

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 5A, Item 5A.2

[begins in mid-conversation]

Voice: . . . I put you on the spot this morning at breakfast with, uh, Dwight Eisenhower and . . . and two visitors who, uh, wanted his advice on whether they should talk to the President of the United States about a . . . a problem, and asked me what would he have done if they had come to him with this. He, uh, urged that they see the president. Now, I don't know, uh, . . . I said, well, I guess the best thing on this is to, uh, call, uh, call Ted Clifton. And Dwight Eisenhower said, go ahead and . . . and call him and see if these two men can get in.

Clifton¹: All right.

Voice: Is there any chance? In the next couple days?

Clifton: Oh, yeah.

Voice: It is Clarence Francis. You know him, don't you? The old General Foods man.

Clifton: Oh, yeah.

Voice: And Egbert, of Studebaker.

Clifton: All right.

Voice: Hmm?

Clifton: Right. Now, uh, when you say General Foods . . . I'm trying to . . .

Voice: It was General Foods. He was head of General Foods.

Clifton: Yeah. Right. And, uh, . . . these . . . these two men, uh . . .

Voice: Uh, now wait. The president knows him, uh . . .

Clifton: Right.

¹ Chester V. Clifton

Voice: . . . they were together on the, uh, on the Hoover Commission.

Clifton: Oh, yeah. They . . . He knows 'em both.

Voice: Yeah.

Clifton: Now, the idea is that they should get down here and see him. Where do we get in touch with them?

Voice: well, uh, they're here in New York. Damn . . . uh, Bob has their phone number. They have a plane here. They can get down anytime if they can get ten minutes . . .

Clifton: All right. And is it an economic problem or . . .?

Voice: That's right. That's right. Twelve thousand jobs.

Clifton: All right.

Voice: Now, they spread the whole case before Dwight Eisenhower and, uh, his reaction was that it was a, uh, it . . . it was presidential level.

Clifton: Uh-huh. Well, all right. That, uh, . . . He oughta know. And, uh, let me, uh, . . . uh, lemme run this through the mill. And you think I can get hold of Egbert at Studebaker?

Voice: They're both in New York . . . damn! I just . . .

Clifton: But Schultz knows where?

Voice: Yeah. Bob just took off with somebody.

Clifton: Are you all staying there in . . .

Voice: . . . the phone numbers. Oh, wait, here they . . . here it is.

Clifton: All right.

Voice: Uh, Yukon 6-7990 . . .

Clifton: 7990.

Voice: Yeah. Or, Yukon 6-7979.

Clifton: All right.

Voice: This is a helluva time to ask for an appointment.

Clifton: Well, we'll see wha-- . . . I'll get this organized.

Voice: Yeah.

Clifton: OK.

Voice: But Dwight, uh, Eisenhower seemed to think that it was . . .

Clifton: OK.

Voice: . . . well, it doesn't seem . . . he said right out that he thought it was presidential level.

Clifton: OK.

Voice: Um-hmm.

Clifton: Well, we'll get after it.

Voice: OK.

Clifton: All right, Kevin. What . . . Are you all staying in New York today?

Voice: Uh, . . . overnight. We've got, uh, . . . Well, we had Council for Foreign Relations last night, and I don't know what the hell there's . . . oh, uh, Mr. President tonight.

Clifton: Oh, yeah. OK. All right.

Voice: In the meantime we're resting. Dammit.

Clifton: OK. I'll see you, Kevin.

Voice: All right.

Clifton:

Bye.

[phone hangs up]