

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 10B, Item 10B2

March 6, 1963

Wirtz¹: Hello.

JFK: How are you?

Wirtz: Good.

JFK: You got a statement you might make tomorrow in connection with unemployment?

Wirtz: Just about . . . [remainder lost due to skip]

JFK: [words missing] . . . the reason it has gone up by three tenths of a percent . . .

Wirtz: Well the, uh, largest factors in it are a substantial increase in the work force beyond, uh, that normal . . .

JFK: Why would that be in the winter?

Wirtz: We're trying to figure out what it is. As nearly as we can figure it, most of the . . . the largest increase, uh, is . . . is in connection with applications for part-time employment. Now these are two figures that jump around pretty badly.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: And, uh, the increase in the work force is seven hundred thousand, uh, most of which is . . .

JFK: How long a period?

Wirtz: Oh, in one month.

JFK: My God!

¹ C. Willard Wirtz

Wirtz: Now, most of that is seasonal. It . . . it always jumps between, uh, January and February, uh, but it . . . it is about two hundred thousand too high. Uh, the part-time, uh, unemployment requests make up about half of this. Teenagers make up about half of it.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: These, uh, . . . But all I'm saying to you is that these are three, this . . . the work force figure, the part-time figure, and the teenagers, are all three of them figures that jump around from month to month.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: So we get . . . But, uh, but it's hard to bite into anything more than that, and, uh, . . .

JFK: Well, you are going to say something about our programs?

Wirtz: And tie . . . tie it in with the tax program, the youth unemployment thing.

JFK: Yeah, well, now . . . youth unemployment . . . tax . . . what else is there? Uh, education, I would think. Don't you think?

Wirtz: Uh, let's see . . .

JFK: [People?] in school . . .

Wirtz: We will try to work in a tie-in on that. Uh, I gather we don't say anything yet about accelerated public works, is that right?

JFK: Well, I think we . . . accelerated public works . . . I think we had better have you wait on that.

Wirtz: I think that's right.

JFK: You know, then we hit it another month. What? Uh, vocational?

Wirtz: I think . . .

JFK: Oh, you can . . . you know the stuff.

Wirtz: Yeah. I'm not sure I see the tie-in on education . . .

JFK: Don't you?

Wirtz: . . . but, I'll see.

JFK: Well, the only thing I was thinking of about . . . st-- . . . about skills. I don't know. Maybe not.

Wirtz: Uh, permanent . . . and the unemployment thing that'll tie in with it, too.

JFK: Yeah. Maybe not education.

Wirtz: I think that's a little hard.

JFK: Right. Okay.

Wirtz: Okay.

JFK: Fine.

Wirtz: We'll do . . . we'll check it over there.

JFK: Thank you. Okay.

Wirtz: 'Bye. Thanks.

JFK: *[Right?]*

[phone hangs up]