

## 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 10B, Item 10B3

March 6, 1963

[begins in mid-conversation/

JFK: . . . Boston, which gives them a pretty good little issue.

O'Brien<sup>1</sup>: Yeah.

JFK: Uh, can't we do something about that?

O'Brien: Yeah, well, actually, this whole damn thing is, uh, up in the air now. Guys like Muskie and others are . . . Christ, by the time I put together all the inquiries we've had today I think it'll cover the whole waterfront, and we'll just have to review this entire operation. I'm going to . . .

JFK: They didn't clear this at all, did they?

O'Brien: No. No. Well, it seems a rather, uh, . . . Very frankly, it was just a stupid operation all the way. I've got Mahaffey on the other line, incidentally, . . .<sup>2</sup>

JFK: Yeah.

O'Brien: Who has just come from the governor, and of course he said the governor, uh, it's the old story that he never said that it would get you in 'sixty-four, and reporters have called him from all over the country, and he has denied he has said that.

JFK: Yeah.

O'Brien: That, uh, . . . he still insists that Arkansas fliers participated in the invasion, however.

JFK: Yeah? Well, you tell them what they did is they participated in the training down there in Nicaragua . . .

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<sup>1</sup> Lawrence F. O'Brien

<sup>2</sup> See item 10A5.

O'Brien: Yeah.

JFK: . . . and Guatemala, but they didn't fly in combat.

O'Brien: Yeah. That's what I told him initially. That's what he told the governor, and the governor said, well, hell, he wasn't quarrelling. He said, uh, . . . uh, he will . . . the governor's gonna call me later tonight, uh, but he said, hell, I, uh, I don't want to get into any, uh, . . .

JFK: Well, why don't you just tell him that what we want to do is just put the God damn thing to rest?

O'Brien: Right.

JFK: So whatever they can do down there to just shut it all up, is fine with us. That the guards issued some statement about, . . . he can, uh, just say they've . . . uh, he can do . . . try to cover his tracks and we'll try to end it.

O'Brien: Yeah. All right.

JFK: Okay. And then we ought to get this thing straightened out. I don't want it around that we are taking business out of Scranton out to . . . which is depressed . . . up to . . . so I think we ought to put out a statement saying that, uh, we're holding up . . . or the Secretary of the Treasury ought to put it out in the morning, . . . we're holding up on all these transfers.

O'Brien: All right.

JFK: 'cause I just think it's stupid.

O'Brien: Yeah.

JFK: Right.

*/phone hangs up/*