

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 8B2

March 2, 1963

[begins in mid-conversation]

JFK: . . . yeah, well, that was all right.

Bundy¹: And that is about right, it seems to me.

JFK: What about the electronic?

Bundy: I don't know what that is. Uh, it's . . . It has nothing to do with the difference . . . We do have . . . we do have that kind of thing going on, but they are two type . . . quite different reconnaissance missions.

JFK: Yeah.

Bundy: So that there's just no connection between the two.

JFK: I thought someone . . .

Bundy: You want someone to say that?

JFK: Well, I thought we, uh, . . . The only thing, I, uh, . . .

Bundy: I would rather not talk about those things. They are very sensitive.

JFK: That's right. I agree. Well, I would like to have somebody . . .

Bundy: Point that out?

JFK: . . . point out that whatever . . . whether the story is accurate or inaccurate, it is the sort of thing that is, uh, . . . Senator . . . Secre-- . . . Senator Goldwater . . .

Bundy: Helpful to the enemy.

JFK: It's helpful to the enemy, and the last thing that Senator Goldwater oughta . . . ought to do is use information that, uh, . . . that is, uh, . . .

¹ McGeorge Bundy

Bundy: Well, now, do you think that is something for Mansfield to do, . . .

JFK: Mansfield won't do it.

Bundy: . . . or do you think that is something for McNamara to do?

JFK: What I would have to do is have some high, uh, Defense Department spokesman said that Senator Goldwater seems to be . . . , yeah, . . . It isn't accurate, I guess, is it? There's no . . .

Bundy: Is it . . . Well, in the sense that these things exist it's accurate, Mr. President. In the sense that it has anything to do with, uh, what you would do with the low-level flight, it's nonsense. They're two entirely different missions.

JFK: Yeah. Well, I suppose, uh, everybody's known that we have got these electronic planes, unfortunately, . . .

Bundy: Well, I don't care much . . . no, it is really not known, and one never likes to talk about that particular topic. So that there is every reason for making a shocked noise and . . . and, uh, why don't I get Bob McNamara's people to do it?

JFK: Well, uh, they . . . if just somebody would say that it's a . . . , uh, . . .

Bundy: Misfort-- . . . it's unfortunate to have this aid and comfort given to, uh, . . .

JFK: Well, not aid and comfort, Just say it's . . . uh, it's the sort of thing which is . . . involves intelligence, which is the last thing that ought to be discussed this way. You'd . . . and it's [1 word?] Senator Goldwater . . .

Bundy: This kind of disclosure is helpful to the people in Cuba, you know.

JFK: Well, the only thing, I suppose, is that confirms it, doesn't it?

Bundy: Well, no, that's . . . I mean, discussion of it can only be helpful with . . .

JFK: . . . to the . . . to our enemies, and Senator Goldwater, who's, uh, certainly should, as a member of the Armed Services Committee, should know that. Couldn't some anonymous Defense Department spokesman say that?

Bundy: Yeah. Yeah. I think so.

[phone hangs up]