

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 23E, Item 23E1

July 25, 1963

Operator: [Words unintelligible].

JFK: . . . trying to find a successor for you. [Words unintelligible] . . .

Day:¹ Well, it's beginning to leak out and at the [words unintelligible] . . .

JFK: Well, now, I thou-, yeah, I know, you don't want it, uh . . .

Day: . . . it's gonna look like there's some mess because I was subjected to enough rumors last winter to last me a lifetime.

JFK: Oh, well, I thought that, uh, we on-, what we could do is I could go with it at the, for the p.m.'s tomorrow, and I could get you back a letter, uh, ta-, then we could announce it, and then I could put this fellow in, your, what is he, a deputy or under secretary?

Day: He's the same as an under secretary, he's a deputy.

JFK: [Right?].

Day: I don't mind holding down the fort for a while, but I want it on the basis of . . .

JFK: Well . . .

Day: . . . knowing that . . .

JFK: . . . well, why don't we do this? Why don't we announce that you're going to resign as of August 1st and we can announce it tomorrow?

Day: All right.

JFK: The only problem was I say is that . . .

Day: Doesn't have to be, it doesn't have to even be that soon . . .

¹ James Edward Day.

JFK: Does it . . .

Day: . . . if it's more convenient to you to make it the . . .

JFK: Well, why don't we make it Monday then?

Day: . . . end of August or the . . .

JFK: No, that's fine. It's only, what I was trying to do, I figure that once you're, it's announced that you're going, then I'll get a lot of heat from a lot of people about different people to appoint and I ought to know in my own mind who I am going to appoint. But I, I'm having some difficulty finding somebody who fulfills the problem. Uh, but I think in fairness, if we don't want it seeping out, so what about having it tomorrow or we can do it for Monday, uh, p.m.'s. I can do it up at the Cape on Sunday and release the letters for Monday a.m. Why don't we do that?

Day: All right.

JFK: Is it your judgment it will hold 'til then or is it around more than that?

Day: Well, there've been three calls this week . . .

JFK: Um- . . .

Day: . . . including one from Chicago. The one from Chicago, uh . . .

JFK: The press?

Day: No, this was some woman out there that's a friend of the family that heard it from somebody here in Washington . . .

JFK: Okay.

Day: . . . on that, had the story quite accurate.

JFK: I see.

Day: And [Jerry Klep?] called me up on Monday. Some, uh, guy from Business Week magazine came over here this, uh, week . . .

JFK: I see.

Day: . . . and it's, uh . . .

JFK: I see, right.

Day: . . . I feel, it's, uh . . .

JFK: Okay. I tell you what let's do. Let me try to, uh, let me get a letter to you. I've got your letter and let me get a letter to you and to, uh, uh, we'll try, and I'll try to get it for p.m.'s tomorrow. That'd be Friday and at the latest I'll put it out Sunday for a.m.'s Monday. But it'd be one of those two times and I will call you tomorrow morning around 9:30 and, uh, say how, what it looks like. If I can get a successor, I would rather announce it 'cause otherwise I know I'll get a lot of heat saying you oughta come from this part of the country or that part of the country or you oughta be a woman or somebody of some sort.

Day: Yeah, I know the problem.

JFK: So why don't, uh, we go ahead then either tomorrow afternoon p.m. or Monday morning a.m. and I'll call you in the morning. And in the meanwhile, I'll get . . .

Day: Once it's announced, if it's more convenient for your purposes for me to hold the fort for a couple of weeks or three weeks, I, I could do that 'til the first of September or any time earlier [than that?].

JFK: No, actually, I think the problem really is more the ga-, the problem of the, of the succession. And I think once we announce it, it seems to me that we could go pretty quickly and, uh, and just make this fellow, if we do have an interim period, your assistant, your second man, just make him acting.

Day: All right.

JFK: Which we can do for a couple of weeks, then it'll make your time easier. So I will be back in touch and in the meanwhile I'll get a letter written.

Day: Okay.

JFK: Fine, Ed.

Day: All right. Thank you.

JFK: Thank you.