

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:

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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 4F, Item 4F4

September 30, 1962

[Phone rings]

[Item begins with an unrelated fragment, perhaps on another telephone line or off the phone in the room, and then begins to record the main conversation.]

Voice 1: He treated a number of other people. I asked him how many doctors he had, and how many . . .

[Recording abruptly switches to conversation below.]

Barnett¹: . . . *[words unintelligible]* . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Barnett: . . . and I, he, uh, he said that what we were talking about we wouldn't have any trouble. Do it, uh, tonight, you know.

JFK: Yeah. Well, the, uh, our people say that it's still a very, uh, *[strained?]* situation. They wouldn't, uh, feel that, uh, they could, uh, take a chance on taking him outside that building. Now if we, can we get these fellows? I hear they got some high-powered rifles up there that have been shooting sp-, sporadically. Can we get that stopped? How many people have you got there? We hear you only got fifty.

Barnett: Well, I have approximately two hundred there now, Mr. President. That's not that . . .

JFK: You got two hundred?

Barnett: Sir, about two hundred.

JFK: 'Cau-. . . . Yeah.

Barnett: Uh . . .

JFK: Well, now let me get in touch with my people.

¹ Ross R. Barnett

Barnett: . . . and we don't have but, uh, two hundred and ten of twelve, uh, patrolmen, you see.

JFK: I see. Well, now, let me get my people back again.

Barnett: I'm doing everything in the world I can.

JFK: That's right. Well, we've got to get this situation under control. That's much more important than anything else.

Barnett: Yes. Well, that's right. I . . .

JFK: Now, let me, uh, let me talk to my people, and let me tell, find out what the situation is there.

Barnett: Yes.

JFK: They called me a few minutes ago and said they had some high-powered rifles there. So we don't wanta, uh, start moving . . .

Barnett: Mr. President . . .

JFK: . . . anybody around.

Barnett: . . . peop-, people are wiring me and calling me saying, "Well, you've given up." I said, I had to say, "No, I'm not giving up, not giving up any fight."

JFK: Yeah, but we don't want to . . .

Barnett: "I never give up. I, I have courage and faith, and, and we'll win this fight." You understand. That's just to Mississippi people.

JFK: I understand. But I don't think anybody, either in Mississippi or any place else wants a lot of people killed.

Barnett: Oh, no. No. I . . .

JFK: And that's what, Governor, that's the most important thing. We want . . .

Barnett: . . . I'll iss-, I'll issue any statement, any time about peace and violence.

JFK: Well, now here's what we could do. Let's get the maximum number of your state police to get that situation so we don't have sporadic firing. I will then be in touch with my people and then you and I'll be talking again in a few minutes about, see what we got there then.

Barnett: All right.

JFK: Thank you, Governor.

Barnett: All right now.

JFK: I'll be back.

[Phone hangs up.]