

FOREWORD

Transcript Warning:

All written transcripts are imperfect abstracts of spoken conversation. Variations in sound quality and in the aural acuity of listeners can and do produce wide variations in what is heard. Even though transcripts may be prepared at great effort and with great care, many points of ambiguity are inevitable, and erroneous interpretations from transcripts are always possible. Therefore, to ensure full confidence in any and all quotations from the presidential recordings, users are strongly urged to check all transcript renditions against the actual tape recordings before publication.

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Punctuation:

The following conventions are used throughout the transcripts:

- * * * To indicate a pause in the recording while the speaker listens to the person speaking at the other end of the telephone. Used when only one side of a telephone conversation is recorded.
- [?] When the transcriber is not certain of what is said on the recording.
- To indicate a sentence which the speaker trails off without completing it.
- . . . When a speaker is interrupted before a sentence is completed.
- _____ To indicate the speaker's emphasis.
- [] Used to enclose editorial comments of the transcriber such as */Meeting appears to be breaking up/* or */Several speakers speak at once and none of the words are intelligible./*

Names:

The first time a name is mentioned, the full name is provided whenever it is known. "JFK" and "RFK" are used for President Kennedy and Robert Kennedy, respectively. When the identity of a speaker is unknown, "Speaker?" is used; when the identification of a speaker is uncertain, a question mark follows the name. The heading of each transcript gives the names of all participants listed in the President's Appointment Books as scheduled to attend the meeting.

Preparation:

These electronic documents were created from transcripts available in the audiovisual research room in the John F. Kennedy Library. The transcripts were scanned using optical character recognition and the resulting text files were proofread against the original transcripts. Some formatting changes were made.

Dictabelt 8B, Item 8B5

March 2, 1963, 10:32 PM

RFK: Hello. Jack?

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: The thing, of course, to remember on this . . . I don't know how much you're gonna get into it, but the thing to remember on this . . . is this, uh, what you did on that day, Tuesday, for Wednesday, was something that was added to the plan.

JFK: Yeah. Oh, yeah.

RFK: And not something that was taken away or was in . . . a plan that was made inadequate by some deficiency in . . . in, uh, withdrawal of something . . .

JFK: Yeah. That's right.

RFK: That you added that on Tuesday . . .

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: And it's never been planned before and this . . . plan specifically said this wouldn't be done.

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: It was something that you added in order to help.

JFK: You heard about, uh . . .

RFK: But I, you know, if somebody's gonna say something in the Senate about it . . .

JFK: Yeah. Well, you know how they are. Make everything look lousy these days. You know, Rowland Evans said that he talked to Dirksen. Dirksen said, "I don't quite get this." He said."/2 words?/ . . . What? [laughing] What, you know, just say I don't know, they . . . I think the Kennedys are planning something to trap us into this thing [laughter] 'cause they're pretty smart down there."

RFK: Well, that's what we have . . . We haven't figured how to close the trap yet.

JFK: Yeah. That's right. We haven't quite figured out . . .

RFK: Uh, well, we'll learn it.

JFK: It just shows you, boy, what that press is, doesn't it?

RFK: But, God. Still, the poll.

JFK: What?

RFK: What . . . you're down to seventy percent?

JFK: When?

RFK: Huh?

JFK: When was this?

RFK: The Gallup Poll.

JFK: When was that?

RFK: Oh, about two days ago?

JFK: No. I didn't see it.

RFK: Yeah. It went seventy-six percent to seventy.

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: But, with your popularity seventy percent now, . . .

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: . . . you'd break fifty-fifty with a Republican.

JFK: What?

RFK: Seventy percent . . . Eighteen percent are against you.

JFK: Yeah?

RFK: Well, I mean, I don't get what the . . . the press must be doing you some good.

JFK: Then what, you'd break fifty-fifty?

RFK: Do fifty-fifty with a Republican.

JFK: Oh, you mean on approval/disapproval?

RFK: Yeah. And then the, uh, independents.

JFK: I didn't see that poll. Was this in the Post?

RFK: I don't know what paper. I read it going up in the plane Wednesday or Thursday.

JFK: I see.

RFK: You think you got troubles, you ought to see what's happening to Nelson Rockefeller.

JFK: Why? What?

RFK: Well, you know, all the bars . . . They call every drink a Nelson cocktail ... a Rockefeller cocktail. Everything's the same except it's fifteen percent more.

JFK: Do they really?

RFK: Oh, and all . . . You walk along the streets, and out in the front . . .

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: . . . it says, "Come in and buy a Nelson . . . a Rockefeller cocktail." Everything costs fifteen percent more. In every bar. How would you like that following you around?

JFK: Yeah, but . . . and have . . . He's lucky those papers aren't publishing. . . .

RFK: Well, then, did you see the story about him in, uh . . .

JFK: Wall Street Journal?

RFK: Wall Street Journal. That's not a complete plus.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

RFK: I think he's really having his problems . . .

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: . . . troubles. You're not. I've seen you on television.

JFK: We've dropped six percent in a month, have we?

RFK: Since January.

JFK: Oh, since that Congress has been back.

RFK: Yeah, and to get a little bit more partisan, but imagine seventy percent?

JFK: *[words missing]*

RFK: Better than you were in 'sixty.

JFK: OK.

RFK: Righto.

[phone hangs up]