

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 22B, Item 22B1

June 18, 1963

[Continued from item 22A4]

- Thompson:¹ . . . the head of the thing.
- JFK: Reverend. Is he a reverend?
- Thompson: No.
- JFK: He's a professor.
- Thompson: Uh, and then there's, uh, L. L. Williams.
- JFK: Yeah.
- Thompson: And Stevens. Although Stevens is not, uh, hasn't been too good a friend of mine. He's come around. He's the head of Campbell College. And he's a *[smart? or hard?]* man.
- JFK: Well, now let me ask you this, uh, what about these policemen? How many can ya, uh, if these people all stop demonstrating and went home for a period, when do you think you could take the policemen and how many?
- Thompson: That's up to. . . . Well, I just pick 'em as I get 'em ready.
- JFK: Yeah. Have you got anybody ready?
- Thompson: Uh, I mean as I get them, when I think that they're qualified.
- JFK: Have you got anyone that's qualified?
- Thompson: Well, I had two I was going to take on. I may even have to get a call from you to put 'em on.

[Laughter]

¹ Allen C. Thompson, mayor of Jackson, Mississippi.

JFK: I'll tell you what. It seemed to me, that if I, if we could say to these fellows . . .

Thompson: Uh-huh.

JFK: . . . that, uh, that you were going to do something about the policemen, and, uh, which after all every, I mean that's not too tough . . .

Thompson: [Words unintelligible]

JFK: . . . and these cross guards . . .

Thompson: [No, here is?] the only thing, Mr. President, I want to, when I put a policeman on, I want him to be responsible to me and not to the NAACP² . . .

JFK: Well, that I agree. That I agree.

Thompson: . . . or any other place.

JFK: God, there must be some bright young fellow down there that you can get, a couple of those.

Thompson: Well, I had one picked out this morning. And I had two. One of 'em weighed 260, I'd known him for five years and the other one weighed 300 . . .

JFK: Uh-huh.

Thompson: . . . and they were fine men.

JFK: He's five feet how much?

Thompson: Fine, fine men.

JFK: Fine men.

Thompson: Oh, and, uh, [maybe?] I can get two I know within the next three or four days.

JFK: I see. Well, now what about the cross guards?

² National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Thompson: We've got those. [See?], we don't need those until September. But I've already talked to the chief in charge of that and he's got them.

JFK: He's got them and then about, uh . . .

Thompson: No, he hasn't got them but he's ready, ready to pick 'em out.

JFK: Well, now why don't I do this? Why don't I get, give you a call ba-. . . . You going to be around, uh, for, within another hour or two?

Thompson: Here's what I'm doing, I'm meeting Governor Wallace,³ he's coming in on the plane and then I am going home.

JFK: [Laughs]

Thompson: Uh, I'll be home, uh, Fleetwood 20323.

JFK: Fleetwood?

Thompson: Two, o, three, two, three. That's my home.

JFK: Okay.

Thompson: Uh, but, and, uh, if you can't [never?] get in touch with me just get the police?

JFK: Are they?

Thompson: They watch me like a baby, I wanna tell you.

JFK: Well, I tell you, [laughs] I'll tell you what. I'll talk to one or two of these fellows and see if there's anything that they got to say and then maybe I'll call you back this evening. You'll be home in about how long a time?

Thompson: Well, let's see, I'll be home [by?] six o'clock and I'll be there until we go to this banquet at seven.

JFK: Yeah.

Thompson: Now, look, uh, don't get your feelings hurt in anything that comes up . . .

³ George C. Wallace, governor of Alabama.

JFK: /Laughs/ Okay.

Thompson: . . . about anything anybody says that I say . . .

JFK: Oh, that's all right.

Thompson: . . . because I think the world of you.

JFK: Well, listen, you got, I give you full permission to denounce me in public as long as you don't in private.

 /Laughter/

Thompson: You're rich. Give my regards to your wife.

JFK: You say hello to Governor Wallace.

Thompson: I'll do that and then I'll tell my wife you said that.

JFL: Okay.

Thompson: Don't forget to tell your wife.

JFK: All right. I'll call you back tonight. /All right?/?

Thompson: /Thank you?/.