

## 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 12A**

Conversation #1: President Kennedy and Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr.

March 8, 1963

President: Hello.

Mr. Roosevelt: Yes, Mr. President.

President: Franklin, how are you?

Mr. Roosevelt: Fine.

President: I thought that, ah . . . Monday, that a . . . I understood that you were going to get together with the counsel of the committee to go over the things that they might bring up.

Mr. Roosevelt: Yes, sir.

President: I thought that Ted Sorensen might also attend that meeting and therefore might have it over here. Because he would have some thoughts and I have talked to him about it.

Mr. Roosevelt: Oh, that's fine.

President: Good, fine, perhaps you and Ted and this fellow can arrange to get together Monday at some appropriate time.

Mr. Roosevelt: Alright, sir, I'll call him directly.

President: Good, O.K., fine, Franklin.

Mr. Roosevelt: Thanks a lot. Bye.

[Note: Mr. Roosevelt then asks operator or Evelyn Lincoln to switch him to McGeorge Bundy.]

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Presidential Recordings

Dictabelts

## **Dictabelt 12A**

### Conversation #2: President Kennedy and /Robert C. Weaver/

President: Doc? How are you?

Weaver: Fine, How are you today, sir?

President: Good. Fine. I'm gonna--I've got a group waiting to talk to me about . . . let's see . . . [begins reading very rapidly]  
“. . . He and his companions and all substantial figures in the building [one word indistinct] will want to discuss the problems of multi-family FHA mortgage insurance, and make these points: multi-family dwellings are mushrooming; there's a tremendous backlog of unprocessed applications for multi-family FHA mortgages, [Stalford?] says the total's two billion. He talked last year with the former commissioner, Hardy regarding this [several words run together] and received a tentative agreement setting up a separate authority in FHA for multi-family dwellings.”  
[takes a deep breath]  
"He'll wonder if Doctor Weaver, and the new Commissioner, [Philip] Brownstein, will accept this."

And then it says,

"Dr. Weaver and Brownstein regard two FHAs as unsound"

Weaver: Yes, sir.

President: Then it says, "After checking with Larry, I suggest the following: (1) The President begin to indicate concern regarding the backlog and the [unintelligible] tremendously positive effect that clearing would have on the economy. (2) The President could . . . curse the delays in FHA processing and instruct me and some other person to accompany [Stalford?] to a meeting with Dr. Weaver and Brownstein. I believe the President should indicate a reluctance to tie Brownstein to the plans of the predecessor, however, he could see if--look for quick action in this serious problem."

Now, do you have any thoughts about that? . . .

Weaver: Yes, sir.

President: . . . before I say all these things?

Weaver: Uh, I think, uh, two things. First, I think it would be tragic if we had two FHA's.

President: Yeah.

Weaver: Uh, because we've now had a tremendous--This is a part of a power struggle in there. We've had some guys in there who're trying to build themselves up, and they're using [Stalford?] and the other people who are dissatisfied - and they have a right to be dissatisfied; it hasn't been done well. Secondly, I think you could say, and I, uh, this is--I say this in all sincerity, that both Mr. Brownstein and myself are very much concerned with this. We're dedicated to make this program work, and we will do it; but, it'll take us a little time. The new commissioner has to have a little time to make the adjustment and, uh, that, uh, we're--we're guaranteed to you that we will uh, more in on this and, uh, . . .

President: Can't you set up a separate--Do you have a separate department for multi-family, uh, family FHA mortgages?

Weaver: The difficulty with this is that the separate department is a promotional department and they've got us in trouble by approving a lot of things they shouldn't approve.

President: I see.

Weaver: They're approving too much.

President: I see.

Weaver: . . . and we've got a tremendous scandal on our hands in one project. Fortunately not too many and there's going to be a hearing in the . . .

President: 's that the one in Texas?

Weaver: Yes. There's going to be a hearing in the Senate and we're gonna get the dickens knocked out of us on this because of this enthusiasm of the very

people who are lobbying through [Stalford?] and the others to get control of this.

President: I see.

Weaver: They're promotion. The difficulty, Mr. President is this. The guys in favor of the multi-family are promotional. And the old-line guys are insurance underwriters. They don't want to move fast enough, and the other guys want to move too fast.

President: I see.

Weaver: So we've got to get something . . .

President: Well, now have you talked to Stalford before?

Weaver: No, I haven't.

President: Would it be possible . . .? Evidently he helped us on the, uh, in the, uh, . . .

Weaver: Well, he has an appointment with, uh, Phil Brownstein this afternoon, and if he's not satisfied with that I'll be delighted.

President: Maybe you could stick your head in or something, for a couple of minutes.

Weaver: Alright.

President: Would that--Would it be too much trouble?

Weaver: If you--If you want it, if you'll have your office call me and I'll do what ever you . . .

President: O.K.; alright; thank you; O.K., thanks a lot.

Weaver: Thank you. Bye.

President: Bye.

[disconnect]

Papers of John F. Kennedy

Presidential Recordings

Dictabelts

## **Dictabelt 12A**

### Conversation #3: President Kennedy & Robert F. Kennedy

RFK: Hello.

JFK: Hello.

RFK: Um, I spoke to you the other day about this transportation problem . . .

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: . . . Well, we have another one, now, the B&O-C&O railroad merger.

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: The unions are very strong for us entering this case and entering it actively. Uh, it's, uh, . . . it went before the board and now it's before the courts and they want us to try to get it, uh, bring in a, uh, . . . a, uh, and ask that it be sent back before the board.

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: Uh, the companies, on the other hand, are very anxious to go ahead with the merger . . .

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: From our examination of the facts here, we find that nobody, really, in government has ever examined wh - to determine whether this is a good merger or a bad merger. And it's been before the government, really, for a year and a half, now. . . .

