

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 9B

Item 9B1

[Continued from Belt 9A, Item 9A6.]

JFK: *[Laughs.]* I think that's the only thing that. . . . I mean he isn't going to. . . .

RFK: Yeah, I don't think Marquis Childs was too impressed.

JFK: Yeah?

RFK: I mean, the way he talked, he just said that that's where the stuff's coming from and that, uh, they're sticking it to you, the administration. So he just wanted to tell us . . .

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: . . . that that's going on.

JFK: Well, why don't you tell John that Wednesday night.

RFK: Okay.

JFK: Good.

[Telephone disconnects]

Dictabelt 9B

Item 9B2

March 4, 1963

JFK: . . . or any other operations . . .

Voice 1: I see your point.
[Bundy?¹]

JFK: . . . of the CIA in this decade . . .

Voice 1: Uh-huh.

JFK: . . . Guatemala or any place else . . .

Voice 1: Yeah. Yeah.

JFK: . . . just for our own record in the last ten years.

Bundy: Uh, Mr. President, I talked to Bobby . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Bundy: . . . he thinks it's very important to deal gently with John McCone and that we don't need to. . . . I, I also talked to McCone and he's in a relatively cooperative mood at the moment, I think.

JFK: Yeah.

Bundy: He claims that he told Childs all this himself.

JFK: Yeah, I figured he did, yeah.

Bundy: And did it [laughs or coughs] because Childs was given the note, told about the honeymoon telegrams by three or four senators. McCone is getting told by the Stuart Symington's of the world that we are out to get him.

¹ McGeorge Bundy?

JFK: Yeah.

Bundy: And, uh, he believes all that kind of crap unfortunately.

JFK: Is that what he said? How do you know that? Is that what Bobby sa . . .

Bundy: He told Bobby.

JFK: That what? That who's out to get him?

Bundy: That, that the senators were telling him that they, that we were out to get him and that that was how that thing about the ten-day fight occurred in the story on me in Newsweek. That that must have come from us because, uh, we must have been in control of that story and Newsweek is well known to be our journal and so forth and so on.

JFK: Well, actually how many days fight was that?

Bundy: Two-day fight and it was settled, uh . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Bundy: . . . by [Roswell] Gilpatric.

JFK: Yeah.

Bundy: McCone was on the West Coast.

JFK: Yeah.

Bundy: You're right. What happened was he came back that Sunday and then he went out again because his stepson was killed.

JFK: Yeah.

Bundy: And that's why he was away . . .

JFK: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Bundy: . . . on Monday. But he's, he's just fantastically sensitive and he believes that there are wolves in every woods.

JFK: Yeah.

Bundy: And I am not sure that the way to straighten that out isn't for you to say something nice about him at a press conference soon.

JFK: Okay.

Bundy: Right.

JFK: Fine.

[Telephone disconnects]

Dictabelt 9B

Item 9B3

March 4, 1963

JFK: . . . [word missing] are you familiar with that?

Sylvester²: Yeah, I have a, have it right in front of me.

JFK: Okay. What did Gerrity [Thomas P. Gerrity?]. . . . What did Gerrity go on to say about that? Did he. . . . He quoted Gerrity. Is that an accurate quote? "We actually went into high gear to support the Cuban plan the tenth of October. Nine days later all essential support for the first seven days of operation were in place in Florida."

Sylvester: Apparently he had something like. . . . Here's the answer we are, uh, I was just about to take down to the newsroom that we've worked up here.

JFK: Yeah.

Sylvester: "The Air Force movement of supplies to support the Cuban contingency plans was not based on any advance information about Soviet missiles in Cuba and Representative Arends" [Leslie C. Arends] "knows it. General Gerrity's own testimony made it clear that these supply movements were the results of a continuous review of our Cuban contingency plans. As General LeMay" [Curtis E. LeMay] "pointed out to Mr. Arends following his questions about General Gerrity's testimony, 'We had no more intelligence than anyone else or no more idea than anyone else that the Cuban operation was coming off. The reinforcement of our air defenses in the southeast U.S. had, in fact, been going on for several weeks prior to October 10th.'"

JFK: Yeah, that was just that one, uh, squadron, wasn't it?

Sylvester: You remember Ros Gilpatric [Roswell L. Gilpatric], uh, we sent a Navy squadron down, uh, to Key West?

JFK: Is that what he is referring to?

Sylvester: Well, he's not, but that's what we're referring to in that last sentence. In other words . . .

²Arthur Sylvester, Assistant Secretary of Defense (public Affairs).

JFK: I think you ought to lead with LeMay. Just say that, uh, Congressman Arends, uh, knows that the statement he made at St. Petersburg is untrue and, uh, that General LeMay, uh, stated, uh, subsequent to Lt. General Gerrity at a meeting at which Congressman Arends was present that, uh, the, uh . . .

