

FOREWORD

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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.

Papers of John F. Kennedy

Presidential Recordings

Dictabelts

Dictabelt 18B

Conversation #1: President Kennedy and Edith Green

May 7, 1963

[Continued from Dictabelt 18A, Conversation #7]

President: That's really is what I think the whole dilemma that I see is. Even though I think your bill has got the best chance and still we don't want to . . . we want to get a majority for it at the right time.

Mrs. Green: Well, not only as a supporter of yours for a long, long time, but also as a supporter of education, I am anxious to get as much of your program . . .

President: Right.

Mrs. Green: . . . through as I can. The decision was not made by me on the higher education bill, but rather by the Chairman of the full sub-committee, Chairman . . .

President: Yeah. Yeah. What do your see as the time schedule on these education bills?

Mrs. Green: Well, we did report out the higher education bill yesterday afternoon, and it was my understanding that this would be the wish at the White House and at the Department *[HEW]* and of the leadership here in the House.

President: It is now in the full committee?

Mrs. Green: It would be before the full committee if they wish to take it up next Thursday.

President: I see.

Mrs. Green: But this would be a decision for them.

President: I see.

Mrs. Green: I think because we have strong bi-partisan support, and because of the very large majority that we secured one time, I think it could be passed. And I don't think that we have the political pressures on Lister Hill this moment, as we did have before.

President: What is your judgment as to how, uh, you know, considering what happened last time, when the NEA got the Baptist groups and all the others, how do we prevent that repetition?

Mrs. Green: Well, I wrote the NEA a three page letter the other day mainly to put them on the spot in regard to their stand on the religious . . . on the religious issue. And received a very unresponsive letter and then had a visit by their head, Lumly, of their Congressional Liaison Office. And as far as the Baptists are concerned, I have accepted three or four speaking engagements at church groups, specifically on the theory that I might be able to help on this religious issue. I am going out there to Detroit next weekend.

President: Yeah.

Mrs. Green: And I think maybe this has decreased, . . .

President: Yeah, yeah.

Mrs. Green: . . . I don't know. It would be my judgment that there won't be the pressure that there was. If we could keep the rest of the bills in an omnibus packages, then again, I think that your program would win the support of the Congress and certainly would reflect favorable on the Administration.

President: Oh, well, as I say, that I think that this is the best chance we have--this bill. And the only problem, as I have said, is how to prevent or keep the NEA so that at least they can't charge that they were, uh, that their point of view was not given a reasonable consideration.

Mrs. Green: They are being invited on Wednesday to testify on NDEA [National Defense Education Act]. Well, anyhow, I don't want to take more of your time.

President: No, no, I think if we could ever get this thing through, it would be probably one of the two most important measures we can get through. So I am awfully anxious to see us do it.

Mrs. Green: Well, I just wanted to assure you that I, uh, the language in the New York Times is a rumor.

President: Thank you very much, though, Edith. I appreciate that.

Mrs. Green: Thank you, Mr. President.