

Dishwasher Module
The Kitchen Debate

Transcript:

Announcer: In July 1959, Vice President Richard Nixon met Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev at the U.S. Trade and Cultural Fair in Moscow. In front of a new color TV camera at the Ampex Corporation Booth, they debated the benefits of their respective systems—capitalism and communism.

Nixon: The lights for color have to be very bright. Very high.

[Khrushchev's translator relays Nixon's statement]

Khrushchev: Why do you look so angry? You look as if you want to fight.

[Translators convey Khrushchev's sarcastic statement]

Nixon: That's right!

Khrushchev: And Nixon was once a lawyer? Now he's nervous.

Nixon: Oh yes, he still is [a lawyer].

Russian Translator: Please tell us what your general impression is of the exhibition.

Khrushchev: In speaking about impressions, it is now obvious that the builders haven't managed to complete their construction and the exhibits are not yet in place. Therefore it is hard to comment, because what we see is the construction process rather than the exhibits we'd like to see. But I think that everything will be in place in a few hours and it will be a good exhibition.

Regarding our wishes, we wish America the very best to show its goods, products, and abilities—great abilities—and we will gladly look and learn. Not only will we learn, but we also can show, and do show, you what we do. This will contribute to improved relations between our countries and among all countries to ensure peace throughout the entire world. We want only to live in peace and friendship with Americans because we are the most powerful nations. If we are friends then other countries will be friends. If someone tries to be a little bellicose, then we can tug his ear a little and say, "Don't you dare." We can't be at war. These are the times of nuclear weapons. A fool may start this war and a wise man won't be able to end that war. Hence these are our guiding principles in policy, domestic and international. We wish you success in demonstrating America's capabilities, and then we will be impressed.

How long has American existed? Is it 300 years? One hundred and fifty years of independence. Then we'll say America has existed 150 years and here is its level. We have existed almost 42 years; in another seven years we will be on the same level as America. And then we'll move on ahead. When we pass by you along the way we'll greet you amicably like this [Khrushchev waves comically]. Then, if you like, we can stop and invite you to catch up.

The question of social structure and well being—you want to do that under capitalism? Well, live as you wish. It is your business. That's a domestic issue and doesn't concern us. We can feel sorry for you because you don't understand. Well then, live as you like.

[Khrushchev shakes Nixon's hand]

Khrushchev: I'd like to say what is most important today. We are happy that Vice President, Mr. Nixon, has arrived in Moscow for the opening of the exhibition. I personally express gratitude, and on my colleagues' behalf, that Mr. President has sent me a message, which I haven't read yet, but I believe in advance that he sends warm wishes. I express gratitude to the messenger, and I hope you enjoy your visit.

If—and I can't avoid saying "if"—that's your doing, because if your Congress hadn't adopted such a rash decision this would have been a marvelous visit. But you yourselves have stirred up the water. Why did you do it? What on earth happened? Which black cat crossed your path and clouded your minds, causing you to adopt an unwise decision? But that's your business. We're not interfering in your domestic matters.

Off-Camera Speaker: Mr. Vice President, from what you have seen of our exhibition, how do you think it is going to impress the people of the Soviet Union?

Nixon: Well I have not had much of an opportunity to see it yet, but I have seen our great number of photographers as has of course the Present and the Prime Minister. I think though, from what I have seen, that it's a very effective exhibit it's one that will cause great deal of interest. I might say that this morning...very early in the morning went down to visit a market where the farmers from various outskirts of the city bring in their items to sell. As I was talking to them, several of them came up and asked me if I knew where they could get tickets for the exposition. I had none with me, but I did make arrangements to send some back to the man who was apparently the manager of the market. I can only say there was a great deal of interest among these people—who were workers and farmers, etcetera. I would imagine that the exhibition from that standpoint will therefore be a considerable success.

As far as Mr. Khrushchev's comments just now, they are in the tradition we learned to expect from him of speaking extemporaneously and frankly whenever he has an opportunity. And I am glad that he did so on our color television at such a time as this. Of course later on we will both have the opportunity to speak this evening. Consequently I will not comment on the various subjects that he raised at this point.

Except to say this: this Mr. Khrushchev is the...one of the most advanced developments in communication that we have, at least, in our country. It is color television, of course. It is, as you will see in a few minutes when we will see the very picture of your speech and my comments that has been transmitted. It's one of the best means of communication that has been developed; and I can only say that if this competition, which you have just described so effectively, in which you plan to outstrip us particularly in the production of consumer goods... If this competition is to do the best for both of our peoples and for people everywhere, there must be a free exchange of ideas. There are some instances where you may be ahead of us. For example in the development of the thrust of your rockets for the investigation of outer space, there may be some instances—for example, color television—where we're ahead of you. But in order of both of us to—

Khrushchev: [interrupts] What do you mean, ahead? No, never.