Sylvester: We had no more . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Sylvester: . . . intelligence than . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Sylvester: . . . anyone else or no more idea than anyone else.

JFK: Yeah, put that right at the top and then say, there was, some supplies to which Lt. General Gerrity were moved, uh, were because of a, put into Cuba, uh, into southern Florida because of the military build-up in, in, uh, Cuba and were unrelated, and were not the result of any knowledge about missiles.

Sylvester: Now let me start with, The time that, uh, we . . .

JFK: Yeah. Okay.

Sylvester: . . . the chief explanation that we made were the reinforcement of our air defenses . . .

JFK: That's correct.

Sylvester: . . . in the southeast United States. That what we . . .

JFK: That's right. But, which Congressman Arends. . . . All this Congressman Arends knew very well and it's regrettable, uh, that he did not, uh, explain it, uh, in Florida, that he chose to give a different explanation in Florida.

Sylvester: All right. I'll just draw up. . . . I'll redo. . . .

JFK: Yeah. Better do that quickly though.

Sylvester: Adam, Adam Yarmolinsky did this one in the short [word missing].

JFK: Yeah. I think LeMay is the place to lead with though.

Sylvester: But, I'll change this around. I think you're right.

JFK: Yeah. Okay.

Sylvester: [Words missing], Mr. President.

[Telephone disconnects.]

Dictabelt 9B

Item 9B4

Al: . . . cut.

JFK: Yeah.

Al: But the, uh, the, uh, the, the big, uh, miss that I made is Lawford [Peter Lawford] had already talked to Steve Trilling.

JFK: Yeah.

Al: So that when I got to Warner [Jack L. Warner], Warner said, "Well," he says, "you know where this is coming from?" And I said, "Well, I know the president and his family are, are, are very concerned about this." And he said, "Well," he says, "it's coming from Lawford because Lawford already talked to Trilling."

JFK: Who's Trilling?

Al: Trilling is Warner's number one boy.

JFK: Yeah, yeah.

Al: So Peter had already talked to Trilling . . .

JFK: Yeah, well I told him not to.

Al: . . . and dis-, delayed some of the impact that, uh, I got . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Al: . . . by putting your message in.

JFK: Yeah.

Al: However, I will keep following them and, uh, keep you advised.

JFK: Well, they know what they're doing, but I do think, uh, myself that 2 minutes, 2 hours and 20 minutes for that kind of a picture is pretty long. Of course, they all get to think it's a work of art and they can't change anything.

Al: [Laughs.]

JFK: But, uh, that seems like a long night and, uh, there's no doubt Pat felt it.

Al: [Laughs.] Right. Well, we'll, we'll keep, uh, chiseling away on him and I think we can get him to cut some of . . .

JFK: Can he get somebody out there to look at it that he's got confidence in?

Al: What?

JFK: Can he get somebody out there, uh, to look at it that he has confidence in?

Al: You mean some, an objective viewpoint?

JFK: Yeah, some fellow who just, uh, knows something about movies.

Al: Well, unfortunately by this time he has shown it to enough people that have, uh, patted him on the back. You know, the old Hollywood yes man.

JFK: Yeah.

Al: And, of course, some of his hard-headed distributor people have looked at it and, uh, they're usually, uh, uh, pretty damn objective in their comments . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Al: . . . and they have said it was good and, uh, so he's kind of got his neck bowed right now.

JFK: Yeah.

Al: He feels that he's got a good product.

JFK: Yeah.

Al: But we'll a . . .

JFK: Well, he has got a good product, it's just a question of whether there's too much of it. Well, in any case, that's his judgment finally.

Al: We'll keep working on it.

JFK: Okay, good, Al.

Al: Fine, bye. *[Repeats.]*

Dictabelt 9B

Item 9B5

JFK: Hello.

Wirtz³: Hello, Mr. President.

JFK: Yes, oh, ho- . . .

Wirtz: This New York newspaper thing I think is about to break.

JFK: Is it?

Wirtz: And yet we've got to handle it at this, uh, press conference in terms of what people know and I've got to tell you, uh, this personally. Uh, the situation is that there'll be a meeting at 12 o'clock this noon, at which there is some real reason to think, uh, they're going to get, uh, over, the hump as far as Bob's concerned. In the meantime, just to make this fast, seems to me there are three questions you may be asked. One is whether there's progress on it and the situation is such you can well say yes on that.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: Second, are you going to step in if the talks up there fail?

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: It seems to me the answer to that is, uh, you don't think they will fail and you're certainly not going to assume it. The hardest question is whether, or the most likely question is whether you think the mayor ought to make recommendations to the parties even though they may not want them? I should think your answer to that would be that, uh, you indicated earlier such a third-party proposal may be, uh, advisable. Uh, if he feels, uh, in his, uh, mediation that it's a good thing, you would think it's a, you would still, you would certainly support that conclusion.

