

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 10B

Item 10B1

March 6, 1963

[continues item 10A7]

Katzenbach¹: . . . 'course, what I have wanted and . . . and all along and what we have been pushing on is to get management because the director shouldn't be doing this, Mr. President.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Katzenbach: This is the job of management.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. And we got Charyk.²

Katzenbach: We got two now, and they're going to get some . . . some more, I hope, very quickly.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Katzenbach: And that's where the six men he's talking about . . . the directors don't go around and do this kind of thing. This is a management job.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Do you wanna get up some sort of answer which Pastore could make if . . . if necessary, uh, to him, that we could print at the same time that this is printed?

Katzenbach: Yep.

JFK: He'd be the best fellow, I think, to do it.

Katzenbach: All right. We'll do that.

JFK: Good.

Katzenbach: And this would be printed what? Friday probably?

¹ Nicholas deB. Katzenbach

² Joseph V. Charyk.

JFK: If it is. We are going to try to kill it.

Katzenbach: Yeah.

JFK: But it, . . . I'm just thinking if we fail. Doesn't have to be voluminous, but it would be . . . and then I suppose we would have to brief our directors before they go up there for confirmation, so that, uh, . . . if this is gonna be printed . . . we'd probably have to have a meeting with them at which you and Ted Sorensen and so on could go over some of these points which will be made by the committee if . . . if Graham's charges are made that would . . . could be answered, particularly Charyk and, uh, [Van?] . . .

Katzenbach: Yeah.

JFK: Right. Okay.

Katzenbach: All right. We will do that.

JFK: Thanks.

Katzenbach: Okay.

[phone hangs up]

Dictabelt 10B

Item 10B2

March 6, 1963

Wirtz³: Hello.

JFK: How are you?

Wirtz: Good.

JFK: You got a statement you might make tomorrow in connection with unemployment?

Wirtz: Just about . . . [remainder lost due to skip]

JFK: [words missing] . . . the reason it has gone up by three tenths of a percent . . .

Wirtz: Well the, uh, largest factors in it are a substantial increase in the work force beyond, uh, that normal . . .

JFK: Why would that be in the winter?

Wirtz: We're trying to figure out what it is. As nearly as we can figure it, most of the . . . the largest increase, uh, is . . . is in connection with applications for part-time employment. Now these are two figures that jump around pretty badly.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: And, uh, the increase in the work force is seven hundred thousand, uh, most of which is . . .

JFK: How long a period?

Wirtz: Oh, in one month.

JFK: My God!

³ C. Willard Wirtz

Wirtz: Now, most of that is seasonal. It . . . it always jumps between, uh, January and February, uh, but it . . . it is about two hundred thousand too high. Uh, the part-time, uh, unemployment requests make up about half of this. Teenagers make up about half of it.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: These, uh, . . . But all I'm saying to you is that these are three, this . . . the work force figure, the part-time figure, and the teenagers, are all three of them figures that jump around from month to month.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: So we get . . . But, uh, but it's hard to bite into anything more than that, and, uh, . . .

JFK: Well, you are going to say something about our programs?

Wirtz: And tie . . . tie it in with the tax program, the youth unemployment thing.

JFK: Yeah, well, now . . . youth unemployment . . . tax . . . what else is there? Uh, education, I would think. Don't you think?

Wirtz: Uh, let's see . . .

JFK: *[People?]* in school . . .

Wirtz: We will try to work in a tie-in on that. Uh, I gather we don't say anything yet about accelerated public works, is that right?

JFK: Well, I think we . . . accelerated public works . . . I think we had better have you wait on that.

Wirtz: I think that's right.

JFK: You know, then we hit it another month. What? Uh, vocational?

Wirtz: I think . . .

JFK: Oh, you can . . . you know the stuff.

Wirtz: Yeah. I'm not sure I see the tie-in on education . . .

JFK: Don't you?

Wirtz: . . . but, I'll see.

JFK: Well, the only thing I was thinking of about . . . st-- . . . about skills. I don't know. Maybe not.

Wirtz: Uh, permanent . . . and the unemployment thing that'll tie in with it, too.

JFK: Yeah. Maybe not education.

Wirtz: I think that's a little hard.

JFK: Right. Okay.

Wirtz: Okay.

JFK: Fine.

Wirtz: We'll do . . . we'll check it over there.

JFK: Thank you. Okay.

Wirtz: 'Bye. Thanks.

JFK: *[Right?]*

[phone hangs up]

Dictabelt 10B

Item 10B3

March 6, 1963

[begins in mid-conversation]

JFK: . . . Boston, which gives them a pretty good little issue.

O'Brien⁴: Yeah.

JFK: Uh, can't we do something about that?

O'Brien: Yeah, well, actually, this whole damn thing is, uh, up in the air now. Guys like Muskie and others are . . . Christ, by the time I put together all the inquiries we've had today I think it'll cover the whole waterfront, and we'll just have to review this entire operation. I'm going to . . .

JFK: They didn't clear this at all, did they?

