

FOREWORD

Transcript Warning:

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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 8A3

Saturday, March 2, 1963

[conversation begins in mid-sentence]

JFK: Yeah. Are they pretty mad at the others?

Kheel:¹ Oh, they're furious . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Kheel: . . . at Dorothy [Schiff], but, uh, . . .

JFK: 'Course Dorothy went through eighty days for nothing, didn't she?

Kheel: Yes.

JFK: Yeah.

Kheel: She should've done this a lot sooner . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Kheel: . . . if she was gonna do it.

JFK: Yeah.

Kheel: However, I thought you'd like to know, very much off the record, that things look fairly good.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Kheel: The, uh, . . . I think the circumstances for a settlement are better now than they ever were.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Kheel: I think it started with your statement, actually.

¹ Theodore Kheel.

JFK: Oh, fine.

Kheel: There're a couple of things that've happened. First, uh, the prospect that the mayor might make a recommendation is something that the publishers don't want at all.

JFK: Yeah.

Kheel: We've indicated to them pretty much what we might do, and this has been a spur to get them, uh, moving.

JFK: Yeah.

Kheel: Now, I know, and the publishers don't know this, that the, uh, union executive council had a meeting out in Colorado Springs, and they voted to, uh, do everything to bring this thing to a quick conclusion.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Kheel: Now, uh, they're . . . they met yesterday, and they pretty much settled one of the thorniest issues, and that's this question of outside tape.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Kheel: You know, and . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Kheel: . . . the automation issue, so-called.

JFK: Yeah.

Kheel: And they're going back at it today. Now, I think the publishers are a little, uh, . . . uh, . . . punch-drunk, almost, because of this Dorothy thing.

JFK: Yeah.

Kheel: They may not want to move too fast, so as not to give the impression that they're too eager for a settlement, . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Kheel: . . . but they're dying for one.

JFK: Yeah.

Kheel: And I think that, uh, . . . that . . . that it oughta come this weekend, or ver-- . . . very shortly afterwards.

JFK: What will they finally go for, about thirteen and a half?

Kheel: Well, . . . I think that they'll do better on the money, but they won't be able to settle it without the hours reduction.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Kheel: They finally got themselves around to that. Now what they're thinking about is, uh, a three-year contract instead of two.

JFK: Yeah.

Kheel: And they're prepared at this moment to offer the hours in the third year.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Kheel: And, uh, the, uh, . . . then to have some sort of an additional monetary amount in the third year. So the total settlement won't be bad. I think it could be under thirteen . . .

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Kheel: . . . for the two years, but it'll be more for the three.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Kheel: So, uh, . . . and, uh, . . .

JFK: All those papers will end up at ten cents?

Kheel: Ah, ha, ha, I don't know, I think this is one of the things that has been so, uh, difficult. There is, within the publishers organization, this fight going on between the Times and the News, and the Mirror and the Tribune.

JFK: Yeah.

Kheel: The Mirror and the Tribune wanted a dime before this began, . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Kheel: . . . and the Times and the News are the ones that can afford a settlement the best.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Kheel: So, uh, in effect the others are saying to 'em, unless you, uh, do something about the price of a paper, uh, you better not negotiate us out of business.

JFK: Yeah.

Kheel: And, uh, . . . 'course, I . . . I . . . you know, these are things I suppose they don't like to talk about too much, and it indicated that they are talking about 'em.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Kheel: But, uh, I don't think there'll be any change immediately.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Kheel: Uh, they'll wanna do some reassessing, but I wouldn't be surprised if it was to come shortly afterwards.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah. Fine. Good, Ted. Well, uh, let me know. What . . . How's Phil Graham doing?

Kheel: Well, uh, he sorta quieted down at this end.

JFK: You haven't heard from him?

Kheel: Uh, no, I haven't heard from him for the last several days.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Kheel: Uh, there, uh, . . . you, uh, sense that he's around and about . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Kheel: . . . and, uh, the publishers were . . . I think it . . . I think he's been helpful, too. They've . . . they've had so many blows in the last four or five days, uh, . . . When Rockefeller very stupidly sent his two fellows out to Colorado Springs, . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Kheel: . . . that built up, uh, Powers.²

JFK: Yeah.

Kheel: He, uh, got his picture on the cover of Time , . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Kheel: . . . you know, . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Kheel: . . . uh, Phil Graham was here; now it's Dorothy Schiff.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Kheel: On the other hand, uh, the pounding they have taken as a result of your remarks, . . . they . . . while they put on a bold front on it, uh, they don't like that at all.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Kheel: And, uh, . . . Elmer Brown³ is here, not because we asked him to come, but because his man [Pilch?]⁴ suggested that we ask him to come, you see.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Kheel: And, in other words, uh, . . . uh, we called [Pilch/Tilch?] the other evening, and he said isn't this the right time to bring Elmer back?

² Bertram A. Powers.

³ Elmer Brown of the International Typographical Union.

⁴ Name indistinctly heard and not further identified.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Kheel: Then he called me the next day and he said that we had an executive council meeting in the union, and, uh, he said, I want you to know we're going to go . . . go all out to get this thing settled.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Good. Fine, well, gimme . . .

Kheel: So I think the atmosphere's a good one, and it, uh, and, uh, it . . . it was an outgrowth of the . . . the statements you made. The . . . the opportunity that we got from that, uh, to say, well, we are going to suggest, uh, a settlement, and the . . . the . . . the desire, really, of both sides . . . Elmer doesn't want a suggestion either; it is sort of a . . . it's an affront their great tradition of bargaining to a conclusion themselves.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Kheel: They don't want a recommendation. The publishers don't want one. They . . . they'll take arbitration but not a recommendation.

JFK: I see. *[All right]*.

Kheel: They're afraid that it'll establish a new plateau.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Kheel: So that the, uh, . . . the pressure's on both of them to, uh, reach a settlement are really at the best at the moment.

JFK: Good. Fine, Ted.

Kheel: Hopeful, but we'll see.

JFK: OK. Good. Right.

Kheel: Goodbye.

[phone hangs up]