

## 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 6A, Item 6A2

Voice 1: Mr. President? Mr. President?

JFK: Yeah.

Voice 1: He's in a conference room down on the fifth floor. They'll send for him.  
[Becomes garbled.]

[Needle sticks throughout. Much is repeated and the conversation becomes garbled at regular intervals.]

JFK: . . . to it in '60. Hell, I'd have gotten them all in shape. [Needle sticks.]

Brown :<sup>1</sup> Well, let me just tell you this.

JFK: I will tell you this. You reduced him to the nut house.

Brown: But you gave me instructions and I follow your orders.

JFK: I understand. God, that last farewell speech of his . . .

Brown: Wasn't that terrible?

JFK: Well, no, but it shows that he belongs right on the couch. [Needle sticks.]  
What is going to happen to him now? [Words missing,] . . . out there.

Brown: I don't see how he can ever recover. They really didn't want him, the leaders.

JFK: Yeah.

Brown: [Goodwin] Knight walked out on him, Shell told me he walked out on him.  
He is a peculiar fellow, this is a very peculiar man. I really think that he is  
psychotic. He's an able man, but he's nuts.

JFK: Yeah.

Brown: Like a lot of these paranoiacs there. [words missing.] . . . good job here in  
California.

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<sup>1</sup> Governor Edmund Gerald (Pat) Brown of California.

JFK: What did [Thomas] Kuchel win by?

Brown: Kuchel won by about [words missing.] The Cuban thing really helped him. [Words missing.] . . . flew back, why it really helped him. But we have a legislature out here now, 53, two-thirds majority and we have two-thirds in the Senate. So California [words missing.] years . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Brown: . . . I'll tell you that. We have our responsibilities . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Brown: . . . too. But I would like to make kind of a model of your program [words missing]/. . .

JFK: Yeah.

Brown: . . . legislative program I'd like to move ahead. Why don't you come out here and spend a couple days during the . . .

JFK: Well I'm thinking of coming out in December. I got to go out to Los Alamos [words missing] in December. But I will give you a call . . .

Brown: Well, that's fine.

JFK: . . . if I am able to . . .

Brown: Fine, would you just do one thing for me? Just say hello to my son, Jerry [Edmund Gerald Brown, Jr.], who came back from Yale Law School and really put me over in San Francisco.

JFK: Oh good, fine.

Brown: This is my son, Jerry.

J. Brown: Hello, Mr. President.

JFK: Jerry, how are you?

J. Brown: Fine.

JFK: I was up there campaigning in New [words missing] those fellow Elies of yours.

J. Brown: They're the undergraduates. [Words missing]

JFK: I see, good. [Words missing.]

J. Brown: He sure did.

JFK: I told him, God, I could only [words missing] by less in the coun[words missing].

J. Brown: Well, we, you'll take California by ten times as much as you did before.

JFK: Well, we'll try. Well, listen, good luck to you. Take care.

J. Brown: Thank you very much.

JFK: Bye, Jerry.

J. Brown: Here is my father.

Brown: Well, I'll look forward to seeing you.

JFK: Are you going down to Palm Springs? [Needle sticks. Words missing.]

Brown: [Unintelligible.]

JFK: How long are you going to stay down?

Brown: I'm going to bring my staff down. Stay down for a week.

JFK: Oh.

Brown: Do a little . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Brown: . . . plotting and a [words missing] but I feel wonderful.

JFK: I should think that you would.

Brown: [Words missing] Well, they haven't anything out here now.

JFK: Yeah, right.

Brown: Of course, now we'll start fighting amongst ourselves. When you get a [words missing] troubles.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. But you ought to get that [words missing] once and for all.

Brown: I think so.

JFK: Yeah.

Brown: We'll do that and then we'll move on to the. . . . Uh, you [words missing] . . . this Cuban [words missing] for your information, after that [words missing] the following week . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Brown: . . . and much more [word missing] out here.

JFK: Yeah.

Brown: It didn't make any cha . . . [words missing] at all.

JFK: I thought that it might have [words missing].

Brown: I was afraid of it, too. He got on television, you know, and said that he [words missing]. We really cracked him on that . . . [words missing] . . . a paid political broadcast and we accused him of making politics . . .

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Brown: . . . out of Cuba. Did very badly in San Diego [words missing]. . . . we lost both of those counties by 100,000 votes.

JFK: [Unintelligible]

Brown: [Word missing] carried Los Angeles County by 100,000.

JFK: [Unintelligible]

Brown: San Francisco, my home town, by 73. So I did almost [words missing] in Massachusetts [words missing].

JFK: Very good, Pat, I'll see you soon.

Brown: [Words missing]? I certainly appreciate it.

JFK: Thanks a lot, Pat.

Brown: Good bye.