

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.

Copyright:

The donors assigned copyright that they might have in the recordings to the United States; however, copyright of the donors does not extend beyond statements uttered by John F. Kennedy, his minor children, and the donors themselves. Statements uttered by officials of the United States government in the course of their duties are considered to be in the public domain. Users of this material are cautioned, however, that not all persons recorded were members of the Kennedy family or government officials. A number of the people recorded were, at the time of recording, private citizens. Therefore, those intending to quote from this material beyond the accepted limits of fair use are cautioned to determine the copyright implications of any intended publication.

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 22A, Item 22A4

June 18, 1963^A

JFK: I was hoping I would get a chance to see you out in Honolulu, but I heard that you weren't able to get out there. I heard you weren't able to get out there.

Thompson:¹ [This is certainly an honor to talk to you?]

JFK: I wondered if there's anything that, uh, we could do up here, I could do, that, uh, uh, this situation I'm concerned about, 'cause I, I hate to, uh. . . . I'm trying to, uh. . . . In my message I'm sending up there on Wednesday, we're gonna try to urge 'em . . .

Thompson: Uh-huh.

JFK: . . . as much, easy as we can while the Congress takes a look at it. But I was wondering whether there's anything that we could do to make the situation less, uh, critical down there?

Thompson: Yes, sir, here is, here's the only thing I know. The Associated Press man was in this morning and I told him what a wonderful fellow you were. Of course, any other things you hear about it, don't pay any attention, because I, I really think the world of you . . .

JFK: Well, I appreciate . . .

Thompson: . . . and I tell people that and I know you're a marvelous man and have a terrible job, an impossible job.

JFK: Uh.

Thompson: The only thing, uh, that I know is that if you could some way or other ask the people in your own way--I mean, I know you've got your problems a hundredfold more than I have--but if you could just urge Congress to let the courts, uh, take, take the, uh, I mean to go through the courts and you not have marches and intimidation. Now you take down here in Jackson, if you don't mind me quickly telling you . . .

¹ Allen C. Thompson, mayor of Jackson, Mississippi.

A. Correct date, according to telephone records although JFK refers to meeting with clergy "today" and meeting was June 17, 1963.

JFK: Sure.

Thompson: . . . we have frankly almost everything under control. We have done, uh, what I told the merchants, I've been. . . . It's entirely up to them if they want to sell to whites, sell to Negroes, or [words unintelligible], or anything in the world, it's up to them and I'm going to protect them with every force that's in my command.

JFK: Um.

Thompson: But, uh, I, I want an order, a court order . . .

Speaker ?: Yes.

Thompson: . . . if anybody comes into this and you've got to do it at 'em, you've got to do it.

Speaker ?: [Words unintelligible].

Thompson: And frankly my people here, oh, have come around to it. I'm just amazed at the fine Negro leaders that called me just in the last day or two. Who have called and said, last night, just last night, [words unintelligible] he's a fine fellow [words unintelligible] . . .

JFK: Right.

Thompson: . . . and said, "We just don't want to put up with this." See, we have our people going through there, we have put our policemen protecting everybody who comes in. They have threatened to bomb me and shoot me and, oh, I don't care.

JFK: Yeah.

Thompson: [Words unintelligible]. But anyhow, if there was just any way you, because people will listen . . .

JFK: Right.

Thompson: . . . if you could just work it into it and go on and say what you believe like you did during the, the [spring?], uh, for a [time?] marches, demonstrations, intimidations won't work. You could [uh, in other words?] all these things these people wanted, they're [forgetting?] most of 'em, but they're getting 'em

through the courts. And there's a different atmosphere entirely. In other words, people are sick and tired . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Thompson: . . . but we've got a tough job of selling all of these things.

JFK: That's right. I understand that.

Thompson: *[Just a word?]* out of you, uh. . . .

JFK: I, well, now what about it, mayor, uh, I talked to some of the clergymen who were up here today from Jackson.

Thompson: Yes.

JFK: And, uh, uh . . .

Thompson: Well, *[words unintelligible]* . . .

JFK: . . . I'll tell you where . . .

Thompson: Let me interrupt for just a second. The ones that you talked to probably doesn't like *[me?]*. There are a lot of them down here that like me. *[Words unintelligible]* . . .

JFK: Well, now let me tell, I talked. . . . Yeah, I talked. . . . I got, Bishop Allin² was here . . .

Thompson: Well, a very fine man . . .

JFK: . . . Bishop Gerow³ . . .

Thompson: Oh, wonderful.

JFK: . . . and Rev. Whitney⁴ were in here.

² Bishop (Rt. Rev.) John Maury Allin.

³ Bishop Richard O. Gerow.

⁴ Rev. S. Leon Whitney.

Thompson: Rev. Whitney doesn't like me, although [I haven't really ever met him?]. [Laughter.] But in, uh, [you got to go ahead with it, I know?], but, uh, the only thing if you could just. . . . People listen to you and if you would just tell 'em to stay out of this because they're using these young children . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Thompson: . . . Mr. President, and that's where your trouble comes.

JFK: Well, now what I, when I talked to them there seem to be two or three things that didn't seem to me to be too unreasonable. One was this question of policemen.

Thompson: Oh, I have got that.

JFK: Yeah.

Thompson: I was, I was so disappointed this morning I nearly died. I had two all picked out that I've been working on for two or three years . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Thompson: . . . and they were just ready to go and they didn't come up. And then, uh, the other thing on truck drivers, I was ready to do that and then all of a sudden my boys picked up on that. But I'm going to handle that. And, wait a minute, there was one other thing.

JFK: Well, now, there was the cross guards.

Thompson: Well, we got those all picked out.

JFK: Yeah.

Thompson: All picked out and ready to go. I mean there's just not any. . . . That's it.

JFK: Yeah.

Thompson: We have answered every other thing like I told 'em except the biracial committee, and I just can't do that right now.

JFK: Now, what about, uh, if the, uh, here was a . . . What about if a, if, uh, let me talk to. . . I'm gonna talk to. . . I understand Rev. Smith, is he, is he the stud duck down there?

Thompson: R. L. T. Smith. He's not the power. Haughton, H-A-U-G-H-T-O-N, is the one that causes problems and he's real smart and they look to him a lot.

JFK: Houghton, H-O-U-G-H-T-O-N?

Thompson: . . . G-H-T-O-N.

JFK: Yeah.

Thompson: Uh, Sanders, I. S. Sanders, is up there with them. I. S. Sanders is supposed to be the head of the thing.

JFK: Reverend. Is he a reverend?

Thompson: No.

JFK: He's a professor.

Thompson: Uh . . .

[Continued on Dictabelt reel 22B.]