

## 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.

### **Copyright:**

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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 4K

### Item 4K1

[October 1, 1962?]

[continues and completes item 4J6]

Voice 2: . . . 90F by 12?

Lincoln<sup>1</sup>: The letter-size, you know. Yeah.

Voice 2: Uh-huh. Yes.

Lincoln: I think I better have about fifty of those.

Voice 2: Fifty? Yes, 'cause I have some here now that I was gonna send to Miss Ware. She has a note for twenty-five of 'em.

Lincoln: Uh-huh.

Voice 2: So I'll send another fifty in . . . in addition.

Lincoln: Yeah. And then, also, I'd like to have some of those intercommunication . . . intergovernmental . . . ones. About fifty of those.

Voice 2: Fifty. Uh-huh.

Lincoln: Then, the . . . the little larger size.

Voice 2: The little larger ones. Yeah, well, she has a note for twenty-five each.

Lincoln: Well, that's for her, and you send some to me too.

Voice 2: Yes. OK then.

Lincoln: OK.

Voice 2: Yes. OK, Mrs. Lincoln.

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<sup>1</sup> Evelyn Lincoln

Lincoln: Thank you.

Voice 2: You're welcome.

## Dictabelt 4K

### Item 4K2

- Lincoln<sup>2</sup>: Hello.
- Voice 3: Uh, Mr. J. Robert Greenberg, in Greenwich, Connecticut, calling you.
- Lincoln: He's been calling for two-three days, now. Well. . . . What in the world do you think he wants? I hate to push him off on to Gwenn or anyone over there.
- Voice 3: You don't . . . You don't know him at all?
- Lincoln: Hunh-uh.
- Voice 3: Well, do you want me to ask him what he's calling in reference to?
- Lincoln: Yeah.
- Voice 3: Wait a minute.
- [pause]
- Voice 3: Hello.
- Lincoln: Yeah?
- Voice 3: It's in regard to some correspondence, and he said he's spoken to Congressman Barry's office in reference to it.
- Lincoln: Well. You know. A letter . . .
- Voice 3: Yeah. I know what you mean. [laughter]
- Voice 3: What d'you tell him?
- Lincoln: Yeah. [laughter]
- Voice 3: Want me to have Gwenn tell him?

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<sup>2</sup> Evelyn Lincoln

Lincoln: Yeah.

Voice 3: OK, thank you.

Lincoln: Thank you.

## Dictabelt 4K

### Item 4K3

[recording begins in mid-conversation]

- JFK: . . . foreign aid conference. I didn't know whether it would be possible for him to come up and, uh, speak to you about our thoughts. Then perhaps you and I could talk on the phone again and you could give me your judgment about what we oughta try to work out with Otto.
- McCormack<sup>3</sup>: Sure. A, uh, . . . Absolutely. And, uh, . . . We meet at eleven today, and Larry can come up anytime. Uh, . . . um . . . Oh, I'll come off the rostrum once we get going. We're going into the, uh, I'll get into the third supplemental, so will it be convenient for him about half-past eleven or so?
- JFK: Good. Fine. I'll have him up there.
- McCormack: I think, uh, . . . You see, Otto agreed; so I say . . . my understanding . . . I'll put it that way, . . . that he'd go at least three hundred in title one, and probably a little more.
- JFK: Right. Right.
- McCormack: Is that right?
- JFK: Right. That's right. He, uh, . . . You remember, we were talking about three-fifty and then he said, "well, we will go over three hundred and see what more we can do." Now, in view of the fact that we did well in the Senate, actually an even split would take us to four hundred million over the House figure. So, I thought that if he went up there with, uh, . . . Larry would have two sets of figures, and then we could just see what we could do with him.
- McCormack: And I was thinking that a . . . My . . . My thought would be that . . . that you and I and Passman and whoever you wanted in from the department would sit . . . get together down at the White House. Naturally it would be at the White House.
- JFK: Right. Right.
- McCormack: I think your . . . the psychological effect, don't you see.

