

## 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 25A, Item 25A5

August 6, 1963

JFK: . . . better qualified whites.

Desautels:<sup>1</sup> Yes, sir, in Philadelphia.

JFK: Uh, well, I thought it was Tennessee that. . . . Where'd it first come out of?

Desautels: Philadelphia, I believe they were gon-, supposed to conduct a, uh, hearing, a field hearing. Go up to Philadelphia and look into the situation.

JFK: Yeah, well, I think somebody also oughta gather together some of those figures and show relatively how few Negroes hold high level jobs in the government. Do they have any case of where Negroes were given preference?

Desautels: I don't know. That's, that's what they're supposed to investigate. I can check with John Macy<sup>2</sup> and, uh, people at the Post Office, Mr. President.

JFK: Yeah, but I think, uh, we oughta sort of watch it 'cause it could be mean if it, uh, got out of hand.

Desautels: Yes, sir.

JFK: I think if we go to show, you know, what the discrimination problem is and what we're trying to do about it in a reasonable way and not let them pick on one or two cases of where some Negro got a job where he shouldn't have gotten it. There is really [words unintelligible] . . .

Desautels: I think the first item on their schedule, they're supposed to conduct a field hearing in the Philadelphia situation which, you know, Congressman Nix<sup>3</sup> has been having a problem with Mr. Moore<sup>4</sup> of NAACP<sup>5</sup> up there.

JFK: Yeah.

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<sup>1</sup> Claude Decautels.

<sup>2</sup> John W. Macy, Jr.

<sup>3</sup> Robert N. C. Nix, congressman from Pennsylvania.

<sup>4</sup> Cecil B. Moore.

<sup>5</sup> National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Desautels: And I think they're supposed to go up there, I believe it was originally scheduled for Thursday of this week to go up and have a field hearing into the Philadelphia situation.

JFK: Yeah.

Desautels: But I'll check the story of last night and, um, and then contact the people at Post Office and the Civil Service Commission.

JFK: Yeah, okay, fine.

Desautels: Fine. Bye, Mr. President. Fine.