

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.

Dictabelt 9A, Item 9A6

JFK: Hello?

RFK: Jack?

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: Oh, uh, Ed Guthman [Edwin O. Guthman] went to a party the other night . . .

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: . . . and was talking to Doris Fleeson . . .

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: . . . who's evidently very bitter.

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: You know as she always, uh, usually is. But I don't know whether, uh, there might be some attention paid to her or somebody look at her or something.

JFK: Yeah. What's she bitter about?

RFK: [I'd say?] she's just mad, generally . . .

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: . . . you know the way she gets . . . [skips] . . .

JFK: Yeah. . . . [skips] . . . be Republicans there, and she doesn't like McCone [John A. McCone], and she's. . . . What is it particularly?

RFK: Well, he didn't, uh, didn't, uh. . . . She just seemed mad, generally, but I don't know whether, uh. . . . She seems always somebody that if somebody gave her a little attention occasionally then maybe she'd come around a bit.

JFK: Uh, well, it's pretty difficult.

RFK: Is it?

JFK: Well, she, you know, is just a waspish woman and she's always mad at something. She's mad at the Republi-, uh, because we have the Republicans or we're not fighting hard enough for, I dunno, civil rights or some god damned thing, whatever it may be. She's always sore. I don't have any contact with her.

RFK: Yeah.

JFK: And, uh. . . .

RFK: Well, anyway, you might keep it in mind if something comes up.

JFK: You never see her, do you?

RFK: Well, I don't, no. No. [Words missing] but she is just a bitter bitch.

JFK: Yeah. She's around yelling all the time. Somebody I, uh. . . . Tell me, we hear a rumor that John McCone's gonna quit some time, at a time when it suits him.

RFK: Ah, Marquis Childs.

JFK: You hear that?

RFK: You know what Marquis Childs . . .

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: . . . told Ed Guthman?

JFK: Yeah? He told Ed Guthman what?

RFK: He said that they're really pouring that stuff out of CIA against the administration.

JFK: CIA is?

RFK: Yeah. Did you see his article today?

JFK: Yeah. Well, that was obviously based on Jo-, what John told him.

RFK: [I thought that?] John McCone looked good in that thing.

JFK: Yeah, but I didn't think he looked great. No matter how . . .

RFK: Well, that's what Dave sa-. . . . He said, "I wrote the. . . . He said, "I wrote that story," uh, "in order to make sure that the record was clear on what they're doing."

JFK: What? That they're putting it out?

RFK: Yeah. I tell ya . . .

JFK: But, of course, he put it that he was only sending it into the, into the, uh . . .

RFK: Yeah, CIA.

JFK: . . . CIA. But he says that CIA is pouring it out?

RFK: Yeah. And, uh, and I think he specified, uh, on behalf of John McCone.

JFK: And McCone was right?

RFK: Well, that John McCone, that they're trying to make themselves look good.

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: And that's what he said. "This is where it's coming from," he said.

JFK: Yeah. Yeah. He's a real bastard, that John McCone.

RFK: Yeah.

JFK: Yeah. We got him. Do you have an- . . .

RFK: Well, he was useful at a time.

JFK: Yeah, but, boy, it's really evaporate-. . . . But he's making such a. . . . Uh, of course, everybody's on to him now. That's the trouble. He's stupid himself. Everybody's saying he's a horse's ass. Uh, but you mean that fifteen hundred terrorists and guerrillas that are being trained over there. . . . Isn't quite the way it was. They've got fifteen hundred students, how many of them are being trained as terrorists and guerrillas, how many have been picked up is another good question. They don't, never have anything very precise.

RFK: Yeah.

JFK: Uh. The, uh. . . .

RFK: Shall I give you another problem?

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: This TFX.

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: Is somebody watching that? The beginning of that whole contract, is that what it is that [came?] . . .

JFK: Yeah. Yeah.

RFK: Well, because the newspapermen think that there's something there now.

JFK: Uh, not that we know. Uh, who, what do they think is there?

RFK: Well they think it's, uh, that there's . . .

JFK: What?

RFK: . . . something funny that went on, but I just think that somebody better . . .

JFK: Well, you know what went on? [Laughs.] Nobody wanted to go to Topeka, Kansas. [Laughs.] That's all that went on. [Laughs.]

RFK: Yeah. But I want, think we ought to make sure somebody's looking at it.

JFK: Unh.

RFK: Look at the hearings and everything.

JFK: Well, m-. . . . I don't, you know I think it's a sha-. . . . Your friend John McClellan.

RFK: Yeah.

JFK: But, actually, nothing went on, so that's why they're never going to find anything. I know what went on.

RFK: Umh.

JFK: Nothing. 'Cause a' Topeka, Kansas. [Laughs.] That's where that contract would have gone, you know, that was the alternate.

RFK: Yeah. Well, I remember the discussion.

JFK: Yeah. Well, that was the whole thing.

RFK: Yeah.

JFK: But, uh, the, uh, let's see, there's that and Doris and what was the other matter?

RFK: Oh, it's just John McCone.

JFK: Yeah, well, I don't know what we can do about old John.

RFK: Except the. . . . Uh, I suppose if somebody could get the message to him that there . . .

JFK: I thought that you could say that, uh, first that . . .

RFK: They're saying . . .

JFK: . . . all the press are saying that they're pouring out a lot of stuff to try to make, you know, the CIA or McCone look good at the expense of the administration, that there's a lot of talk about it on the Hill and everything. I'd like to have John know about that. So maybe he'd then decide it wasn't so wise.

RFK: Yeah.

JFK: You, you aren't going to be seeing him, are you? Is he coming . . .

RFK: Yeah, I'm going to see him Thursday, Wednesday. He's coming to the house for dinner.

JFK: Uh-huh. Well, he's going up tomorrow to testify. Thought you . . .

RFK: He's been . . .

JFK: . . . might give it to him Tuesday night.

RFK: . . . better, though, hasn't he, on his testimony?

JFK: I guess he has, though there were. . . . Well, that thing of. . . . Uh, I don't know where Marq Childs got that thing, do you know?

RFK: Yes.

JFK: Did he get it from McCone?

RFK: McCone. That's what he implied to Ed Guthman.

JFK: Yeah, well, I mean that's not, you know, giving the dates when he sent the messages and everything. Christ, he never sent the message to anybody else.
[Needle sticks]

RFK: Um.

JFK: Why didn't he come back from his honeymoon?

RFK: Well, I know that . . .

JFK: Huh?

RFK: Well, you know, I understand . . .

JFK: *[Laughs]* I think that's the only thing that. . . . I mean he isn't going to. . . .

RFK: Yeah, I don't think Marquis Childs was too impressed.

JFK: Yeah?

RFK: I mean, the way he talked, he just said that that's where the stuff's coming from and that, uh, they're sticking it to you, the administration. So he just wanted to tell us . . .

JFK: Yeah.

RFK: . . . that that's going on.

JFK: Well . . . [Conversation fades.]

[Conversation is continued In Item 9B1.]