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<sup>3</sup> John McCormack

JFK: Right. I don't know what my psychology would be these days on Otto.  
[laughter]

McCormack: Well, I know, Mr. President, it's a pretty tough . . . It . . . it . . . it may not get all we seek, but it will get a helluva lot more than he would give to someone else.

JFK: OK. Good. Well, I'll have Larry up there and then I'll be glad to meet whenever, uh, . . . uh, you, uh, think would be best today.

McCormack: Today?

JFK: Well, I think if they are going into conference tomorrow, either today, or whatever time you thought. Today or tomorrow would be fine with me.

McCormack: Yes. Better today. In other words, he'd . . . he would allocate it, as I understood it, anyway you wanted.

JFK: Right. What we gotta try to do is get him up to as near four hundred as we can.

McCormack: I know. I agree with you.

JFK: I'll have Larry up there, though, at 11:30.

McCormack: All right.

JFK: Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

McCormack: Right. Right.

## Dictabelt 4K

### Item 4K4

[phone rings]

Lincoln<sup>4</sup>: Hello?

Voice 4: Evelyn?

Lincoln: Yes?

Voice 4: George. I just talked to Dr. Cohen, just a minute ago. He's coming down tomorrow. But, that's not the reason I'm calling. Uh, John P. Harrington<sup>5</sup> of the Yorkville Democratic Club, who was very active in the election and was a hard-driving individual, died suddenly yesterday of a coronary. He's being buried this afternoon, and, uh, uh, they didn't know whether they wanted some recognition from here, or who would do it, or if they . . . if it was considered . . . I think someone would know him. I, uh, . . .

Lincoln: John P. Harrington?

Voice 4: Harrington. Of Yorkville Democratic Club in New York City.

Lincoln: York-- . . .

Voice 4: York-ville.

Lincoln: Yeah.

Voice 4: That's part of . . .

Lincoln: Democratic Club.

Voice 4: N . . . New York City.

Lincoln: New . . . York . . . City.

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<sup>4</sup> Evelyn Lincoln

<sup>5</sup> The New York Times, September 30, 1962, p. 87, column 1, mentions a John T. Harrington who died on September 29.

Voice 4: He was forty years old, and he was a very active Democrat and he . . . he organized the, uh, group that ran up and down the stairs into the various apartments and got individuals . . . and they sent him a telegram of congratulations, uh, at the time of the victory, uh, uh, celebration.

Lincoln: Yeah. OK.

Voice 4: He's to be buried this afternoon.

Lincoln: This afternoon.

Voice 4: Yeah.

Lincoln: And, does he have a widow?

Voice 4: I don't know. I didn't . . . He didn't get that, but he just gave me this information.

Lincoln: Um-humm.

Voice 4: I didn't know whether I should call, uh, Dave, or you, and I thought you would handle it to the right person.

Lincoln: Yeah. OK.

Voice 4: Fine. Thank you.

Lincoln: All right.

Voice 4: Bye.

## Dictabelt 4K

### Item 4K5

Voice 5: Yes, please?

Lincoln<sup>6</sup>: Larry O'Brien.

Voice 5: Thank you.

Voice 6: Mr. O'Brien's office.

Lincoln: Pat?

Voice 6: No, it's Madelyn.

Lincoln: Oh, Madelyn. This is Evelyn Lincoln.

Voice 6: Oh, yes.

Lincoln: Someone just called in and said that John P. Harrington . . .

Voice 6: Uh-huh. . . .

*[recording of this conversation ends abruptly and is replaced almost immediately by the following one]*

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<sup>6</sup> Evelyn Lincoln

## Dictabelt 4K

### Item 4K6

JFK: Larry O'Brien p'lease.

Voice: Thank you.

*[long pause of about 40 seconds]*

Lincoln<sup>7</sup>: Hello?

Voice: The President asked for Mr. O'Brien. He's on.

Lincoln: OK.

*[short pause]*

O'Brien<sup>8</sup>: Hello.

