

## FOREWORD

### **Transcript Warning:**

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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 17A**

Conversation #3: President Kennedy and Eugene Black

April 2, 1963

President: ----- for some White House function.

Mr. Black: Oh, really.

President: And if she couldn't find it, she wanted to get the greatest living expert . . .

Mr. Black: Oh, oh.

President: . . . and in addition, it was the challenge to the White House switchboard that they are able to find that you were heading for the station. I don't know how they found that out.

Mr. Black: Well, I didn't . . . I didn't get the message until a little while ago that you'd called.

President: Yea, that was what it was about, [laughs] Jackie wanted to ask you that.

Mr. Black: As a matter of fact, I was going to call you tomorrow. I talked to [General Lucius] Clay as you asked me to and did not tell him that I had even seen you.

President: Right, right.

Mr. Black: He said if he testifies that he is going to say what he has been saying, which was that first of all that we had not been asked to study the new program, that we merely studied the old program. And that if we felt that if certain criteria had been followed, that the old program could have been reduced by 500 million dollars. Now, what that means is that if Clay agrees with the increases that you have asked for, namely the 325 million dollars for Latin America. And you know the 200 million social progress and 125 million more for aid and also 80 million more economic aid for India and Pakistan and Nigeria,

additional money. And also 80 million dollars for military aid to India, plus 50 million more to increase your emergency fund. This amounts to about 525 million dollars.

President: Right.

Mr. Black: Now, Clay said that he doesn't differ with this request.

President: Yeah, yeah.

Mr. Black: And I don't, I think they are perfectly, uh, all those increases are perfectly reasonable increases.

President: Right, right.

Mr. Black: So, what this would amount to would be he would say yes according to the criteria we have established. They could have done this last year for 3 billion 4, but now there are new things that will bring this up another 500 million plus.

President: Which he supports.

Mr. Black: Yea, that will be about 4 billion dollars.

President: That will be fine. As long as he . . . you see, what happened was in his press conference, he was sort of stressing so much the 500 million dollar reduction of the previous program that all the papers ending up with a 3.4 figure.

Mr. Black: That's right.

President: So that we never got much around to that, uh.

Mr. Black: I called him today and I just said, what are you going to do. I want to know because I am going to be asked by reporters and I may testify, too, so I want to know what you are going to say. Now, the only thing wrong with that from your standpoint is that he will be talking about 4 billion dollars or 3 billion 9.

President: Well, if you will just stick with 4 billion, you know, I, and we could just make that the line, that is fine with me.

Mr. Black: Now the only thing that, uh.

President: What do you suggest that I ought to do sort of make sure that we try to keep him really saying it, so that they understand it. Otherwise, it gets awfully complicated.

Mr. Black: I think he is alright, Mr. President. I don't think there will be any trouble there.

President: Right, OK.

Mr. Black: He and I understood each other. And there is only one slight problem, and that is when you ask for 125 million for the Alliance for Progress, which is in keeping with a more or less of a commitment. The one trouble about that is there is going to be one helluva job to find a way to put that money down there.

President: Well, that's alright.

Mr. Black: That is alright though if you get the authorization and if the Latin Americans don't come through that, uh.

President: That is exactly right. This year we are letting 200 million pass, but it is important that we have the dough there in case that they do. Right.

Mr. Black: That is exactly right. I would testify that this is a perfectly proper amount and I would like to see that much put in Latin America, but there is no guarantee that they'll come through to that extent.

President: Right, exactly, that's fine. That is fine. Good, well, I will, uh, you will be back in any case, uh.

Mr. Black: I will be back in two or three weeks.

President: Good.

Mr. Black: And I will have to see you when I get back, and I will tell you what I picked up over there.

President: OK. Good.

Mr. Black: Fine. I enjoyed seeing you. I don't think that you have to worry about Clay.

President: Right, OK, good, thank you.