

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.

Dictabelt 26B, Item 26B5

August 23, 1963

JFK: Hello.

Fulbright:¹ Hello.

JFK: Bill, how are you?

Fulbright: Good morning.

JFK: I hope I'm not taking you away from something.

Fulbright: Oh, we've just concluded our executive hearing here in the office on the treaty.

JFK: Yeah.

Fulbright: And just getting ready to go.

JFK: I wondered if you had any suggestions about what we ought, we ought to be doing anything about next week?

Fulbright: On the treaty?

JFK: Yeah, on the treaty. I keep reading all these, uh, this testimony which must be rather confusing, confusing.

Fulbright: Well, it is. It i-, I mean it isn't to me, but, uh . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Fulbright: [Laughs.] It hasn't raised any doubts in my mind.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Fulbright: I think that Teller² made some impression on some of the members.

¹ J. William Fulbright, senator from Arkansas.

JFK: Yeah. Well, there's no bo-, there's no doubt that any man with complete conviction, particularly who's an expert, uh, is bound to shake anybody who's got an open mind.

Fulbright: Uh . . .

JFK: That's the advantage of having . . .

Fulbright: That's right, uh . . .

JFK: . . . a closed mind.

Fulbright: . . . I, I'm inclined to feel, however, that we are in pretty good shape . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Fulbright: . . . and, uh . . .³

² Dr. Edward Teller, physicist.

³ Continued on Belt 26C, Item 26C1.