

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 11A, Item 11A5

March 7, 1963

Operator: [Words unintelligible.]

Speaker ?: Is it real bad?

JFK: What about that decision he joined in on that Mississippi, on that Louisiana statute about the race being on the ballot?

Katzenbach:¹ Uh, that was not good.

JFK: Yeah.

Katzenbach: And, uh, his handling. . . . He reopened Skelly Wright's² school business. But actually that's worked out better than, uh, than I thought it was going to.

JFK: Yeah. He hasn't been too bad?

Katzenbach: And he hasn't been impossible, no.

JFK: Yeah. Which one, the one from Mississippi has been?

Katzenbach: Uh, Cox³ has not been good.

JFK: Wh- . . .

Katzenbach: He's been sitting on a great many things.

JFK: Yeah.

Katzenbach: Uh, our other appointments down there have, uh, uh, have done pretty well . . .

JFK: Are they?

Katzenbach: . . . [really?]. I don't think we have anything to be embarrassed about on that.

¹ Nicholas deB. Katzenbach.

² J. Skelly Wright.

³ William Harold Cox.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Katzenbach: Uh, we had as much trouble from, from Republican appointees down there as we do . . .

JFK: Have we?

Katzenbach: . . . from, from the Democrats. Sure.

JFK: All right. All right.

Katzenbach: Of course, they're all. . . . In Mississippi, they're all Eastland's⁴ anyhow.

JFK: Yeah, why don't we see if we could get somebody. . . . Could you get one of your boys to get up a memo on sort of the Republicans and Democrats 'cause I, this might get to be one of those issues they keep talking about?

Katzenbach: Sure.

JFK: So I'll be able to talk about in case it comes up again.

Katzenbach: Will do.

JFK: Thanks a . . . What about the, uh, uh, the Interhandel?⁵ I see Drew's⁶ on that again.

Katzenbach: Well, I didn't see it this morning [words unintelligible]. Well, I knew he would be.

JFK: Yeah.

Katzenbach: For sure. Yeah.

JFK: All right. Okay. Good.

Katzenbach: He's a . . . It's a matter of principle with him.

JFK: Yeah. Okay.

⁴ James Eastland.

⁵ Interhandel AG.

⁶ Drew Pearson.

Katzenbach: He never settles.

JFK: Righto.

Katzenbach: Okay.

[Sound of phone being hung up.]

Operator: Hello.