O'Brien: No. No. Well, it seems a rather, uh, . . . Very frankly, it was just a stupid operation all the way. I've got Mahaffey on the other line, incidentally, . . .⁵

JFK: Yeah.

O'Brien: Who has just come from the governor, and of course he said the governor, uh, it's the old story that he never said that it would get you in 'sixty-four, and reporters have called him from all over the country, and he has denied he has said that.

JFK: Yeah.

O'Brien: That, uh, . . . he still insists that Arkansas fliers participated in the invasion, however.

⁴ Lawrence F. O'Brien

⁵ See item 10A5.

JFK: Yeah? Well, you tell them what they did is they participated in the training down there in Nicaragua . . .

O'Brien: Yeah.

JFK: . . . and Guatemala, but they didn't fly in combat.

O'Brien: Yeah. That's what I told him initially. That's what he told the governor, and the governor said, well, hell, he wasn't quarrelling. He said, uh, . . . uh, he will . . . the governor's gonna call me later tonight, uh, but he said, hell, I, uh, I don't want to get into any, uh, . . .

JFK: Well, why don't you just tell him that what we want to do is just put the God damn thing to rest?

O'Brien: Right.

JFK: So whatever they can do down there to just shut it all up, is fine with us. That the guards issued some statement about, . . . he can, uh, just say they've . . . uh, he can do . . . try to cover his tracks and we'll try to end it.

O'Brien: Yeah. All right.

JFK: Okay. And then we ought to get this thing straightened out. I don't want it around that we are taking business out of Scranton out to . . . which is depressed . . . up to . . . so I think we ought to put out a statement saying that, uh, we're holding up . . . or the Secretary of the Treasury ought to put it out in the morning, . . . we're holding up on all these transfers.

O'Brien: All right.

JFK: 'cause I just think it's stupid.

O'Brien: Yeah.

JFK: Right.

[phone hangs up]

Dictabelt 10B

Item 10B4

March 6, 1963

Voice: Yes, please?

JFK: Secretary Dillon, please.

Voice: Yes, Mr. President.

[there is a long pause of about 50 seconds]

Lincoln⁶: Would you try to get Joe Fowler?

Voice: Yes.

[another 35 second pause]

JFK: Hello?

[some minor confusion on the line, with static and voices talking at once, for just a couple or three seconds]

Lincoln: Hello?

JFK: Yes?

Voice: Mr. Fowler on the line, Mrs. Lincoln.

Lincoln: Okay.

JFK: Hello.

Fowler⁷: Hello, sir.

⁶ Evelyn Lincoln

⁷ Henry H. Fowler

JFK: Oh, Joe. Listen, uh, this God damn thing of Caplin's⁸ is causing us a lot of headaches.

Fowler: I'm . . . I'm just rubbing my head from all over the place. Yes, I know.

JFK: What is . . . How can they be that dumb over there? Will you tell me that? I mean, Christ, to take something out of Scranton and put it in Boston . . . which is a depressed area . . . just making it easy for the governor down there and everybody in Pennsylvania to say that we're taking care of Teddy. Then . . . Are they out of their minds? What? To save a million dollars four years from now?

Fowler: Well, uh, . . .

JFK: He doesn't have any God damn sense. He may be a genius, but he doesn't have any sense.

Fowler: Uh, . . . We are, uh, . . . we're, uh, . . .

JFK: Eating it?

Fowler: The gut . . . we . . . The real question, I think, is whether I . . . My own suggestion, sir, would be this, that we get him to answer this tomorrow; let's see how much, uh, follow-up there is from, uh, from fellows like Cotton⁹ and, uh, Rockefeller, and see if this is a twenty-four hour wonder, and whether it passes off, . . . uh . . .

JFK: Scranton is the one that really bothers me, more than New York, because you know they got such a bad unemployment situation there.

Fowler: Well it's . . . it's . . . it's a very miniscule number. I'm getting him to . . . I've had him on the phone for the last hour, uh, getting me every fact I can get my hands on . . .

JFK: Wasn't he aware that this would have a bad repercussion? Or did he think everybody's gonna . . .

Fowler: Oh, yes, uh, we . . . we . . . went into this in great detail, about what the consequences would be, and I had him go up and see everybody in God's name about it. . . .

⁸ Mortimer M. Caplin.

⁹ Senator Norris Cotton.

JFK: I wish he had talked to O'Brien. Did he talk to O'Brien?

Fowler: I don't know whether he talked to O'Brien or not.

JFK: Will you tell him in the future to talk to O'Brien? Christ, I'm the one who gets all the hell on these things. Caplin doesn't. So I had . . . So the only problem, uh, . . . so make sure, uh, . . . then . . . then at least we got responsibility if it goes wrong. Now I think that, uh, we ought to consider tomorrow issuing a statement saying that, uh, . . . by the secretary . . . in which he says . . . of Caplin . . . that this matter is going to be, uh, reviewed, and there will be . . . that no action will be taken until the review is complete. Then you could put it to rest for a couple of weeks and then we could eat it if we had to.

