

## 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 19C**

### Conversation #3: President Kennedy and Roswell Gilpatric

May 22, 1963, 5:30 p.m.

- President: ----- I understood this fellow that you've got over there now is not as good as Norm Paul in liaison with the Congress.
- Sec. Gilpatric: Well, we didn't, uh, we thought [David E.] Dave McGiffert was pretty good. I see Roland Evans says that he isn't.
- President: Oh, I see, that may be it. Stew [Stewart Alsop] may have told me from that, don't you think? Does he a . . .
- Sec. Gilpatric: Well, Stew has done a lot of talking. I don't know where Roland Evans got all that story from today. But I know that Stew who keeps calling me about this whole thing.
- President: Yea, he is very exercised about it. But it is a rather difficult problem because you don't have anybody particularly who can take your place and the other hand to pass over. [Paul] Nitze . . . is a . . . In any case, we can talk to Bob [McNamara] about it again when he comes down, though when he left, he was still going ahead with Paul [Nitze]. In my opinion, we ought to, uh, if we are going that way, we ought to go because otherwise it just builds up.
- Sec. Gilpatric: I think so. I do think one thing, Mr. President, and that is we ought to get somebody else over here in public affairs. Bob has got to have somebody who is going to be helpful to him than [Arthur] Sylvester is, or else somebody in addition. I was wondering about Bill Atwood. Is there any chance we could use him when he gets back?
- President: What about, uh, you think this fellow in liaison with the Congress is any good. You think he is, do you?

Sec. Gilpatric: I think he is. I have talked to a lot of Congressmen about him and I haven't found any second thoughts about him. But maybe Larry, uh.

President: Why don't you check, uh, I will have Larry check on that. I don't know whether Atwood would take the job, uh, Sylvester's job. Well, I hadn't even thought of that. Good, okay, I will check into that.

Sec. Gilpatric: Alright, I will see you tomorrow, I am going up with you.

President: Righto, fine.