

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 23A, Item 23A1¹

July 10, 1963

JFK: . . . had any private thoughts on it.

Meany:² Well, let me . . .

JFK: How much trouble am I going to have with labor if we go for compulsory arbitration?

Meany: Well, I don't know. It's, uh, it's one of these things, [and, and?] make sure everybody realizes ...

JFK: Yeah.

Meany: . . . you can't have the country shut down.

JFK: Yeah. Right.

Meany: Uh, let me, Mr. President, let me talk to Ed Gilbert,³ er, and see, or some of his boys . . .

JFK: Okay, okay.

Meany: . . . and see if I can come up with something. But, I, I really don't know. They sort of, they sort of got them com-, selves committed [against?] . . .

JFK: That's right, I don't think they can take on the responsibility. I should think that we could get some proposal out of this thing that would save most of everybody's jobs.

Meany: Yeah. Yes, I thought that, that if it went to Arthur⁴ they might get . . .

JFK: Yeah, that was . . .

¹ JFK's side of more of this conversation appears in meeting item 97.2.

² George Meany.

³ Henry Edward Gilbert.

⁴ Arthur J. Goldberg.

Meany: . . . a good view, but evidently they're committed someway, to each other, I imagine, on, on the question of arbitration.

JFK: Yeah, yeah.

Meany: Well, I don't, I don't have an idea at the moment . . .

JFK: Good.

Meany: . . . but let me, let me reach out and see if I can talk to some of the fellows.

JFK: Yeah, but on, I just wanted to get your private, uh, thought. I'm gonna just talk to the Congress and see what they say. But I'll be talking to you a little later.

Meany: Fine.

JFK: Thanks a lot.