

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 21B

Conversation #1: President Kennedy and C. Douglas Dillon

June 4, 1963

[Continued from Dictabelt 21A, Conversation #5]

President: I think that you ought to call him up, Doug, and say that we're goddam sore about this. He knew the United States . . . my God, I had it in my speech for tomorrow. We're about to announce a program. I mean, everybody worked this weekend, and I only got the Vice President's report on Friday or Saturday. And I talked to [Robert S.] McNamara on Sunday, they worked yesterday, and we are putting in the speech for tomorrow. And for him to go ahead on Tuesday afternoon, which involves hundreds of millions of dollars in balance of payments, which is going to sabotage a program to put the United States up in the lead in the 70s. It is very difficult for us to go ahead if he is buying. I think that he ought to retract that thing . . .

Sec. Dillon: Oh!

President: . . . until he sees what sort of offer we have got.

Sec. Dillon: Oh, he isn't going to buy these planes.

President: Now, wait a minute. Here is the AP story. "Pan American World Airways announced today that it has ordered six new Concorde supersonic jet transports." Well, I mean, Christ, he is buying them.

Sec. Dillon: No, he isn't going to buy them. I saw the contract, and a . . .

President: I think that he ought to put out a statement that he is not buying them.

Sec. Dillon: He has an option to buy them.

President: Well, except . . . that isn't the way the announcement reads.

Sec. Dillon: Yea, I see the announcement reads differently. I read the contract, which he showed to me a week ago . . .

President: Well, he better . . . why don't they . . .

Sec. Dillon: . . . and he has the right to pull out for a million and half dollars.

President: Well, he had better put out a statement, because otherwise, for me to go now ahead and announce our program is going to look awfully foolish. He ought to make an announcement that they've made no decision on buying the planes, that they've merely purchased an option. And why they felt they had to purchase an option, I don't know at this point. I mean, Christ, if we are going to go ahead, the French and the British aren't in such a strong position. I mean, he has threw a million and half bucks down the drain.

Sec. Dillon: I think that he has, yes.

President: Because when we do our thing, then what the hell does he need an option? They are going to be around, uh, everybody is going to be around competing to sell them

Sec. Dillon: That's right.

President: But the only thing is, he has made it very difficult for us now to go ahead and announce our program if it looks like . . . the fact is, he knew this was coming up. Halaby told him two or three times. He has given me the best argument for not having one airline and making it Pan Am that I have ever heard.

Sec. Dillon: Gee, I don't know why he did it.

President: If he is so indifferent to what the United States Government is doing, I think, Doug, you ought to call up and stick it right up his ass. I want him to eat that today, because otherwise we can't possibly go ahead.

Sec. Dillon: Why don't . . . I'll call Halaby and find out, uh . . .

President: Well, I got Halaby, Halaby is in his office. But I think you ought to just say that we think that this is just a deliberate thing to beat us, when we are about to announce the program. In ensures a hundreds of millions of balance of payments loss and ensures that there is no sense in the United States Government going ahead with a program that would give us the lead in the 70s. And that this looks to the President as a deliberate act. And I'm really . . .

going to spend our time screwing Pan Am. So, why don't you give him some of that. See if you can get him to pull that back.

Sec. Dillon: I will do that, but he made it very clear that he is, uh, this is not a balance of payments loss when he talked to me. But I will see if I can get him to make that clear publicly.

President: Why isn't it a balance of payments loss?

Sec. Dillon: Well, because he says he is not going to buy the planes.

President: Well, then, what is he announcing . . . he better get that announcement (wait a minute, which number is it). It is UPI #122. Maybe he had better get out another announcement and clarify it before the end of the day, otherwise I don't see where we are going to be.

Sec. Dillon: Yea, because I think you saw my memo, right?

President: Yea, but I would make it pretty unpleasant with him. Make it look like everybody over here thinks he gave us a real big screwing.

Sec. Dillon: Alright. Fine.

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Presidential Recordings

Dictabelts

Dictabelt 21B

Conversation #2: Evelvn Lincoln and White House Operator

Operator: Yes, sir?

Mrs. Lincoln: Will you get Director McCone for the Attorney General?

Operator: Yes. Thank you.

Mrs. Lincoln: Um-humh.

[disconnect; no further recording on this belt]