

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.

Dictabelt 9B, Item 9B5

JFK: Hello.

Wirtz¹: Hello, Mr. President.

JFK: Yes, oh, ho- . . .

Wirtz: This New York newspaper thing I think is about to break.

JFK: Is it?

Wirtz: And yet we've got to handle it at this, uh, press conference in terms of what people know and I've got to tell you, uh, this personally. Uh, the situation is that there'll be a meeting at 12 o'clock this noon, at which there is some real reason to think, uh, they're going to get, uh, over, the hump as far as Bob's concerned. In the meantime, just to make this fast, seems to me there are three questions you may be asked. One is whether there's progress on it and the situation is such you can well say yes on that.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: Second, are you going to step in if the talks up there fail?

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: It seems to me the answer to that is, uh, you don't think they will fail and you're certainly not going to assume it. The hardest question is whether, or the most likely question is whether you think the mayor ought to make recommendations to the parties even though they may not want them? I should think your answer to that would be that, uh, you indicated earlier such a third-party proposal may be, uh, advisable. Uh, if he feels, uh, in his, uh, mediation that it's a good thing, you would think it's a, you would still, you would certainly support that conclusion.

JFK: Then I won't, uh, get into any criticism of any of the groups?

Wirtz: None at all.

JFK: Right.

¹ C. Willard Wirtz

Wirtz: None at all.

JFK: Well, what about the Post publishing, do I say anything about that? No. No.

Wirtz: Let's see, I think you just stay . . .

JFK: No.

Wirtz: . . . completely away from it.

JFK: That's right.

Wirtz: But it broke pretty much about 1:30 this morning.

JFK: Who's, who's surrendering?

Wirtz: Um, it's a, it's a pretty hard dose for the . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: . . . publishers.

JFK: Is it?

Wirtz: Yeah, it's . . .

JFK: And Powers [Bertram A. Powers] is really the winner?

Wirtz: Oh, pretty substantially.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: It'll come to about, uh, 3 to 4 percent even excluding the consideration of the hours.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: They're going to get their hours. It'll be on a three year basis.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: And it'll amount to about five dollars a year increase plus the hours.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: A little more than that. And I . . .

JFK: What could they, what could they have gotten without a strike, about three dollars?

Wirtz: Without a strike?

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: Um . . .

JFK: *[Word missing]*

Wirtz: . . . yes.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: Yeah, compared with the five they could have gotten. . . . Well, no, nearer four.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: Yeah. Between three and four, three and a . . .

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: . . . half as a matter of fact.

JFK: Okay, good . . .

Wirtz: So they've gotten that, but it'll have to be played soft because none of this can get out . . .

JFK: Right.

Wirtz: . . . and there's some suspicion that some of our people over there have been talking with the publishers more than is a good thing.

JFK: Our people where?

Wirtz: Well, I mean around the government. I don't know where.

JFK: Yeah. Right.

Wirtz: Now you may, you may get a report from Bill Haddad, too.

JFK: He's trying to get me.

Wirtz: I think it's probably to confirm, uh, the fact that, uh, Walter Thayer is now apparently willing to go along with this.

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: The publishers are still split. But in any event, I've talked this morning with Ted [Theodore W. Kheel] and with Bob Wagner [Robert F. Wagner]. . .

JFK: Yeah.

Wirtz: . . . and I think what I've given you is right.

JFK: Right. Okay, thanks a lot.

Wirtz: Fine, sure.

[Telephone disconnects.]