

## 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:**

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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.

## Dictabelt 4F, Item 4F1

September 30, 1962

[Begins mid-conversation. Continues conversation from belt 4E.]

- Barnett<sup>1</sup>: . . . and trying. . . . And they're trying in every way, uh . . .
- JFK: Well, we can't consider moving Meredith as long as the, you know, there's a riot outside, 'cause he wouldn't be safe.
- Barnett: Sir?
- JFK: We couldn't consider moving Meredith if you c-, if we haven't been able to restore order outside. That's the problem, Governor.
- Barnett: Well, uh, I'll tell you what I'll do, Mr. President.
- JFK: Yeah.
- Barnett: I'll go up there myself . . .
- JFK: Well, now, how long will it take you to get there?
- Barnett: . . . and I'll get, uh, a microphone and tell 'em that, uh, you have agreed to re-, to, for 'em to be removed . . .
- JFK: No. No. Now, wait a minute. How long . . .
- Barnett: . . . [words unintelligible] . . .
- JFK: Wait a minute, Governor.
- Barnett: [Yes?].
- JFK: Now, how long is it going to take you to get up there?
- Barnett: 'Bout an hour.

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<sup>1</sup> Ross R. Barnett

JFK: Now, I'll tell you what y-, if you want to go up there and then you call me from up there. Then we'll decide what we're gonna do before you make any speeches about it.

Barnett: Well, all right. Well . . .

JFK: No sense in, uh . . .

Barnett: . . . I mean, whatever you, if you'd authorize . . .

JFK: You see, if we don't, we got an hour to go, and that's not, uh, we may not have an hour.

Barnett: Uh, this, this man . . .

JFK: Won't it take you an hour to get up there?

Barnett: . . . this man has just died.

JFK: Did he die?

Barnett: Yes.

JFK: Which one? State police?

Barnett: A state policeman.

JFK: Yeah, well, you see, we gotta get order up there, and that's what we thought we're going to have.

Barnett: Mr. President, please. Why don't you, uh, can't you give an order up there to remove Meredith?

JFK: How can I remove him, Governor, when there's a, a riot in the street, and he may step out of that building and something happen to him? I can't remove him under those conditions. You. . . .

Barnett: Uh, but, but . . .

JFK: Let's get order up there, then we can do something about Meredith.

Barnett: . . . we can surround it [Phone rings in background.] with plenty of officials.

JFK: Well, we've gotta get somebody up there now to get order and stop the firing and the shooting. Then when, you and I will talk on the phone about Meredith . . .

Barnett: All right.

JFK: . . . but first we gotta get order.

Barnett: I'll, I'll call and tell 'em to get every, every official they can.

JFK: That's right and then you and I ...

Barnett: [Words unintelligible].

JFK: . . . will talk when they've got the build-, when they get order there, then you and I'll talk about what's the best thing to do with Meredith.

Barnett: All right then.

JFK: Well, thank you.

Barnett: All right.

[Phone hangs-up.]

Voice 1: [Ready? or It's ringing?].

[Fifty-five seconds of machine noise.]