

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 #4: President Kennedy and John McCormack

May 17, 1963

President: Hello.

Speaker McCormack: Hello, Mr. President.

President: Mr. Speaker, how are you?

Speaker McCormack: Fine, thanks, you, how are you?

President: Very good.

Speaker McCormack: That's good . . . uh . . . on this [Gordon] Cooper.

President: Yes.

Speaker McCormack: Do you want a joint meeting . . . a joint meeting? If you do, just blow your nose.

President: Yea, do you think it would be good . . . give the space program . . .

Speaker McCormack: Are you gonna give him . . . gonna give him a big parade?

President: Well, wait just a second. He is coming here and I am going to decorate him, and then he would go up to the Capitol. I suppose that we would a . . . that they would parade him. What we are trying to do is get the most out of it for the space program.

Speaker McCormack: I understand that they are going to let the government employees off.

President: Yea, it will be 12:15.

Speaker McCormack: I thought that they ought to build it up and make it a big affair. But that is for you to decide. If they do . . . if you a . . . I have talked with Mike Mansfield, cause in view of the letter we sent and so forth. But I think that it would be nice. If you want it, we will do it.

President: Well, I think that everybody would like that, don't you think, up there in the Congress?

Speaker McCormack: I think that it would be a damn good thing. But I'd like to have . . . If you want us to do it, let me know, and I will.

President: No, let's go ahead then.

Speaker McCormack: Alright, you . . . you . . . you didn't ask me; you don't have to ask me; you just suggested to me that you thought that it would be a very good thing.

President: That will be fine.

Speaker McCormack: Whatever way you want, ask or suggest, Mr. President.

President: Well, why don't we tell that I suggested it and you thought that it was a good idea.

Speaker McCormack: Fine, and I would like for you to get the credit, too. But you go ahead and handle that, and I will get a hold of Mike and tell him and I'll a . . .

President: Why don't you announce it up there?

Speaker McCormack: I will take care of it.

President: Fine, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker McCormack: Bye, Mr. President.