

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:

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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 26D, Item 26D2

August 23, 1963

JFK: Hello, Fred?

Dutton:¹ Yes, sir.

JFK: You're checking on these reservation-, I mean these things that Fulbright said he told his staff to get in touch with the department to see if there's anything that could be put in, in the way of interpretations that would meet some of the problems of these fellows?

Dutton: Yes, we are.

JFK: I see.

Dutton: We're trying to write them, uh, with some separate documents, uh, in other than reservation language, which would try to clarify it and could be used in the committee report but still not in any way delay or, or be attached to the treaty itself.

JFK: I see. Okay, fine. Uh, yeah. I think that, uh, of course Heller², I mean Teller³ hasn't been much help but otherwise I guess we're all right.

Dutton: No, I, I think we're all right, uh. . . . I talked with Fulbright⁴ yesterday and he said he thought we might be down to 85 or so, but . . .

JFK: Um.

Dutton: . . . he didn't think that it'd made any real impression on us.

JFK: Okay, good. Thank you.

¹ Frederick G. Dutton, assistant secretary of state for congressional relations.

² Walter W. Heller, chairman, Council of Economic Advisers.

³ Dr. Edward Teller, physicist.

⁴ J. William Fulbright, senator from Arkansas.