

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:

The donors assigned copyright that they might have in the recordings to the United States; however, copyright of the donors does not extend beyond statements uttered by John F. Kennedy, his minor children, and the donors themselves. Statements uttered by officials of the United States government in the course of their duties are considered to be in the public domain. Users of this material are cautioned, however, that not all persons recorded were members of the Kennedy family or government officials. A number of the people recorded were, at the time of recording, private citizens. Therefore, those intending to quote from this material beyond the accepted limits of fair use are cautioned to determine the copyright implications of any intended publication.

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 4K, Item 4K3

[recording begins in mid-conversation]

- JFK: . . . foreign aid conference. I didn't know whether it would be possible for him to come up and, uh, speak to you about our thoughts. Then perhaps you and I could talk on the phone again and you could give me your judgment about what we oughta try to work out with Otto.
- McCormack¹: Sure. A, uh, . . . Absolutely. And, uh, . . . We meet at eleven today, and Larry can come up anytime. Uh, . . . um . . . Oh, I'll come off the rostrum once we get going. We're going into the, uh, I'll get into the third supplemental, so will it be convenient for him about half-past eleven or so?
- JFK: Good. Fine. I'll have him up there.
- McCormack: I think, uh, . . . You see, Otto agreed; so I say . . . my understanding . . . I'll put it that way, . . . that he'd go at least three hundred in title one, and probably a little more.
- JFK: Right. Right.
- McCormack: Is that right?
- JFK: Right. That's right. He, uh, . . . You remember, we were talking about three-fifty and then he said, "well, we will go over three hundred and see what more we can do." Now, in view of the fact that we did well in the Senate, actually an even split would take us to four hundred million over the House figure. So, I thought that if he went up there with, uh, . . . Larry would have two sets of figures, and then we could just see what we could do with him.
- McCormack: And I was thinking that a . . . My . . . My thought would be that . . . that you and I and Passman and whoever you wanted in from the department would sit . . . get together down at the White House. Naturally it would be at the White House.
- JFK: Right. Right.
- McCormack: I think your . . . the psychological effect, don't you see.

¹ John McCormack

JFK: Right. I don't know what my psychology would be these days on Otto.
[laughter]

McCormack: Well, I know, Mr. President, it's a pretty tough . . . It . . . it . . . it may not get all we seek, but it will get a helluva lot more than he would give to someone else.

JFK: OK. Good. Well, I'll have Larry up there and then I'll be glad to meet whenever, uh, . . . uh, you, uh, think would be best today.

McCormack: Today?

JFK: Well, I think if they are going into conference tomorrow, either today, or whatever time you thought. Today or tomorrow would be fine with me.

McCormack: Yes. Better today. In other words, he'd . . . he would allocate it, as I understood it, anyway you wanted.

JFK: Right. What we gotta try to do is get him up to as near four hundred as we can.

McCormack: I know. I agree with you.

JFK: I'll have Larry up there, though, at 11:30.

McCormack: All right.

JFK: Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

McCormack: Right. Right.