

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.

Dictabelt 24B, Item 24B2

July 30, 1963

JFK: Hello.

Rusk:¹ Yes, sir.

JFK: Oh, Dean I've got, I'm just here with O'Brien² . . .

Rusk: Right.

JFK: . . . about these senators. Now are we . . . Am I supposed to. . . I got a memorandum from Dutton³ saying that, uh, been [words unintelligible] but basically the White House would invite them before any public announcement.

Rusk: Well, I just think that we ought to give them a telephone call. Now we could help do that from here if you like.

JFK: Well, I thought we oughta get it, you know there's a UP⁴ story or AP⁵ story saying that Hickenlooper⁶ and Dirksen⁷ won't go if they are asked.

Rusk: Right.

JFK: So I thought the quicker the better.

Rusk: Well, that's right and it seems to me rather than fool around and sort of reaching out into left field for somebody like Keating⁸ or somebody, we go with these three Democrats and two Republicans. And then if the Republicans appear, appear to be niggardly about this, I think they'll be the ones to suffer.

JFK: Yeah.

¹ Dean Rusk, secretary of state.

² Lawrence F. O'Brien, special assistant to the president.

³ Frederick G. Dutton, assistant secretary of state for congressional relations.

⁴ United Press International.

⁵ Associated Press.

⁶ Bourke B. Hickenlooper, senator from Iowa.

⁷ Everett McKinley Dirksen, senator from Illinois.

⁸ Kenneth B. Keating, senator from New York.

Rusk: Because I think there's going to be a very strong public support for this.

JFK: Well now, what do you want to do about getting it nailed down?

Rusk: Well, I think that, uh, is Larry there?

JFK: Yeah.

Rusk: I think between Larry and, uh, Fred Dutton and myself we can call each one of these right quick and confirm that they are invited and will go and then we'll put the announcement out . . .

JFK: But . . .

Rusk: . . . from the White House tonight.

JFK: Well, should we do it right now? Wait a second, here's Larry.

O'Brien: Hello.

Rusk: Yes, I'd, I'd like to, for us to get telephone calls to each one of these people confirming officially that they are being invited, getting their acceptances and putting out the announcement tonight.

O'Brien: Oh, you want to go ahead and do that?

Rusk: Oh, yeah.

O'Brien: Okay.

Rusk: Right?

O'Brien: Fine.

Rusk: Now who's going to do that?

O'Brien: Well, I thought it'd probably be just, well for you to do it.

Rusk: Well, all right I'll . . .

O'Brien: I think that there's . . .

Rusk: . . . get hold of Fred Dutton and we'll, uh, we'll divide this up, and go right at it.

O'Brien: Well, you have five involved.

Rusk: Well, I'll tell you, why don't you call, why don't you call, uh, uh, Fulbright and Saltonstall⁹ . . .

O'Brien: All right.

Rusk: . . . and I'll call, uh, I'll call, uh, uh, Humphrey,¹⁰ uh, Pastore¹¹ and, uh, Aiken.¹²

O'Brien: All right.

Rusk: Okay?

O'Brien: Okay. And listen, when the, uh, let's clear it out as soon as you're, I'm complete I'll be back . . .

Rusk: Right.

O'Brien: . . . to you, and, uh . . .

Rusk: Same thing. I'll come back to you.

O'Brien: I got Fulbright and Saltonstall and then we want to get it out tonight.

Rusk: Right. Now Saltonstall is gonna want to know who else is going.

O'Brien: Well, then you'll have to kind of check back on Aiken to be sure, don't you, before . . .

Rusk: That's right. And you, you, uh. . . . Well, no, Aiken told me that he wouldn't say no.

O'Brien: All right. Okay.

⁹ Leverett Saltonstall, senator from Massachusetts.

¹⁰ Hubert H. Humphrey, senator from Minnesota.

¹¹ John O. Pastore, senator from Rhode Island.

¹² George D. Aiken, senator from Vermont.

Rusk: But I think you oughta say that, uh, rather than, uh, delay in, for further negotiations or discussion, we thought that in, given the make up of the Senate, that three Democrats, two Republicans would be, would be good and that he and Aiken would be . . .

O'Brien: All right.

Rusk: . . . good on the Republican side.

O'Brien: Okay.

Rusk: Bye.

O'Brien: Bye.