JFK: Larry?

O'Brien: Yes, Mr. President.

JFK: McCor-- . . . The Speaker said he would see you at eleven-thirty and perhaps you would want to arrange, once you get him briefed on the four hundred, . . .

O'Brien: Right.

JFK: . . . we can arrange to see Otto, if necessary, down here.

O'Brien: Right.

JFK: Now, second thing is, I talked to Charlie. I suppose . . .

*[At this point the conversation with O'Brien is abruptly replaced in mid-conversation by another conversation, with Mike Mansfield, also in mid-conversation, as follows.]*

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<sup>7</sup> Evelyn Lincoln

## Dictabelt 4K

### Item 4K7

- JFK: . . . he'll blow me out of the water? Uh, what . . . Is there any . . .
- Mansfield<sup>9</sup>: Not you, Kerwin.
- JFK: Yeah. But, uh, . . . He's probably gonna ask me to do something. Is there anything I can do?
- Mansfield: Well, now, the only thing is this. Uh, What a . . . He is very much disturbed because of his opposition to the aquarium bill that Kerwin has knocked out a lot of his projects in the public works bill.
- JFK: That's right.
- Mansfield: He will show you newspaper clippings which will indicate his and Edith Green's defeat. And there is nothing that you can do. All you can say is that you'll call up Kerwin and see what you can do and we will try to get Bob Kerr to do the same thing over here.
- JFK: I see. Well, why did . . . Why did the senators let it go? Because I suppose they're mad at him, too, aren't they? He's been kicking everybody around for so long and finally they decided to kick him, I guess. Didn't they?
- Mansfield: Well, of course, that's partly it. But, it was a personal thing with, uh, with Mike . . .
- JFK: Surely.
- Mansfield: . . . and I think a lot of them are a little bit afraid of Mike because of his power, uh, on the Interior and other, uh, appropriations committees over there, and they thought, well, they'd better go along.
- JFK: Yeah.
- Mansfield: And it's . . . . The amounts are really small. They . . . They don't mean anything.

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<sup>8</sup> Lawrence F. O'Brien

<sup>9</sup> Mike Mansfield

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Mansfield: But, I think, uh, that if you would say, well you'll call Kerwin and I'll get Bob Kerr to talk to Kerwin, that might be the best way out of it.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Well, why don't I call Kerwin before I see Wayne and see whether I can do anything?

Mansfield: OK.

JFK: Uh, but, I mean Wayne . . . . sheesh! . . . OK, Mike. Right.

Mansfield: OK, Mr. President.

## Dictabelt 4K

### Item 4K8

JFK: Hello.

Albert: Yes?

JFK: Albert, how are you?

Albert: Fine. How are you, Mr. President?

JFK: Oh, very good. Well, now, it looks now, unfortunately, like we're beginning to run out of time . . .

Albert: Yeah. I'm afraid so.

JFK: . . . on H.R. 10. Unfor-- . . . I wish the hell that Congress had gotten out Saturday. Now, uh, what is your thought about how we should do this? I don't want to veto it if we're . . . unless we got a prayer. Now, do you think we can . . . What do you think that we could get in the Senate? I don't think we can do very well in the House.

Albert: Well, it depends on two men. Mike will help you.

JFK: Yeah, but Hubert's for the bill.

Albert: Well, he's for the . . . Now Ralph Yarborough told me he would sustain a veto.

JFK: Right.

Albert: He announced for it. I'd say it would depend on Hubert and Bob Kerr. If they will resist overriding, uh, a veto, then Mike and I can corral enough others, uh, to, uh, prevent its being overridden.

JFK: Well, now, Hubert has told uh, me, the, uh, last week's breakfast and said it again Saturday, that he wants . . . he's for the bill.

Albert: Well . . .

JFK:

I tell you what I'll do is, I'll get ahold of Hubert and, uh, . . . but, uh, . . . and see where he thinks we are. What we don't . . .

*/recording ends abruptly with needle apparently sticking in groove/*