

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.

Papers of John F. Kennedy

Presidential Recordings

Dictabelts

Dictabelt 19A

Conversation #5: President Kennedy and Clinton Anderson

May 22, 1963

Sen. Anderson: ----- possibly, when he ran into a snag like this, he got a dozen of us down to the White House one day of divergent views--people like [Richard] Dick Russell and [Congressman] Harold Cooley and [Senator George] Aiken and so forth. No, I think that he kept all the Republicans out and said, now, what would you Democrats agree on, that you would try to pass quickly.

President: Do you think we should try to pass another wheat bill?

Sen. Anderson: I think that you should. Yes, I don't think you want the price to go down as low as it is likely to go. Now, it is true that you have made the gesture that might have helped the wheat farmer; but he has a very short memory.

President: Yeah.

Sen. Anderson: And he won't remember the gesture as long as he remembers the low price.

President: He won't remember that it was his own decision that brought it on.

Sen. Anderson: Not at all. He knows very well that the Administration did this to him. I mean it is just one of those tragedies of life.

President: Yeah.

Sen. Anderson: And I think that it would be well to let some of us explore what we could get the Farm Bureau to support and have others find out what the Farmers' Union will support. At one time, Mr. President, I got the Farmers' Union and the Grange and the Farm Bureau in the same room and kept them there for 48 hours at different spells until they agreed on a program.

President: Yeah.

Sen. Anderson: Now, I do think that the Secretary of Agriculture is as fine a guy as I know and as honest a man as I have seen and I would like to help him in every way I could. But he has never bothered to find out what is acceptable across the country.

President: Yeah.

Sen. Anderson: I don't think they need quite the sort of control he is talking about. And I think a reduction in price supports and more or less freedom to plant would not give you any more surplus than we are now getting. But I think we're gonna have to explore that with a few people before you can bring up a bill.