

## 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.

Papers of John F. Kennedy

Presidential Recordings

Dictabelts

## **Dictabelt 14A**

### Conversation #1: President Kennedy and Harold Hughes

March 9, 1963

*[Continued from Dictabelt 13A, Conversation #2]*

Gov. Hughes: I haven't told anybody I was calling you. I don't want any publicity on it at all. It is just a matter between you and I, and the man's attorney knows that I am calling and that's all.

President: Right. Okay. Good, Governor. I'll talk to you Monday or Tuesday, but it's your feeling that we ought to commute him to life?

Gov. Hughes: My personal feeling is that you ought to commute his sentence to life. I would greatly appreciate it if it could be done, but it is your judgment to make, I know.

President: Right, okay, Governor, I'll call you.

Gov. Hughes: Thanks a lot.

President: Thank you, I am glad to talk to you. How are you doing otherwise?

Gov. Hughes: Oh, I've got a million problems here in Iowa, but I really think things are looking fairly good out here as far as your own position is concerned.

President: I must say, you were, you and Frank Morrisson, I don't know how you did it. Having some experience with Iowa, uh, I couldn't believe it when I saw the results of that election.

Gov. Hughes: I have got a real battle, but I think we can make progress here. I would like to talk to you about it sometime later, and see what we think we can do next year here.

President: Good, Governor, thanks a lot, and I will be in touch with you.

Gov. Hughes: Thanks a lot.