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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 08, 2004

60 Minutes Sneak Preview!

by Michael in New York on 9/08/2004 02:16:00 PM

Here are some advance quotes from Ben Barnes, the former Texas House speaker and Lt. Governor who says he now regrets helping George W. Bush jump the line and get into the Texas Air National Guard ahead of other young men who were also afraid to go to Vietnam but didn't have the family connections that Bush did.

Barnes told interviewer Dan Rather:

Barnes on His Decision to Help George W. Bush and Others Get Into the National Guard:

"I've thought about it an awful lot and you walk through the Vietnam memorial, particularly at night like I did a few months ago and, I tell you, you'll think about it a long time.... I don't think that I had any right to have the power that I had to choose who was going to Vietnam and who was not going to Vietnam. That's power. In some instances, when I looked at those names, I was maybe determining life or death and that's not a power that I want to have...."

Barnes on his Feelings of Regret:

"It would be very easy for me to sit here and tell you, Dan, that I had wrestled with this and lost a lot of sleep at night, but I wouldn't be telling you the truth. I... not eagerly, but readily, was willing to call and get those young men into the National Guard that were friends of mine and supporters of mine.... Reflecting back, I'm very sorry about it, but you know, it happened and it was because of my ambition, my youth and my lack of understanding. But it happened and it's not... something I'm necessarily proud of."

The piece airs tonight at 8 p.m. on CBS.



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