Fowler: Well, uh, there is, of course, this line to take, . . . Let me just cite you the New York situation, just to take one take one.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Fowler: Actually, they've . . . there are seven hundred and seventy-six people in that New York office. Six hundred and two of them are going to be retained. One hundred and seventy-four are marked as surplus. No taxpayers' services are being transferred. And then, of course, this is all a part of a program for economy and efficiency. Now, that is the general line of answer that would be given to Rockefeller to his telegram to you.

JFK: Yeah.

Fowler: Uh, . . . Question of whether we get out a press release on . . . on that, uh, or whether, uh, . . .

JFK: I don't care so much about Rockefeller. He's always yelling about economy and efficiency in the government. . . .

Fowler: That's right. We could burn him.

JFK: Of course, the unfortunate thing is they are moving it to Massachusetts. . . .

Fowler: Wh-- . . . [recording skips slightly]

JFK: . . . that ties in . . . [recording skips] . . . But I'm more concerned a little about Scranton. That's got what? About a hundred and seventy people?

Fowler: Uh, no, I think it'll turn out to be, uh, just about . . . maybe less than that. I don't have the Scranton figures. I've asked . . .

JFK: Well, would you consider, uh, in any case then, that you . . . we . . . an announcement?

Fowler: Uh, I . . . would prefer . . .

JFK: Let's you and I talk about it tomorrow. But this is what . . . We might have either Caplin or the secretary say that this matter is going to be reviewed . . . there'll be no changes made until the review is completed. And, uh, that would, uh, that might, . . . then we could always eat it if we had to. But let's consider that in the morning.

Fowler: All right, sir.

JFK: I don't want to have a lot of people in Pennsylvania thinking we're screwing 'em for Teddy.

Fowler: Yeah, well, they . . . they . . . they couldn't really, on . . . on the, uh, . . .

JFK: No, but you know how these emotional matters get going.

Fowler: They go . . . It . . . It goes to Philadelphia and to Pittsburgh. The people from Scranton.

JFK: They go to Pennsylvania? They stay in Pennsylvania?

Fowler: They stay in Pennsylvania. The . . . so . . . And there are just a few, and not . . . and they . . . we keep an office there.

JFK: Yeah.

Fowler: And, uh, actually, I think that when I get the facts in hand, . . .

JFK: Well, get the facts on Scranton. That's the one that disturbs me most.

Fowler: . . . uh, I really think we can deal with that one.

JFK: Detroit we are going to take care of anyway, because we have a commitment on that. Uh, but I'll talk to you then tomorrow.

Fowler: All right.

JFK: Thanks a lot.

Fowler: Well, I'm on top of this just as fast as I can.

JFK: Okay.

Fowler: Have been, for the last hour or two when it hit me. I . . . I have been buried in the tax bill, so, uh, . . .

JFK: Right.

Fowler: I . . . I . . . I just wasn't on top of it.

JFK: Right.

Fowler: Right, sir.

JFK: Righto.

[phone hangs up]

Dictabelt 10B

Item 10B5

[In the following dictation of the Philip Graham letter, punctuation is spoken by Mary Wilder, but in the transcript it is written as in the original.]

Wilder:¹⁰ Hello.

Lincoln¹¹: Hello.

Wilder: This is Mary Wilder.

Lincoln: Yes.

Wilder: Uh, that letter is, um, addressed to the President, the White House, . . .

Lincoln: Uh-huh.

Wilder: . . . Washington, D.C. It is dated January 23, 1963.

Lincoln: Okay.

Wilder: *[reading the letter]*

Dear Mr. President,

On October 15, 1962, you appointed me as an incorporator of the Communications Satellite Corporation in accordance with the provisions of the Communications Satellite Act of 1962. Thereafter, I was elected chairman of the incorporators. I found my service in this capacity to be a thoroughly rewarding experience.

Lincoln: . . . in this capacity . . . to be . . .

Wilder: I beg your pardon. To be a thoroughly . . . thoroughly rewarding experience. I have a cold. Maybe I'm not speaking clearly.

Lincoln: Oh, yes, you are.

¹⁰ Mary Wilder, secretary to Clark Clifford.

¹¹ Evelyn Lincoln

Wilder: New paragraph.

Lincoln: Uh-huh.

Wilder: *[resumes reading letter]*

I have contemplated for some time, and have so informed you and the incorporators, that as soon as the chief executive officer for the new company has been selected I would relinquish my duties. This selection should take place shortly.

The organizing effort has made excellent progress toward the fulfillment of our task. In view of this, and for further reasons of health, I believe it is advisable for me to resign as an incorporator. I therefore submit my resignation as of this date. Thanking you for your many past kindnesses, I am,

Respectfully yours,
Philip L. Graham

One "l" in "phillip."

Lincoln: Uh-huh. Okay.

Wilder: Okay.

Lincoln: Thanks an awful lot.

Wilder: You are welcome.

Lincoln: Alrighty.

Wilder: 'Bye.

Lincoln: 'Bye.

[phone hangs up]