

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 7A

[There is a great deal of surface noise. Much of the conversation is inaudible or unintelligible]

- Wirtz¹: . . . middle of the night to four or five o'clock this morning. And, uh, we're picking up again today. They're sticky on their side, sticky points. That's what we'll [words missing].
- JFK: Yeah.
- Wirtz: [Words missing]
- JFK: Yeah.
- Wirtz: [Words missing] We're starting a series of meetings with them at noon, uh, today, today, and. . . .
- JFK: How far apart are they?
- Wirtz: [Word, missing], ah . . .
- JFK: What's Powers [Bertram A. Powers] like? What's his attitude?
- Wirtz: Powers?
- JFK: Yeah.
- Wirtz: There couldn't be a more reasonable man in the world than Powers and Van Arsdale [Harry Van Arsdale, Jr.], uh.
- JFK: Is that right?
- Wirtz: That's right. That's right. And, uh, right now, uh, I think we've [word missing] I would guess we've got them down to about twelve-fifty, twelve-fifty.
- JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

¹ W. Willard Wirtz

Wirtz: [Words missing] The trouble is getting the employers up, off the ten-dollar spot at all.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Wirtz: But, ah, it is working [words missing] and so on and so forth [words missing] start working on them one by one.

JFK: I suppose Schiff [Dorothy Schiff] is . . .

Wirtz: That [words missing] here at twelve o'clock or one o'clock.

JFK: I would think you'd almost have to make almost a special one with her . . .

Wirtz: Yeah.

JFK: . . . because I don't think she can afford it. Can she?

Wirtz: Well, the trouble is that if they make a special rate [words missing] if they gave her a lower rate [words missing].

JFK: Isn't she there?

Wirtz: No.

JFK: They don't let people in that union I suppose.

Wirtz: Well, they're, they're [short?] enough, that's right.

JFK: But, of course, she can't pay what the Times can pay, can she?

Wirtz: She can't pay it.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: [Words missing] give him a lower price though that really won't work.

JFK: I think Schiff though would be the only one who really warrants it, 'cause I mean the Tribune's got, uh, so many other resources . . .

Wirtz: Yeah.

JFK: . . . and she doesn't have any, and, uh . . . [skips]. . . -ulation.

Wirtz: Yeah. If the price goes [words missing] that goes down on both sides.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: Now, on Boeing [words missing], on Boeing, that thing, that thing's going to go down to midnight tonight. I've just had an hour's conversation over the phone with Al Hayes [Albert J. Hayes]. For whom you've done more than anybody [words missing].

JFK: Yeah, we never. . . . He was always very [word missing].

Wirtz: Oh, yeah, he never [word missing].

JFK: [Word missing] the McClellan Committee.

Wirtz: Now, I've, I've tried to get him to agree to sort of you know [words missing] of the last offer.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: He knows [words missing] and I've been trying to get him to give us, to agree to stay at work during the period we have the board of inquiry.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: Which he won't do.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: And, uh.

JFK: Oh, he wants Moss [John E. Moss?].

Wirtz: Yeah.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: And, uh, [I'll have to talk to him about that?] I . . .

JFK: God, don't you start that. You head for trouble . . .

Wirtz: Oh, yeah.

JFK: . . . isn't it? Whatever you start, everybody then wants.

Wirtz: You can't do it when the Taft-Hartley Act has been used.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: I do have an idea for [Bob McNamara. I've talked with Bob.?!]

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: . . . before the Taft-Hartley Act thing goes out.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: [Words missing]

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: But we can't go in there now, the Taft-Hartley Act thing. We tried all this back last summer . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: . . . before it. . . . I think . . . [skips]. . . a few days, two to three days [words missing] while this Taft-Hartley Act thing goes through.

JFK: You can do the Taft-Har- . . .

Wirtz: Oh, I would say about forty-eight hours.

JFK: Yeah. Well, I guess that's all right.

Wirtz: I think that's not too soon.

JFK: There's no action we could take, is there?

Wirtz: The only, the only question is whether we can, the real point is whether I request you, from you to Al Hayes [words missing] forty-eight hours.

JFK: Of course, I hate to ask these fellows if they won't do it.

Wirtz: I, I, I can give no assurance that, I think that probably he would not, what he would tell you was that he was sorry, it was out of his hands, and [words missing] . . .

JFK: Yeah. What's gonna be struck? There'll be Boeing . . .

Wirtz: [Words missing]

JFK: . . . and what other mis-. . . . What do you say, missiles? What else? Missiles.

Wirtz: It's Boeing, which is [good?] eight missile sites . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: . . . say two Boeing plants.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: In Seattle and in Wichita.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: [Part?] either seven or eight, uh, missile sites.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Wirtz: What I'll do, well, what I'll do, I'll [words missing] as the observer.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Wirtz: I'll send one out, and . . .

JFK: From you?

Wirtz: Yeah.

JFK: I see. Right. Okay.

Wirtz: That's all right, [isn't it?]?

JFK: Right. Yeah. Sure.

Wirtz: Okay. You want [it sent in from here?]?

JFK: Yeah. All right. You'll be talking to him again?

Wirtz: Yes. Who? Hayes?

JFK: Hayes. You won't be talking to him, will you?

Wirtz: Not unless there's agreement.

JFK: Nah, well, then, there's no use my. . . . If he's gonna reject it, I think it just lowers our . . .

Wirtz: I, I think that's right.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: [Words missing]. Okay.

JFK: Right.

Wirtz: Mr. President?

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: I'll [words missing].

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: [Words missing]

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: [Words missing] back.

JFK: Right.

Wirtz: *[Words missing]*

JFK: Okay. Good. Bye. *[Disconnects]*

Voice 1: *[Waiting. Waiting, or Ringing. Ringing.]*