

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 9B, Item 9B4

Al: . . . cut.

JFK: Yeah.

Al: But the, uh, the, uh, the, the big, uh, miss that I made is Lawford [Peter Lawford] had already talked to Steve Trilling.

JFK: Yeah.

Al: So that when I got to Warner [Jack L. Warner], Warner said, "Well," he says, "you know where this is coming from?" And I said, "Well, I know the president and his family are, are, are very concerned about this." And he said, "Well," he says, "it's coming from Lawford because Lawford already talked to Trilling."

JFK: Who's Trilling?

Al: Trilling is Warner's number one boy.

JFK: Yeah, yeah.

Al: So Peter had already talked to Trilling . . .

JFK: Yeah, well I told him not to.

Al: . . . and dis-, delayed some of the impact that, uh, I got . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Al: . . . by putting your message in.

JFK: Yeah.

Al: However, I will keep following them and, uh, keep you advised.

JFK: Well, they know what they're doing, but I do think, uh, myself that 2 minutes, 2 hours and 20 minutes for that kind of a picture is pretty long. Of course, they all get to think it's a work of art and they can't change anything.

Al: [Laughs.]

JFK: But, uh, that seems like a long night and, uh, there's no doubt Pat felt it.

Al: [Laughs.] Right. Well, we'll, we'll keep, uh, chiseling away on him and I think we can get him to cut some of . . .

JFK: Can he get somebody out there to look at it that he's got confidence in?

Al: What?

JFK: Can he get somebody out there, uh, to look at it that he has confidence in?

Al: You mean some, an objective viewpoint?

JFK: Yeah, some fellow who just, uh, knows something about movies.

Al: Well, unfortunately by this time he has shown it to enough people that have, uh, patted him on the back. You know, the old Hollywood yes man.

JFK: Yeah.

Al: And, of course, some of his hard-headed distributor people have looked at it and, uh, they're usually, uh, uh, pretty damn objective in their comments . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Al: . . . and they have said it was good and, uh, so he's kind of got his neck bowed right now.

JFK: Yeah.

Al: He feels that he's got a good product.

JFK: Yeah.

Al: But we'll a . . .

JFK: Well, he has got a good product, it's just a question of whether there's too much of it. Well, in any case, that's his judgment finally.

Al: We'll keep working on it.

JFK: Okay, good, Al.

Al: Fine, bye. *[Repeats.]*