

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 23E, Item 23E2

July 25, 1963

JFK: Hello.

Day:¹ Yes.

JFK: Oh, Ed, what I'll do is put it out at Pierre's² noon briefing. I'll release your letter and the letter that I'm going to write to you. And if agreeable with you, I will announce that you're staying 'til August 9th, that's Friday, about ten days from now.

Day: All right.

JFK: Is that agreeable with you?

Day: Anything you want.

JFK: Good.

Day: I'm always at your service.

JFK: *[Laughs.]* Thank you very much. Well, I'll put out both letters at that time. Now wait a second, it's Pierre. *[Talks to person in the room.]* What? *[Talks to Day.]* Well, see his briefing will be at 11. So we'll announce it from the White House at 11.

Day: All right.

JFK: Now if they ask, uh, I don't know, let me just get your letter. Is there any. . . . You, you give the reasons for your . . .

Day: Well, I say because of . . .

JFK: . . . dep- . . .

Day: . . . of an unusual opportunity that has come to me.

¹ James Edward Day.

² Pierre E. Salinger.

JFK: Good. Fine. As I . . . Now we can say, in that my letter. . . . Have you announced the, that you're gonna go into law practice?

Day: Well, that's, uh, that'll be part of the same information. The law firm will release that.

JFK: Tomorrow?

Day: You've got, I've, in that, uh, material I sent to you . . .

JFK: Okay.

Day: . . . you've got all the details.

JFK: Okay, well, I will, I'll have Pierre, can say just a, as background he understands that you're going into the law practice here in Washington.

Day: Yes.

JFK: Fine. Good. Then I'll, we'll put out both of those letters. And if there's any question, any of your people, whoever does your press stuff over there can talk to Pierre in the morning.

Day: All right.

JFK: Good.

Day: All right.

JFK: So we'll go . . .

Day: Now there is. . . . Uh, another, uh, thought that I just want to pass on to you . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Day: . . . is this very outstanding Fred Belen³ over here . . .

JFK: Yeah.

³ Frederick C. Belen.

Day: . . . [words unintelligible] is, uh, the third man in the department, uh, I'm afraid, uh, about on the verge of, uh, resigning and, I think, maybe if, uh, somebody over there could, uh, do a little missionary work on him it'd be, uh, very helpful.

JFK: All right. Let me find out about that.

Day: All right.

JFK: Good, fine, Ed, thank you very much.