

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 8A, Item 8A1

Thursday, February 28, 1963¹

Meany²: Hello?

JFK: Uh, I under . . . I'm going to be going up to that, uh, dinner they are having for the anniversary for the Labor Department

Meany: Yes. On Monday.

JFK: A week from Monday, is it?

Meany: No, it's this Monday.

JFK: This . . . I wondered whether if any of your people were going to come in, uh, I thought that I might have them for lunch or over for a drink. Uh, you gonna have many of your council here?

Meany: There'll be . . . there'll be quite . . . quite a few.

JFK: Otherwise we could do it at a later date, as we did last year.

Meany: Yes.

JFK: What'd be your judgment?

Meany: Well, I . . .

JFK: Are you gonna have any meeting of the executive council in Washington in March or April?

Meany: No, there isn't. No.

JFK: I see. Well . . .

Meany: There'll be . . . there'll be quite a few of them in for this.

¹ The playback speed of this item is very fast, and voices are pitched higher than normally recorded.

² George Meany

JFK: Good. Fine. Do you think they'd be in time for lunch Monday? Or, otherwise, I could have them over at the White House around six o' clock on S . . . Monday afternoon . . . by Sunday . . . uh, Monday . . .

Meany: The trouble with that is there's already a cocktail party that . . . that we're giving up at the hotel at six-thirty, you see.

JFK: Right. OK.

Meany: We're giving that for all of the people. That's the AFL-CIO's contribution to this thing.

JFK: Right. Good.

Meany: So . . . so that wouldn't work. And on the luncheon thing I don't really know.

JFK: Right, uh, . . . well, . . . the, uh, . . .

Meany: You'd have, oh, I guess you'd have a half . . . maybe a dozen of 'em in altogether, but that . . . that would be about its limit.

JFK: I see. I see. Well, uh, why don't we, uh, . . . why don't we might . . . we might let it go. What's your . . .? I'd be glad to have 'em come anytime, when, uh, . . . you, uh, you thought it might be . . .

Meany: I think . . . I think if you . . . I think, Mr. President, if you . . . if you were to set it up, even at anytime, like, oh, ten . . . ten days or so in advance, you'd get quite a few . . . quite a few of them. You know, there's a lot of 'em in and out of here anyway.

JFK: All right.

Meany: So suppose . . . suppose we kind of figure on it for, uh, about . . . what . . . give us about two weeks from now?

JFK: All right. Why don't we just, uh, . . . I tell you what; why don't we just get a tentative date and, uh, we'll do it in March. Uh, what's . . . what's a good day for them? A Friday, or a . . .?

Meany: No, generally a . . . generally a Tuesday.

JFK: A Tuesday.

Meany: We have meetings on Monday.

JFK: All right. Why don't we do it on, uh, March 26th?

Meany: 26th? That would, uh, . . . March 20 . . . 26 . . . Well, I'm afraid that is a bad one, too. There is a meeting on in New York.

JFK: 'Cause the 19th is, uh . . . March is, uh, well I'll be in Costa Rica. The 12th of March . . . Is that too soon?

Meany: That would be good, I think.

JFK: OK. Fine. Well, what . . .

Meany: Tuesday the 12th.

JFK: Do you think that you could get your secretary to send over a list of the fellows we might ask?

Meany: Yes.

JFK: And we will go ahead with it.

Meany: Yes.

JFK: Good.

Meany: Who'll I send it to over there?

JFK: Oh, if you could just sent it over to Mrs. Lincoln.

Meany: Fine.

JFK: And then I will get it out.

Meany: [All right?]

JFK: Good. Fine, Mr. Meany.

[phone hangs up]