

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 10A, Item 10A7

March 6, 1963

JFK: Hello.

Katzenbach¹: Hello, Mr. President.

JFK: Nick, what do you think of the, uh, bomb Graham?

Katzenbach: Huh. Not very much.

JFK: Yeah.

Katzenbach: The, uh, . . . uh, . . . the problems that he raises or discusses in there are problems that, uh, uh, were thought of and discussed at length before we went ahead with this corporation, and every one of them is anticipated, or in the statute itself. Uh, and, uh, what he fears coming to pass could only come to pass if nobody, uh, did their job . . . nobody in the government did their job.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Katzenbach: That's the short answer to it, and that can be . . .

JFK: I wonder if we would have been better off with a government corporation?

Katzenbach: I, uh, think the one way of making sure that AT&T ran that would have been to have a government corporation.

JFK: Yes. They would have.

Katzenbach: Because you'd then had, uh, the one . . . the one . . .

JFK: *[unintelligible]*

Katzenbach: . . . we have seventy percent of the use would have been on contract to AT&T.

JFK: Yeah.

¹ Nicholas deB. Katzenbach

Katzenbach: And they just would of never had to invest, [several words over-ridden by JFK/

JFK: Well, I think we oughta . . . I tell you what . . . Graham is now . . . I mean, uh, uh, Clark Clifford's reading it. I think we oughta get up an answer, which Pastore might make, or which somebody else might make, that would sort of respond to these points, so we will have it available in case, 'cause I understand now he wants to print it Friday.

Katzenbach: Yeah. I hope he doesn't. For his . . . for his sake I really hope he doesn't.

JFK: Well . . . well, I really think it would be harmful for everybody, . . .

Katzenbach: Yeah.

JFK: . . . 'cause the hearings begin Monday. Now, the only thing . . . he does in his final suggestion is . . . It's awfully weak. He goes in like a lion and comes out like a lamb. His final suggestion is that we just . . . we have six directors who are full time. I mean, that's hardly a very adequate reform, and that's all he's suggesting, isn't it?

Katzenbach: Yeah. 'Course what I have wanted, and . . . and all along we have been pushing on, is to get management, because the director shouldn't be doing this, Mr. President. . . .

[end of belt; continued on 10B1.]