

## 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 10A, Item 10A3

March 6, 1963

JFK: Hello. Hello.

Bundy<sup>1</sup>: Sir? The, um, . . .

JFK: Hello.

Bundy: Nobody from Arkansas flew in combat. There were twenty-four from Arkansas.

JFK: Yeah. Did they fly that day? Were there any in the planes?

Bundy: None flew in combat over the Bay of Pigs. They were not, in other words, sent on those missions.

JFK: Oh, who, . . . Most of those were other fellows?

Bundy: All the four that were killed were Alabamians.

JFK: I knew that all the four that were killed . . . but, there were some other Americans, weren't there?

Bundy: There were . . . there were some others, and I am trying to find out what States, but so far all they have reported is negative on Arkansas.

JFK: Are they sure of that?

Bundy: Well, Dick Helms says he is sure.

JFK: I see, and what about, uh, . . . You don't know when they were recruited, do you?

Bundy: Uh, I got . . . I've gotta look . . . look up that memo.

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<sup>1</sup> McGeorge Bundy

JFK: Now, the question is whether . . . *[talks to someone off the phone, in the same room with him]* . . . He says that nobody from Arkansas flew in combat. . . . *[then back to Bundy]* . . . Uh, we're just figuring, maybe I'll get the Defense Department to say that.

Bundy: Or the agency? Or, uh, . . .

JFK: The agency has been reluctant.

Bundy: Yeah. I know they have.

JFK: I mean, Faubus is saying that I left Arkansas boys to die. *[appears to be quoting from a press account]* . . . Recruited in the na-- . . . were recruited but left hang by the administration of Kennedy. If that doesn't beat him, nothing would. *[end reading from press account]* . . . Okay, I'll talk to Dick Helms; Let me, just so I'll be sure.

Bundy: Right. Right.

*[Bundy hangs up, but JFK immediately says . . .]*

JFK: Will you get me Helms at the CIA, please?

Voice: Yes, Mr. President.

*[There is little more than one second between the "Yes, Mr. President," above, and the beginning of the item below, in mid-sentence. Apparently, a flaw or damage in the original Dictabelt caused the needle of the playback device to skip a groove. The phone ringing is heard in the one-second pause, but then the recording jumps right to Helms in mid-sentence.]*