

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 6B

Item 6B1

November 7, 1962

[Continued from belt 6A, item 6A4.]

Connally¹: . . . and they were for all the Democratic slate but they're just a bunch of, best way I know to call 'em, but just junior executives and these society gals. And they just got 'em a crusade goin' and they just wiped the slate clean.

JFK: What did we, what did we lose Dallas by, do you remember, in '60?

Connally: Yes, sir, you lost over 60, over 60,000 votes.

JFK: Sixty thousand votes! Hell, I got uh, you know they're up there talking to me about you remember that a, about having that Federal building down there and all the rest of that stuff.

Connally: Yeah.

JFK: I don't know why we do anything for Dallas.

Connally: [Word missing] I'm telling you they just murdered all of us.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Connally: But, uh, ah, we gonna change that now. Our party's gone down. In the last six years, I don't want to throw rocks at Price . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Connally: . . . Price Daniel, but frankly he's just let this thing go to hell.

JFK: Yeah.

Connally: He's furnished no leadership and we saved a lot of it. I carried 205 out of the 254 counties.

¹ John B. Connally

JFK: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Connally: And, and they had a hate campaign goin', very frankly, they were running against Cuba and against you and the vice president . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Connally: . . . and Casey [Robert R. Casey] and Billie Sol Estes. And it was a protest. . . . It was a helluva protest vote.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Connally: But, ah, it really wasn't, wasn't on state issues but we came out in real good shape.

JFK: Yeah.

Connally: And everybody's tickled to death. We elected a congressman-at-large. We lost Slick Rutherford [J. T. Rutherford]. But that was more or less of a personal thing.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Connally: Lindley Beckworth got by and Bob Casey did. Although his was fairly close.

JFK: Was Casey close?

Connally: Yeah, about 10,000 votes . . .

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Connally: . . . out of over 200,000.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Connally: But in San Antonio, the whole slate. The only place we really got hurt was in the Midland area and in Dallas.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Connally: But we can, we're gonna start rebuilding this party down here. I tell you it's gonna be a hellva different story in '64.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Connally: But they've organized now. They knew where every vote they had. They had 'em on IBM cards. They knew the names, they knew the telephone numbers and they knew the street address of every vote they had in every big city in Texas.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Connally: And, hell, they just got 'em out to vote. They voted as high as eighty-five and ninety percent of their strength.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Connally: And we voted sixty percent.

JFK: That's it, isn't it? That's what's [word missing]/.

Connally: Sure, couldn't, I but I just couldn't build an organization in a year's time. See they have been building in Dallas ten years, since '52.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Connally: But, uh, basically we came through in real good shape and 125,000 votes, in the light of the money that they spent, the effort that they put out, was a pretty resounding victory down here.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Connally: And, uh, so you, you ought'a be pleased by it.

JFK: Well I'm glad you won, John. That's very good.

Connally: I want to come, I want to come up before long and see you. I don't have any real business but if there's anything I can do, you just let me know.

JFK: Okay, good, I'll see you soon, John.

Connally: All right, sir.

JFK: Bye.

Connally: Thank you for calling.

JFK: Okay.

Dictabelt 6B

Item 6B2

November 7, 1962

[Portion too low to hear]

JFK: Hello.

Reynolds²: Hello.

JFK: Hello, Governor?

Reynolds: Yes, Mr. President.

JFK: God, you did pretty well. I don't. . . . I'm a. . . . I am glad to talk to a fellow who can carry Wisconsin.

Reynolds: Well. . . . It was a tough squeeze, but we made it.

JFK: God, that was good though 'cause, 'cause I heard that it was gonna be awful tough out there in your fight.

Reynolds: Well, it was, it was tough.

JFK: But that's very good. You must be pleased, aren't you?

Reynolds: Well, we're very happy, of course.

JFK: Yeah. That's terrific though.

Reynolds: Though it's always fun to win.

JFK: Yeah, I suppose Pat *[Patrick J. Lucey]* must be pleased, isn't he?

Reynolds: Oh, he's delighted.

JFK: Uh-huh.

² John W. Reynolds.

Reynolds: He really [came] through.

