

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 23E3

July 25, 1963

Operator: You are the labor arbitrator?

JFK: Cole?¹

Cole: Yes.

JFK: How are you?

Cole: Hello, Mr. President.

JFK: I hope I'm not disturbing you.

Cole: Oh, no, it's always a delight to hear you.

JFK: I wondered if we could, uh, persuade you to come to work with us on a matter for several months and that would be to be a, the director of what I would set up by Executive order, a community relations service which would represent the government in these various, uh, racial negotiations which are going on and will be going on over the next, uh, three or four months, uh, partly, uh, in September with the schools, but, uh, matters such as Cambridge; Gadsden, Alabama; Savannah. Uh, we have been work-, doing it now pretty much, uh, on a extemporaneous basis with, under Burke Marshall and some of the, uh, lawyers in the, uh, Civil Rights Division. But we wanted to, uh, have somebody who, uh, could, uh, was not, uh, a part of the arm of the Justice Department but who could do . . .

Cole: Yes.

JFK: . . . this until such time as the Congress might act on setting it up by statute. Then we would be in a more formal position.

Cole: Uh, whom could I talk to . . .

JFK: Uh, I wondered if you could talk to the attorney general who is very anxious to have you do it and also with Burke Marshall.

¹ David L. Cole.

Cole: Uh-huh.

JFK: And, uh, perhaps if you could, uh, come down and see us all next week, uh, we could give you a better idea of what we have in mind.

Cole: Yes, I'm coming in on Monday in any event and I would like to come in and talk about this. The, uh. . . . It comes like a bolt out of the blue, of course . . .

JFK: Right.

Cole: . . . there's so many things we've all planned.

JFK: Right.

Cole: I suppose you always get this answer from people . . .

JFK: Yes. [Laughs.]

Cole: . . . but still we, this doesn't mean that we're saying no by any means.

JFK: Right. Well, now, what, wh-, what are you going to be doing down here Monday?

Cole: It's the labor management committee.

JFK: Oh, will you be meeting at the White House or over at the Labor Department?

Cole: At the White House.

JFK: Oh, I see. Well, uh, why don't, uh, I plan to, uh, have a few minutes to talk to you then.

Cole: Good. I'd like that very much.

JFK: Good. Fine, Mr. Cole.

Cole: Thank you.

JFK: Thank you. Bye.

Cole: Bye.

Operator: Waiting. Waiting.