

FOREWORD

Transcript Warning:

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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 11C

Conversation #3: President Kennedy and Robert Lovett

March 7, 1963

President: Hello.

Mr. Lovett: Hello.

President: Hello, Mr. Lovett, how are you?

Mr. Lovett: Yes, Mr. President.

President: Sorry to bother you.

Mr. Lovett: That is alright, sir.

President: I just got the draft of the [General Lucius] Clay Report. Have you seen it yet?

Mr. Lovett: No, sir, I haven't. They phoned me and said they were sending it up airmail special to Locust Valley tomorrow and I'm to read it there.

President: I see, fine. Well, I wanted to, uh, they are not going to make any final decision on it are they tomorrow?

Mr. Lovett: I don't know. I think they are going to try to clear it at that meeting which is called tomorrow.

President: Right.

Mr. Lovett: And I understood from [General] Lucius [Clay] then were to turn it into you the following week.

President: I see. Well, I got a . . . they sent over a draft tonight. The only a . . . I didn't want them to, uh, I would be reluctant to have them approve it until you've read it and I had a chance to talk to you about some of the matters which I would think would be, uh, make our problem of getting this program through more difficult. The way this . . . In short, the way it's now it looks pretty much like an attack on the program and even though there, uh, and I think that, a, therefore, it will contribute to greater difficulties in moving the program through.

Mr. Lovett: I think Dave Bell, uh, I spoke to him on this aspect of it . . .

President: Yeah.

Mr. Lovett: . . . when I saw him a week ago . . .

President: Yeah.

Mr. Lovett: . . . and I understood from the Secretary that they had changed that language. But not having seen it yet, I don't know whether they changed it enough.

President: Well, now . . . when you . . . you won't see it, of course, until Saturday, will you?

Mr. Lovett: I won't see it until tomorrow night. I would expect to be up tomorrow night and I will see it then.

President: I see. Well, then, in other words, they will not approve anything tomorrow until you've read it, will they?

Mr. Lovett: I don't think so, because the arrangement was that I would call . . . on Saturday . . .

President: I see.

Mr. Lovett: . . . before I take off for Puerto Rico.

President: Right. I wonder if we could leave it that they would not approve it, and then you and I could have a conversation on Saturday morning after you've read it and prior to your giving any suggestions you might have on it. And then you could see whether you and I share the same view or concern about some of the provisions.

Mr. Lovett: Alright, sir.

President: Can I get you, then, Saturday morning?

Mr. Lovett: I'll call you, then, as soon as I get it and have a chance to read it, I will call you on Saturday morning, sir.

President: Good, and that will be fine, and then perhaps you could communicated to them that you would like to have a chance to read it before it's finally approved down here.

Mr. Lovett: I think about all . . . about all that they are going to give me is a chance to read it and make my comments Saturday morning.

President: Right, right.

Mr. Lovett: So I will read it, check with you and then make my comments.

President: Good, fine.

Mr. Lovett: If that's agreeable to you?

President: Fine, that is fine. Very good indeed.

Mr. Lovett: Alright.

President: Good, thanks a lot.

Mr. Lovett: Right, thank you.