

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 23E

Item 23E1

July 25, 1963

Operator: [Words unintelligible].

JFK: . . . trying to find a successor for you. [Words unintelligible] . . .

Day:¹ Well, it's beginning to leak out and at the [words unintelligible] . . .

JFK: Well, now, I thou-, yeah, I know, you don't want it, uh . . .

Day: . . . it's gonna look like there's some mess because I was subjected to enough rumors last winter to last me a lifetime.

JFK: Oh, well, I thought that, uh, we on-, what we could do is I could go with it at the, for the p.m.'s tomorrow, and I could get you back a letter, uh, ta-, then we could announce it, and then I could put this fellow in, your, what is he, a deputy or under secretary?

Day: He's the same as an under secretary, he's a deputy.

JFK: [Right?].

Day: I don't mind holding down the fort for a while, but I want it on the basis of . . .

JFK: Well . . .

Day: . . . knowing that . . .

JFK: . . . well, why don't we do this? Why don't we announce that you're going to resign as of August 1st and we can announce it tomorrow?

Day: All right.

JFK: The only problem was I say is that . . .

¹ James Edward Day.

Day: Doesn't have to be, it doesn't have to even be that soon . . .

JFK: Does it . . .

Day: . . . if it's more convenient to you to make it the . . .

JFK: Well, why don't we make it Monday then?

Day: . . . end of August or the . . .

JFK: No, that's fine. It's only, what I was trying to do, I figure that once you're, it's announced that you're going, then I'll get a lot of heat from a lot of people about different people to appoint and I ought to know in my own mind who I am going to appoint. But I, I'm having some difficulty finding somebody who fulfills the problem. Uh, but I think in fairness, if we don't want it seeping out, so what about having it tomorrow or we can do it for Monday, uh, p.m.'s. I can do it up at the Cape on Sunday and release the letters for Monday a.m. Why don't we do that?

Day: All right.

JFK: Is it your judgment it will hold 'til then or is it around more than that?

Day: Well, there've been three calls this week . . .

JFK: Um- . . .

Day: . . . including one from Chicago. The one from Chicago, uh . . .

JFK: The press?

Day: No, this was some woman out there that's a friend of the family that heard it from somebody here in Washington . . .

JFK: Okay.

Day: . . . on that, had the story quite accurate.

JFK: I see.

Day: And [Jerry Klep?] called me up on Monday. Some, uh, guy from Business Week magazine came over here this, uh, week . . .

JFK: I see.

Day: . . . and it's, uh . . .

JFK: I see, right.

Day: . . . I feel, it's, uh . . .

JFK: Okay. I tell you what let's do. Let me try to, uh, let me get a letter to you. I've got your letter and let me get a letter to you and to, uh, uh, we'll try, and I'll try to get it for p.m.'s tomorrow. That'd be Friday and at the latest I'll put it out Sunday for a.m.'s Monday. But it'd be one of those two times and I will call you tomorrow morning around 9:30 and, uh, say how, what it looks like. If I can get a successor, I would rather announce it 'cause otherwise I know I'll get a lot of heat saying you oughta come from this part of the country or that part of the country or you oughta be a woman or somebody of some sort.

Day: Yeah, I know the problem.

JFK: So why don't, uh, we go ahead then either tomorrow afternoon p.m. or Monday morning a.m. and I'll call you in the morning. And in the meanwhile, I'll get . . .

Day: Once it's announced, if it's more convenient for your purposes for me to hold the fort for a couple of weeks or three weeks, I, I could do that 'til the first of September or any time earlier [than that?].

JFK: No, actually, I think the problem really is more the ga-, the problem of the, of the succession. And I think once we announce it, it seems to me that we could go pretty quickly and, uh, and just make this fellow, if we do have an interim period, your assistant, your second man, just make him acting.

Day: All right.

JFK: Which we can do for a couple of weeks, then it'll make your time easier. So I will be back in touch and in the meanwhile I'll get a letter written.

Day: Okay.

JFK: Fine, Ed.

Day: All right. Thank you.

JFK: Thank you.

Dictabelt 23E

Item 23E2

July 25, 1963

JFK: Hello.

Day:² Yes.

JFK: Oh, Ed, what I'll do is put it out at Pierre's³ 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- . . .

² James Edward Day.

³ Pierre E. Salinger.

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

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 Belen⁴ over here . . .

JFK: Yeah.

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.

⁴ Frederick C. Belen.

Dictabelt 23E

Item 23E3

July 25, 1963

Operator: You are the labor arbitrator?

JFK: Cole?⁵

Cole: Yes.

JFK: How are you?

Cole: Hello, Mr. President.

JFK: I hope I'm not disturbing you.

Cole: Oh, no, it's always a delight to hear you.

JFK: I wondered if we could, uh, persuade you to come to work with us on a matter for several months and that would be to be a, the director of what I would set up by Executive order, a community relations service which would represent the government in these various, uh, racial negotiations which are going on and will be going on over the next, uh, three or four months, uh, partly, uh, in September with the schools, but, uh, matters such as Cambridge; Gadsden, Alabama; Savannah. Uh, we have been work-, doing it now pretty much, uh, on a extemporaneous basis with, under Burke Marshall and some of the, uh, lawyers in the, uh, Civil Rights Division. But we wanted to, uh, have somebody who, uh, could, uh, was not, uh, a part of the arm of the Justice Department but who could do . . .

Cole: Yes.

JFK: . . . this until such time as the Congress might act on setting it up by statute. Then we would be in a more formal position.

Cole: Uh, whom could I talk to . . .

⁵ David L. Cole.

JFK: Uh, I wondered if you could talk to the attorney general who is very anxious to have you do it and also with Burke Marshall.

Cole: Uh-huh.

JFK: And, uh, perhaps if you could, uh, come down and see us all next week, uh, we could give you a better idea of what we have in mind.

Cole: Yes, I'm coming in on Monday in any event and I would like to come in and talk about this. The, uh. . . . It comes like a bolt out of the blue, of course . . .

JFK: Right.

Cole: . . . there's so many things we've all planned.

JFK: Right.

Cole: I suppose you always get this answer from people . . .

JFK: Yes. [Laughs.]

Cole: . . . but still we, this doesn't mean that we're saying no by any means.

JFK: Right. Well, now, what, wh-, what are you going to be doing down here Monday?

Cole: It's the labor management committee.

JFK: Oh, will you be meeting at the White House or over at the Labor Department?

Cole: At the White House.

JFK: Oh, I see. Well, uh, why don't, uh, I plan to, uh, have a few minutes to talk to you then.

Cole: Good. I'd like that very much.

JFK: Good. Fine, Mr. Cole.

Cole: Thank you.

JFK: Thank you. Bye.

Cole: Bye.

Operator: Waiting. Waiting.