Nixon: [resumes speaking] for both of us to benefit. For both of us to benefit. You see, you never concede anything!

Khrushchev: We've beaten you in rockets, and in this technology [points at camera] we're ahead of you, too!

Nixon: Wait till you see the picture.

Khrushchev: Good!

Off-Camera Speaker: I think it would be interesting for you to know, this program is now being recorded on Ampex color-tape and it can be played back immediately and you can't tell that it isn't a live program.

Khrushchev: Good! Soviet engineers came and were impressed by what they saw. I also join the awe of our Soviet engineers. The fact that Americans are smart people is something we've always believed and known because foolish people couldn't raise the economy to the level they have achieved. But we too are not fools swatting at flies with our nostrils. In 42 years we have taken such a step! We're worthy partners! So let's compete! Let's compete! Who can produce the most goods for the people? That system is better and will win.

Nixon: Let's have far more communication and exchange in this very area that we speak of. We should hear you more on your television; you should hear us more on yours.

Khrushchev: Let's do it this way. Of course we can consider television, but with television you can speak here with no one present and then the tape will be put away on a shelf. Let's do it this way: you speak before our people and we'll speak before yours. This will be far better. They'll see and sense us. I'm setting a forum for you for the future!

Nixon: You must not be afraid of ideas.

Khrushchev: We keep telling you, don't *you* be afraid of ideas! We have nothing to fear. We've already escaped from that situation, and now we don't fear ideas.

Nixon: Well then let's have more exchange of them. We all agree on that, right?

Khrushchev: Good. [Khrushchev turns to his translator and asks:] What do we agree to?

Nixon: Now let's go look at our pictures.

Khrushchev: I agree, but I want to make sure what I have agreed to. Do I have the right? I know I'm dealing with a very good lawyer. So, I want to hold up my coalminer's dignity so the coalminers would say, "That's our man, he doesn't yield to an American lawyer!"

Nixon: No question about that.

Khrushchev: You are an advocate of capitalism; I am an advocate of communism! So let's compete!

Nixon: All that I can say from the way you talk and the way you dominate the conversation, you would have made a good lawyer yourself! But, what I mean is this: here you can see the type of tape, which will transmit this very conversation immediately, and this indicates the possibilities of increasing communication. And this increase in communication, will teach us some things, and it will teach you some things, too. Because, after all, you don't know everything.

Khrushchev: If I don't know everything, then you don't know anything about communism, except fear.

Nixon [to translator]: What's that?

Translator: If I don't know anything, then you don't know anything about communism except fear.

Nixon: I don't get the translation.

Second Translator: If I don't know something, then you don't know anything about communism except fear.

Nixon: Oh! [chuckles]

Khrushchev: We are arguing on unequal ground. The camera is yours, you are speaking English, and I am speaking Russian. Your English words are being taped and will be shown and heard; but what I am saying is being interpreted only in your ear, and therefore the American people won't hear what I've said. These are unequal conditions!

Nixon: There isn't a day that goes by in the United States when we can't read everything that you say in the Soviet Union, when you're not fully reported in what you said in Poland. In fact, when Mr. Kozlov was traveling in California talking in terms of—as very properly as you have—about peace, you were talking somewhat the other way and it was reported in our press very extensively. And I can assure you, never make a statement here that you don't think we read in the United States.

Khrushchev: So then let it be so! I'll catch you on your words. Your words are taped. Translate my words, then we'll watch the tape with the English translation of what I've said to you in Russian.

Nixon: Oh, in the U.S.

Khrushchev: No no, here from this TV.

Nixon: It's done! It's done. That's right.

Khrushchev: No, the tape is recording the English version, and you'll be showing the English version. I would like that my words should also be translated into English. Do you give me your word?

Nixon: We have all of these recorders here, we have—

Khrushchev: No, do you give me your word?

Nixon: Every word that you have said has been taken down, and I will promise you that every word that you have said here will be reported in the United States, they will see you say it on television.

Khrushchev: But I have my doubts. Therefore, I want you, the Vice President, to give your word that my speech will also be recorded in English and broadcast. Will it?

Nixon: Absolutely. Certainly it will. Yes, right, right. And in the same token, everything that I say will be recorded and translated and will be carried all over the Soviet Union. That's a fair bargain.

[Khrushchev shakes Nixon's hand]

Khrushchev: Everything will be translated into Russian! We're businessmen, we came together on this immediately!

[The two men and their translators walk offstage]

Source:

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