

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 23B, Item 23B6

July 24, 1963

JFK: Hello.

Rusk:¹ Yeah, Mr. President.

JFK: Yes, Dean.

Rusk: Ah . . .

JFK: How was it up there?

Rusk: Well, uh, one or two surprises. Uh, uh, Chairman Russell² was, uh, much more friendly to the, to this than I had expected him to be. He referred to the enormous support in the country and think it would be a great thing if this thing should prove to be workable. Um, but I did in that committee run into the hardcore of Goldwater,³ Thurmond,⁴ uh, Jackson⁵ and Cannon.⁶ Uh, and they were, they were pretty, uh, penetrating and I didn't, I don't think I did as good a job on them.

JFK: You mean technical questions?

Rusk: Yes, and about our need for further testing and things on the super megaton and all that kind of thing.

JFK: Yeah.

Rusk: But, uh, Case,⁷ Saltonstall,⁸ Inouye⁹ and two or three others indicated they would support, so, uh . . .

JFK: Yeah.

¹ Dean Rusk, secretary of state.

² Richard B. Russell, senator from Georgia.

³ Barry Goldwater, senator from Arizona.

⁴ Strom Thurman, senator from South Carolina.

⁵ Henry M. Jackson, senator from Washington.

⁶ Howard W. Cannon, senator from Nevada.

⁷ Clifford P. Case, senator from New Jersey.

⁸ Leverett Saltonstall, senator from Massachusetts.

⁹ Daniel K. Inouye, senator from Hawaii.

Rusk: . . . I think this was the, where the center of resistance is likely to be.

JFK: That's right. Yeah.

Rusk: But, uh, but, uh . . .

JFK: What about . . . ¹⁰

¹⁰ Continued on Belt 23C, Item 23C1.