JFK: Yeah. Well, I just wanted to say I was delighted, John.

Reynolds: Well, thank you very much, Mr. President.

JFK: And I was sorry that I didn't get up there, but I'm sure you understood afterwards.

Reynolds: Well, I understood. . . . In fact, at the time I had the feeling that that was it . . .

JFK: Right.

Reynolds: . . . that something was in the air.

JFK: Right. Okay. Well, I'll see you soon, John.

Reynolds: Fine. Okay. Thank you very much.

JFK: Okay.

Reynolds: Bye.

Dictabelt 6B

Item 6B3

[Portion too low to hear.]

JFK: Let's see. Any other papers?

Lincoln³: Well *[words missing]* here.

JFK: *[Inaudible]*

[General office noises.]

Lincoln: Most of the *[word missing]* did. Here.

JFK: Ask *[words missing]* to send me *[words missing]*.

Lincoln: From, uh, Mr. Bundy's office.

JFK: *[Inaudible]*

Lincoln: This is the one that . . .

JFK: *[Inaudible]*

Lincoln: Uh, here's the other one. *[Words missing; appears to be talking on the telephone to someone.]* Mr. Bundy has remembered his *[word missing]* meeting. *[Words missing.]* Okay.

³ Evelyn Lincoln

Dictabelt 6B

Item 6B4

November 17, 1962

[Needle sticks throughout leaving many gaps.]

Voice 1: [Calling. Calling. ?]

Voice 2: Hope you're well this morning.

JFK: Oh, very good, fine, thanks.

Voice 2: Bob asked me to call and give you a report . . .

JFK: Right.

Voice 2: . . . on the Cuban sabotage plot.

JFK: Right.

Voice 2: We've taken into custody the three including the one, uh, Cuban diplomat who fortunately arrived here rec-. . . [needle sticks] . . .-munity.

JFK: Right.

Voice 2: He had a [words missing] in his possession and had to be forcibly detained, had typewritten . . . [skips] . . . on how to make explos- . . . [skips] . . . -covered sabotage material, grenades . . . [skips] . . . detonators, guns. [Skips]. . . have also taken into custody . . . [skips]. . . witness a girl friend of Antonio Estebán [Marino Antonio Estebán Del Carmen Sueiro y Cabrera] who was . . . [skips]. . . saw part of the material delivered.

JFK: Is she our contact?

Voice 2: No, she's not.

JFK: Yeah.

Voice 2: Our contact was one . . . [skips] . . . Estebán contacted and was to train them and they in turn were to train other sabotage agents.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

Voice 2: All the people on the periphery, the contact that they had and they thought they might . . . [skips] . . . the scheme are all being contacted . . . [skips] Yes. That's gone out.

JFK: Oh, it has been announced.

Voice 2: Yes, sir, Just . . .

JFK: Ye-. . . .

Voice 2: . . . in the last few minutes.

JFK: The FBI announce it?

Voice 2: Uh, no, the attorney general.

JFK: Oh, right, okay . . . [skips] . . . that's it.

Voice 2: Right.

JFK: Okay. Good.

Voice 2: Right.

Dictabelt 6B

Item 6B5

JFK: . . . okay, well, fine. Well, I think that, uh, we ought to get the [agreement/
tomorrow . . .

Voice 1: All right.

JFK: . . . if we can do it without any [word missing/.

Voice 2: That would amount to tightening, uh, the program?

JFK: No. But I'll have them check out and I'll make the check.

Voice 3: Right.

JFK?: Okay, fine. Okay.

Voice 3: Bye.

Dictabelt 6B

Item 6B6

JFK: [Inaudible]

Lincoln⁴: [Inaudible]

JFK: [Inaudible]

Lincoln: [Inaudible]

JFK: [Inaudible]

Lincoln: [Inaudible]

JFK: [Inaudible]

⁴ Evelyn Lincoln

Dictabelt 6B

Item 6B7

December 17, 1962

/Skips throughout/

JFK: . . . to leave tomorrow morning to see the prime minister and this Skybolt matter is going to come up.

Eisenhower⁵: Yes.