JFK: Then I won't, uh, get into any criticism of any of the groups?

Wirtz: None at all.

³ C. Willard Wirtz

JFK: Right.

Wirtz: None at all.

JFK: Well, what about the Post publishing, do I say anything about that? No. No.

Wirtz: Let's see, I think you just stay . . .

JFK: No.

Wirtz: . . . completely away from it.

JFK: That's right.

Wirtz: But it broke pretty much about 1:30 this morning.

JFK: Who's, who's surrendering?

Wirtz: Um, it's a, it's a pretty hard dose for the . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: . . . publishers.

JFK: Is it?

Wirtz: Yeah, it's . . .

JFK: And Powers [Bertram A. Powers] is really the winner?

Wirtz: Oh, pretty substantially.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: It'll come to about, uh, 3 to 4 percent even excluding the consideration of the hours.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: They're going to get their hours. It'll be on a three year basis.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: And it'll amount to about five dollars a year increase plus the hours.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: A little more than that. And I . . .

JFK: What could they, what could they have gotten without a strike, about three dollars?

Wirtz: Without a strike?

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: Um . . .

JFK: [Word missing]

Wirtz: . . . yes.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: Yeah, compared with the five they could have gotten. . . . Well, no, nearer four.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: Yeah. Between three and four, three and a . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: . . . half as a matter of fact.

JFK: Okay, good . . .

Wirtz: So they've gotten that, but it'll have to be played soft because none of this can get out . . .

JFK: Right.

Wirtz: . . . and there's some suspicion that some of our people over there have been talking with the publishers more than is a good thing.

JFK: Our people where?

Wirtz: Well, I mean around the government. I don't know where.

JFK: Yeah. Right.

Wirtz: Now you may, you may get a report from Bill Haddad, too.

JFK: He's trying to get me.

Wirtz: I think it's probably to confirm, uh, the fact that, uh, Walter Thayer is now apparently willing to go along with this.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: The publishers are still split. But in any event, I've talked this morning with Ted [Theodore W. Kheel] and with Bob Wagner [Robert F. Wagner]. . .

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: . . . and I think what I've given you is right.

JFK: Right. Okay, thanks a lot.

Wirtz: Fine, sure.

[Telephone disconnects.]

Dictabelt 9B

Item 9B6

Voice 1: [Word missing/

Lincoln⁴: Yes.

JFK: Hello.

Voice 1: He, he is sending something over to, uh, [word missing/]. Would you clear it for us at the gate, please?

Lincoln: I surely will.

Voice 1: It's coming to Mrs. Lincoln from Mr. [William/ Haddad and the little girl is on the way there now. Her name is Miss Carole C-A-R-O-L-E Jensen.

⁴ Evelyn Lincoln

Dictabelt 9B

Item 9B7

Voice 1: [Word missing/

JFK: Get Dr. Burkley, please.

Voice 1: Yes. Thank you.

[Repeats.]

[Delay.]

Burkley⁵: Dr. Burkley:

JFK: Oh, Doctor, I wonder if you could. . . . Have you got. . . . Send up a little extra medication.

Burkley: I, uh, gave it to Mrs. Lincoln. I . . .

JFK: Did you send extra?

Burkley: Yes, she has it on her desk.

JFK: I see.

Burkley: We can get it up to you, up to your quarters?

JFK: No, I'm in my office. Has she got it?

Burkley: Yes, she has it.

JFK: What about one of those blue pills?

Burkley: Oh, we can give that too.

JFK: Okay.

⁵ George Burkley

Burkley: She, she doesn't have that. I'll bring it right up.

[Telephone disconnects.]

Dictabelt 9B

Item 9B8

March 6, 1963

[Telephone rings in background.]

Lincoln⁶: Mr. Attorney General?

RFK: Yes, Mrs. Lincoln.

Lincoln: He's in with, uh, Mr. Stikker [Dirk U. Stikker].

RFK: Mr. who?

Lincoln: Mr. Stikker. You know, the, uh, he's the, uh, MTO secretary . . .

RFK: Fine.

Lincoln: . . . general.

RFK: What time is that going to be over?

Lincoln: That should be over at 12:30.

RFK: Well, uh, would you, uh, send him, uh. . . . Uh, I'll have to talk to him by 12:30.

Lincoln: [Word missing]

RFK: So, if he's not out by 12:30, would you just send him a note that I have, I have to leave for lunch with the, uh, Russian ambassador . . .

Lincoln: Uh-huh.

RFK: . . . and if, uh . . .

Lincoln: Yeah.

⁶ Evelyn Lincoln

RFK: . . . he has any, uh, instructions for me?

[Conversation is continued on Belt 10A, Item 10A1.]