those people looked at me like they really needed more food.

DICKMEYER: Mm.

POWELL: And I guess the North Koreans probably the same way, but they weren't- they weren't like some other nations were the people are pretty heavy.

DICKMEYER: {laughs} So, did you have much chance to interact with South...

POWELL: What?

DICKMEYER: ...Did you have the opportunity to interact with South Koreans very much or-o or talk with them?

POWELL: No, just the people that guided, that took us to the train line up North.

DICKMEYER: Mhm.

POWELL: And um, I think that was the 48th- 43rd parallel. Course, they could speak English because- I guess learned it- and some of them were- well, they were American employees, Army employees.

DICKMEYER: And you- it sounds like you never had to serve in direct combat, right?

POWELL: {unsure 34:54}

DICKMEYER: You never had to fight directly, yeah?

POWELL: No, no, I was- I was on the ship.

DICKMEYER: That's great. Uh so, I wonder, ya know, how did you keep in touch with your family back at home during this, for the few years you were fighting?

POWELL: It was with my, um, letters.

DICKMEYER: Mhm-hm. Yeah.

POWELL: Once in a while, mother'd send a fruit cake, which I really liked. {laughs}

DICKMEYER: {laughs} Yeah.

POWELL: And everybody else around the ship that could smell it would come visit me.

DICKMEYER: Um, and how did you think that your service impacted your family back home?

POWELL: How it affected?

DICKMEYER: Yeah, how did it affect your family?

POWELL: Well, they were quite concerned about it. I can remember when the first day I boarded the ship, my mother and father were there to wish me good luck and they went to the, it was in San Diego on the island and they had been there for a night and, uh, they came the next day I boarded. I guess we were to be boarded by three, I think I went aboard a little after lunch and of course they were saddened to see me go, which I imagine would be every parent's concern.

DICKMEYER: Do you have any vivid memories about your service that we haven't talked about yet? So anything that sticks out to you?

POWELL: [laughs]

DICKMEYER: Yeah?

POWELL: Uhh, the only thing we haven't talked about is when we went into Japan after a forty-five, fifty day trip on the coast of South and North Korea. We'd go in for repairs and refueling, we were refueled at sea but we refueled there, and there'd be work to do on the ship and other various activities that they'd have to do on shore and we'd spend usually seven or eight days before we'd go back. Well, in my case, we didn't have much communication, if any, to deal with so I had quite a bit of time off if I- if my commander would give me time. But occasionally, I had my golf bag with me and there was a golf course there that had been cut out of rice fields and I'd get to play golf and there were three- three other fellas on the ship that liked to play and we'd get together and do that. And then-

{Phone ringer in background. Cuts off}

POWELL: - in Japan there was a holiday facility the Japanese had, that's not far from the mountain that everybody liked over there, and I'd take a taxi there and spend a long weekend and

it was a nice place to rest, exercise- you could swim. That was uh, we were in Yokosuka, which is from Tokyo about a thirty minute train ride, and I'd go into- I'd go into the capital occasionally, but I didn't- I didn't have much reason to go in there

DICKMEYER: Mhm-hm

POWELL: I wasn't a shopper, but I was a sight seer, I enjoyed seeing different things. During the- during the war we'd- we'd bombed that area, I did go see the atomic bomb sites, Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

DICKMEYER: Mhm.

POWELL: And uh, that was awful, that whole city was just with that one bomb was just eliminated. All the buildings were... they didn't build very strong buildings over there and they were all on the ground.

DICKMEYER: Yeah.

POWELL: And those people, you can understand why the Japanese, after the second bomb, said "say, wait a minute, we're through." It was- it was awful, I think it's probably still awful, I don't know. They must've rebuilt some of that come, but their personal homes were devastated and they had to endure the- the bombing fumes and the results of the- of the bomb. It was hard on their lungs and breathing capacity.

DICKMEYER: Mhm. So I have another question about your service, I was just wondering what kinds of technology were you working with during that?

POWELL: Typing.

DICKMEYER: Yeah, so it was- okay.

POWELL: The, uh, coders, decoders, were large machines and you had to have- you had to have a code in numbers or letters, both, in order to select the parts that you needed to transform them, the language. And, uh, those were always within the message, the message was in Morse code typed out in groups of I believe- groups of- s-s- six or seven letters and you had to find that one and get the code that you needed to put together your machine and then you typed it out and it all came out printed in English, or if you were decoding English into the code, came out in those little squares. That was the biggest item that we had, uh, the rest of it was verbal and radio.

DICKMEYER: Okay. So when your service was starting to come to an end, uh, did you expect you would face any challenges when you went home?

POWELL: [laughs] Oh, I was just happy to get home

DICKMEYER: {laughs}

POWELL: - and I knew I was going to be in the Ranching business, and my dad asked me when I got back if there was any particular thing I'd like to do before I moved- before I finally took over the ranch and of course I told him I'd like to have a month or so just playing golf and resting. [laughs]

DICKMEYER: That's fair, yeah, yeah, yeah.

POWELL: [chuckles] And that's what he let me do.

