

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 22A, Item 22A2

June 12, 1963

Operator: The president will be right on, sir. One moment.

Albert:¹ Fine. Thank you.

Operator: Thank you.

JFK: Hello.

Albert: Hello, Mr. President.

JFK: That was a tough one, wasn't it?

Albert: Oh, it was awful. Yeah.

JFK: I suppose that civil rights thing has just got 'em all excited.

Albert: That's a, that was one of the factors. It, well that cost us more than enough votes to, to win it, uh, [tape skips and repeats itself] to win it, uh. . . . The order . . .

JFK: What?

Albert: The order requiring the integration of some of these facilities. The order that apparently had been published by the administrator in connection with, uh, some of these facilities after a certain period of time.

JFK: How long ago was that?

Albert: I don't know when it was, I haven't even known anything about it 'til today, and then they, somebody brought it up and, uh . . .

JFK: Yeah. O- . . .

Albert: That's what did it. That, plus the Republicans' cohesion in the thing and . . .

¹ Carl Albert, congressman from Oklahoma.

JFK: How many Republican votes we get?

Albert: I don't know how it wound up, but I'm sure it was less than ten.

JFK: Is that right? Is that right?

Albert: Yes, and CIO² had told us they had twenty-three firm.

JFK: The AFL³ did?

Albert: Yes, and, urn, um, Municipal League⁴ said they had twenty-two firm, and, uh. . . . Of course, our own polls showed better than it did. We got about four to change at the end and still . . .

JFK: [Right?].

Albert: . . . didn't do it. Every time we got one to change, Charlie⁵ would get someone to [do it?].

JFK: Um. That's too bad.

Albert: He had it completely under control on his side.

JFK: That's a tough one to lose.

Albert: The civil rights, uh, that was it on our side. I mean we lost some of the southern boys that we would otherwise have had.

JFK: Yeah. What does this mean?

Albert: I'm awfully sorry.

JFK: Oh, no, well, hell, you know, Christ. Just events are making our problems. Christ, you know, it's like they shoot this guy in Mississippi [An echo begins and continues until noted below. Echo has not been transcribed.] and they shoot somebody, uh, I mean, it's just in everything. I mean, this has become everything.

² Congress of Industrial Organizations.

³ American Federation of Labor.

⁴ National Municipal League.

⁵ Charles A. Halleck, congressman from Indiana.

Albert: It's overwhelming the whole, the whole program.

JFK: That's too bad, this one. However, we might try again, there must be some way we can try to get this back.

Albert: The way I understand it, this was a little too ambitious from some of the friends, uh, from some of my friends, uh . . .

JFK: How much did we have in it?

Albert: *[Echo ends.]* Four hundred and fifty million, I think. They said they didn't need that much. They, they, all they need is enough to finish out the, the end of the program. You're gonna have to have a new authorization anyway, so. . . .

JFK: What would you suggest we try to do?

Albert: I would suggest that, that they come out with the, with the minimum they can get by with, uh, considering what's in the pipe line. In figures, I don't know. I, I'd . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Albert: . . . like to talk to Patman⁶ about that.

JFK: Okay, yeah. Well, that's tough luck. But we did- . . .

Albert: Well, I'm awfully sorry. I, I don't . . .

JFK: How, how upset are the southerners?

Albert: Well, uh, they're, they're, some of them are mad, but, uh, those you, you can't count on anyway.

JFK: That's right.

Albert: Most of them are frightened.

JFK: Yeah.

⁶ Wright Patman, congressman from Texas.

Albert: Elliott Hagan of Georgia just came in, and he said, "You know, I don't know whether I can stand the heat on this thing or not . . . "

JFK: Um.

Albert: ". . . this, this integration order." He said, "My people are just completely . . . "

JFK: [Words unintelligible]

Albert: ". . . upset over this thing. And that I've had no letters for it and every letter I've had's been against it." Fulton⁷ of, uh, Florida, he'd, he'd been reported as wanting to vote with us and he got frightened out by . . .

JFK: This, yeah. . . .

Albert: . . . the integration scare. And, uh, I . . .

JFK: Of course, the trouble with the goddamned thing is we've got all these programs and then everybody wants to, uh, you know, they say you shouldn't spend money in a way to encourage segregation. So the guy announces he's gonna integrate and then, of course, every southerner said. . . . Well, I think, we just got to consider maybe we just have to send up a supplemental, another public works thing which will, uh, you know, just a new program and try to start over again a little later.

Albert: I do, too.

JFK: Maybe it isn't, maybe it won't be quite as excitable.

Albert: I think, well, the accelerated public works program. I, I think it would go. I talked [words unintelligible].

JFK: Yeah. Okay, good.

Albert: And, uh, one other thing, this, this is gonna affect mass transit, there's no question about that.

JFK: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

⁷ Perhaps Richard H. Fulton, congressman from Tennessee.

Albert: And, of course, it's gonna kill, uh, any of these farm bills. Cooley⁸ wouldn't vote with us and I couldn't talk him into changing.

JFK: Why wouldn't he vote with us?

Albert: I don't know. A committee chairman, can you imagine that? He just said he was committed. Poage⁹ voted against us. Mahon.¹⁰ We lost some of the, some of the top men of the House.

JFK: Um. I think, you came out, you . . .

Albert: I couldn't do a damn thing with them, you know.

JFK: Civil rights did it.

Albert: Civil rights, yeah.

JFK: Is it the administrator's thing or because of, I suppose the whole climate has just got 'em?

Albert: Well, I, I think it's both.

JFK: Yeah.

Albert: I think the fact that, uh, that they're afraid they might get caught with an integrated, uh . . .

JFK: Vote.

Albert: Uh, well, they might, somebody might build a motel and it'll be the only integrated one on, in their town, you know . . .

JFK: Yeah, yeah.

Albert: . . . and that sort of thing. Stuff like this.

JFK: Yeah. Well, we just have to take 'em as they come.

⁸ Harold D. Cooley, congressman from North Carolina.

⁹ W. R. (Bob) Poage, congressman from Texas.

¹⁰ George H. Mahon, congressman from Texas.

Albert: Yes, sir.

JFK: [Laughs.] Okay, Carl, thank you.

Albert?: Right.