JFK: What does Dan Martin's group say?

RFK: Well, they don't know . . . and, uh, and Mike, uh, we talked to Mike Feldman and he--he admits that nobody knows. But, uh, we don't know what effect this merger's gonna have on future mergers, and, uh, so we're really shooting in the dark and at hazzard. Now the unions feel very strongly about it, and then of course business feels very strongly on the other side about it. So no matter what we do, . . . uh, it's gonna have an effect on one group or another, and, uh, and, uh, and, uh, and what we're doing is, uh, we're . . .

JFK: What d'you suggest? What d'you suggest?

RFK: Well, I think that if we could get, uh, uh, urge once again if we could get some--somebody in there . . .

JFK: But I can't do anything about Dan Martin just now 'cause we got our whole transportation bill up there in front of [Senator Warren] Magnuson and everything, and Magnuson's gotta--I mean Martin--Magnuson's Martin's sponsor, so I can't move him out right now.

RFK: Well, ah, can we get somebody at the White House to be resp--assigned to that responsibility . . .

JFK: Well . . .

RFK: . . . do nothing but mergers?

JFK: . . . if you can suggest anybody, I'd be glad to take 'em on. I'll see if I can find somebody. Carmine's [Bellino] supposed to be looking around for somebody. And, uh, just look at merge--and if you've got a name over there, some bright fellow who's got some sense, I'd be glad to take him on.

RFK: Okey-dokey.

JFK: O.K.?

RFK: Righto.

[disconnect]

Papers of John F. Kennedy

Presidential Recordings

Dictabelts

## **Dictabelt 12A**

Conversation #4: President Kennedy and Robert F. Wagner

and

Dictabelt 12B

Conversation #1: President Kennedy and Robert F. Wagner

March 8, 1963

President: Hello.

Mayor Wagner: Hello.

President: Yea, Bob, how are you?

Mayor Wagner: Good evening, Mr. President, how are you ?

President: Very good.

Mayor Wagner: Well, I got a couple of hours sleep.

President: What did you do up there, finally?

Mayor Wagner: Well, we got it straightened out.

President: You did?

Mayor Wagner: It was a rough one, all night. That fellow [        ] Powers was something. Elmer Brown was very good. We had something worked out, I guess, as Bill Wirtz got a message to you. I said he was the only one who is going to sleep with some peace. He thought everything was straightened out when he did. We got the publishers to go along with my recommendations and then Brown

and his International Council of the Typographical Union voted unanimously for it and then this bird Powers; 'cause he's got his local committee here, his boys, although they weren't happy at the time. He came in and said, oh, no, he couldn't take it.

President: He didn't want to settle?

Mayor Wagner: No, he didn't want to settle on my recommendations. And Brown, of course, said, well, he would throw /Begin Dictabelt 12b, Conversation #1/ the weight of the international behind it. All their rules and regulations and everything else. And [ ] Osdale and myself worked on him for about an hour or two and then he finally said, well, okay, they would approve it because the international had, and would recommend it to the membership. So it would . . .

President: What would it finally amount to?

Mayor Wagner: 12.27 for two years.

President: Well, that's pretty good, isn't it?

Mayor Wagner: Yea, it's pretty good. I mean, I think they did very well and the publishers did pretty well, too. And they got two year agreement. They go to the thirty five hours in the second year, which to these boys, the printers, doesn't mean much, because they can take it out of wash up time. Right now, they are working with the other unions. They got the wage package and I think the extra . . . and the publishers calculated that in the second year, that will mean about thirty eight cents more, go into the thirty five hours. And so, it's about a . . . we say it's a . . . 12.27 which runs about 12.60.

President: Does Dorothy /Schiff/ . . . does . . . does she have to pay this, too?

Mayor Wagner: I assume, yea. That was the agreement, that she will have to come in. He says that he has no deal with her, but I assume they will go in and they can do it alright. Boy, they were a sad lot. You know, too, that they have an association but everyone's watching each other, you know.

President: When do they start publishing?

Mayor Wagner: What?

President: When do they start publishing?

Mayor Wagner: Well, they got to clear up a few items with Powers' union. Which are the clean up items you know about; how this affects vacation and so on. I am sure that will be fast and they can clean up these other unions, and then they have a vote I understand some of Powers' fellows are stalling a bit but, I think we can get Brown to get them moving. And they ought to get going, I should think in three or four more days.

President: Oh, good.

Mayor Wagner: But, it's all over now, and we kept our friend in Albany out of it. He was dying. He had a fellow there all the time who was ready to move in.

President: You ought to be pleased. That was a good job, Bob. I think everybody thought that it was.

Mayor Wagner: Well, I wanted you to know that we followed, you know . . . your suggestion on the third party mediation, and, uh, and, uh, everything worked alright, and I wanted to assure you, though, that our main concern was to get it settled. I talked to Dick Donahue up here last Saturday at the dinner I had to run through Joe . . . and I told him we would get it straightened out and we will keep that boy in Albany out of here. He's dying. He's dying up there.

President: Yeah, [laughs] I am glad they are starting to print about him again.

Mayor Wagner: Oh, yea, but he is getting it on the radio all the time. But he was just, uh, you know, he and Javits are constantly in touch with these fellows. But they realized, they are practical business fellows, and they realized they were not going to get anywhere with him and this is the best way to do it. So, we got that out of the way for you, and we will get your papers for you.

President: Okay, that's good. That's terrific, Bob.

Mayor Wagner: I talked to Bobby yesterday, and I am going to see him up here tomorrow. Right, okay, fine, Mr. President.

President: Okay.

Mayor Wagner: Take good care of yourself.

President: Good work.