DICKMEYER: Aw, that's nice. [laughs] Um, so, after this time in the Military, has your conception of the U.S. changed? So earlier, when I asked you about this you mentioned you thought pretty highly of the U.S. military...

POWELL: Well...

DICKMEYER: ...A lot of intelligent men, well designed missions.

POWELL: We have a different nation today than we did then. We had people that were just out of the second war and they had, everybody in the United States, had a job and they did it as well as they possibly could. Today, it appears to me that not everybody, but a lot of the people, are trying to find a way to make a living without doing much and I'm really concerned about it. I often wonder if we were approached today with what I was approached with in 1951 to- if we have men who- who could be put together to do the job a lot of them are doing. The D-Day- I've been reading a good bit about that- and the beaches of Normandy in, uh, France, that was one of the most awful battles that we fought, but it was the one that won the war and if it hadn't been done I don't know if we could've won that war. One thing I think all of our military realized, and I think they realized it before they started, but it's very difficult to win a war if you don't have much transportation to depend on. You have to transport food, and equipment, and armaments to your men after they have been transported and if you have a very long route you have to maintain daily food and armaments for them and that transportation line can be broken. And I think- I think we'd be in bad shape today if we tried to- we'd have to have some really good planning and some really good equipment, which we do have. We have equipment today that would be better than anything we had then, but I'm not sure if we have the people to get the job

done. I just- I hate to think that way, but that is kind of what I have gathered and began to think. I look at the current administration and I just know that if something happened with them, they'd throw their hands up and say "come and get it, boys!" {laughs}

DICKMEYER: Mhm-hm. So, looking back on your own service, how do you feel about that?

POWELL: Well, it was just a service that had to be performed and I- I didn't mind learning what I had to learn and doing what I was asked to do. Um, and I liked the boys that fought, actually fought, in- in World War II. I did, and everybody on my- at least that I knew, did as good a job as they possibly could and that's what- that's what you gotta do when you're in a conflict, that's a live or die kind of a conflict.

DICKMEYER: Yeah, so, that kind of segs into my next question nicely. Do you have any advice for the young men and women who're just starting their military service these days? So you say "just- just do your best", or do you have any other advice?

POWELL: Well today they probably have been voluntarily, uh, trained, they weren't drafted, so they probably have an attitude that- that's good for training. There's a lot of people their age that wouldn't ask for training like that and they have a different attitude, I- I know of some of those.

DICKMEYER: Mhm-hm. So, my last question is just open ended, would you like to share anything else about your service or your experience after you came back?

POWELL: Would I like to what?

DICKMEYER: Share anything else.

POWELL: Oh, share anything else?

DICKMEYER: Yeah, yeah.

POWELL: Well, I'll be thinking about this and I'll probably think of something that I should've said or told or explained, but I don't think of it now.

DICKMEYER: Okay, well then Mr. Powell, thank you for answering my questions.

POWELL: Do you have a card?

DICKMEYER: I do and I will give it to you, but yeah, thank you, uh, for the interview and we'll chat just a little bit after we stop.

POWELL: There's a golf course made out- carved out of rice paddies, and I had a place behind the {unsure 50:00} against the wall of the ship. There was a little place back there where I put my real small golf bag and I sneak- sneak it aboard. Didn't know if I was supposed to have it or not, but I got it aboard and after I did I learned that there are {unsure 50:28} bags. Anyway, when the Catholic preacher got us all together on board we had our little bags and we got off one end of the cart, went out to this golf course and I heard what sounded like crystal in my bag and I just don't have crystal in my bag so when I got to the golf course, the bag had a zipper on it and I unzipped it and looked in there and there were empty gin bottles in there. Well my roommate, being a Yale graduate, and there was another Yale graduate on there, and- and this Yale graduate was my roommate- one of 'em, and I learned that he was- they were drinking their gin at sea which is illegal, I mean they- they could've really gotten in trouble but instead of walking out at night and throwing it over the side they put 'em in my bag.

DICKMEYER: That's rough

POWELL: And when we got to the golf course, I knew that they were in there so three of them went into this little shack where they sell balls and I guess asked to play- I got tee time. Anyway, I ran over to the edge of the golf course in this rice paddy and I rolled my bag up and unzipped it and rolled those bottles out into the rice paddy [laughs] and zipped it back up.

DICKMEYER: Oh my goodness.

POWELL: And- and I joined the other three, well I was so pleased that I was able to do that without having to have them discover that I had gin bottles in my bag.

DICKMEYER: You could've gotten in trouble for that, right?

POWELL: Well I talked to those Yale boys when I got back to the ship and I said, " look boys, it's illegal for you to drink on board, but if you're going to do it, throw your bottles over the side, I don't want 'em in my golf bag." [chuckles]

DICKMEYER: Mhm.

POWELL: It never did happen again, anyway.

DICKMEYER: That's great, oh goodness. [laughs]

POWELL: But I didn't have many of those kinds of experiences. I did enjoy playing golf with the other, uh, three men on board, one of them being a Catholic priest. Well, is there more?



DICKMEYER: Uh, no, you're good, I just need to have you sign some forms.

POWELL: I beg your pardon?

DICKMEYER: I just need to have you sign-

{End of Transcript}