

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 23D, Item 23D3

July 25, 1963

JFK: . . . [here?].

Bundy:¹ Yes.

JFK: The only adv-, the only reason to wait 'til Sunday, uh, which would be somewhat better TV time would be, uh, that, uh, we would have Harriman² back here. When will we know whether we could get Harriman back if we sent a plane for him?

Bundy: We're sending a plane, Mr. President . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Bundy: . . . and arranging to have it there from Saturday noon on. So that i-, we won't know about Harriman's return probably until the end of the day today.

JFK: That'll be enough time.

Bundy: I don't think myself that, uh, the TV prime time is very important, Mr. President. I, the more I think about it the more I side with Murrow³, but, uh, and Tom Sorensen⁴ was emphasizing it again today that the shortest possible gap between signature and your, your striking the key note is . . .

JFK: Yeah, yeah.

Bundy: . . . is essential. But in any event, uh, are you talking to Ted⁵ about it?

JFK: No, I'm just dealing with Pierre.⁶

Bundy: I think the best thing to do that the best thing to do is, uh, just for Ted's own, uh . . .

¹ McGeorge Bundy, special assistant to the president.

² W. Averell Harriman, assistant secretary of state for Far Eastern affairs and head of the treaty delegation.

³ Edward R. Murrow, director, United States Information Agency.

⁴ Thomas C. Sorensen, deputy director (policy and plans), United States Information Agency.

⁵ Theodore C. Sorenson, special council to the president.

⁶ Pierre E. G. Salinger, press secretary to the president.

JFK: Get it [finished?].

Bundy: . . . peace of mind is to get it done and to stick to Friday and then change if you want to.

JFK: Okay. Right, fine. Thank you.

Bundy: Right.