JFK: I've been going through the pap- . . . /skips/. . . the agreement that, the agreement that . . . /skips/. . . uh, and I wondered if . . . /skips/. . . that I ought to know about that he might bring up. As, as I read the papers, uh, there was always the question of the feasibility of Skybolt.

Eisenhower: That's correct.

JFK: And that, uh, I think they feel . . . /skips/. . . We got two or three problems. First, that in the agreement we agreed on Holy Loch . . . /skips/. . . they may feel that one is for the other. It doesn't read that way, it doesn't read that way and, uh, it seems that they were separate decisions but made at the same time. What's your general fee- . . . /skips/?

Eisenhower: Well, now, of course, I'm shooting off the hip here.

JFK: Oh, I understand.

Eisenhower: But . . . /skips/. . . this about Skybolt looked so [word missing] at that time and . . . /skips/. . . was sure that it was going to be the answer to all the defensive . . . /skips/. . . Soviets. And on account of that, as I recall, . . . /skips/. . . very expensive type of . . . /skips/

JFK: . . . /skips/ Well, then they stopped it . . . /skips/. . . of course Bluestreak. Remember their missile.

Eisenhower: Oh, yes, that's right.

⁵ Dwight D. Eisenhower

JFK: Yeah.

Eisenhower: A missile.

JFK: Yeah.

Eisenhower: And so when we. . . I think you're absolutely correct that . . . [skips]. . . for that as far as, uh, as a base up on the side . . .

JFK: Right.

Eisenhower: . . . was concerned. It wasn't that at all. There were two . . . It wasn't that at all. There were two separate things that we . . . [skips]. . . we did, as I remember, ah, put in the caveat that . . . put in the caveat that, of course, the Skybolt still . . . [skips]. . . prove itself, still . . . [skips]. . . prove itself . . . [skips]. . . was that now as I read . . . now as I read from the, ah, newspapers . . .

JFK: Sure.

Eisenhower: . . . is that . . . [skips]. . . the damn thing just hasn't . . . [skips]

JFK: Well, it had these five [failures?]. We put in about 3-, we put in about 300 million, they say to get the 1000 missiles that by the time we would . . . [skips]. . . more in of, more in of, uh, experimental money. Then if we brought the 1000 . . . [skips]. . . we would end up with about 2 1/2 billion dollars, billion dollars. The British would end up who were only planning to buy between 7- . . . [skips]. . . really won't, really won't end up with hardly any cost at all, because we find ourselves in for 2½ billion while they find themselves in for just a fraction. It's like somebody making a thousand, uh, you know, they just buy them at, uh, the marginal rate.

Eisenhower: I understand that.

JFK: Now on looking over your agreement here, looking over your agreement here, which . . . [skips]. . . "Skybolt in a desire to be of assistance in improving and extending the effective life, extending the effective life of the B bomber . . . [skips]. . . only to United States . . . [skips]. . . Skybolt missiles, Skybolt missiles minus warheads to the U.K. on a reimbursable, to the U.K. on a reimbursable basis in 1965 or thereafter. Since Skybolt is still in the early stages of development, this offer is necessarily dependent on the successful and timely completion of its development program. Sales will be without any condition as to use other than the general understanding . . . [skips]. . . about Polaris," uh, "about the offer you are making about Polaris, making about

Polaris, making about Polaris," uh, "if to, for European force and the Scottish ports." It says, "We welcome the assurance that in the same spirit of cooperation, the U.K. would be agreeable in principle to make the necessary. . . ." Well, it says "in the same spirit of cooperation." So there's a, so there's a slight connection.

Eisenhower: Yes. [Words missing]

JFK: But, of course, Tom Gates [Thomas S. Gates, Jr.] told me the other night that he had told Watkinson [Harold Arthur Watkinson] two and a half years ago this thing was in some trouble and, of course, we told 'em a year ago and they got the British out there. So they've known it's in trouble. But, of course, this places Prime Minister Macmillan in a difficult position because . . .

Eisenhower: Yes.

JFK: . . . this means that his . . .

Eisenhower: [I thought of that?]

[Conversation continues on tape 6C.]