

## 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.

### **Copyright:**

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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 4F, Item 4F5

September 30, 1962

JFK: Hello.

Voice 1: Just one moment, sir.

Voice 2?: There you are, sir. There's the president.

JFK: Hello. Hello.

Barnett<sup>1</sup>: Uh, Mr. President?

JFK: Yes, Governor.

Barnett: I, I just talked with Colonel Birdsong<sup>2</sup> ...

JFK: Right.

Barnett: . . . who is our director of the highway patrol . . .

JFK: That's right.

Barnett: . . . and he assures me that he has approximately one hundred and fifty men there now.

JFK: Now, we got a report that they're all in their cars two or three blocks away.

Barnett: I told 'em, just like you asked me, to get moving.

JFK: I see. Now, can you get them so that we stop this, uh, rifle shooting? That's what we gotta stop.

Barnett: Well, he says he's doing all that he can. He says there're strangers in there.

JFK: I know it, well that's what we hear.

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<sup>1</sup> Ross R. Barnett

<sup>2</sup> T.B. Birdsong.

Barnett: And, uh, he's calling for fifty more, and that'll, that'll put it up around two hundred.

JFK: Can they get those students to go to bed?

Barnett: Well, he says he's trying to, and, uh, I don't think it'll be long before he can get them all to bed.

JFK: Okay. Will you stay at . . .

Barnett: Maybe not, I can't tell . . .

JFK: Well, let's stay right at it. We, we ought to be, uh, that's what we gotta do before . . .

Barnett: Uh, he's . . .

JFK: . . . we can, uh, do anything.

Barnett: . . . he's reporting, uh, constantly to a gentleman who has control of the activities of the troops there.

JFK: Yeah.

Barnett: And, uh, he understands that he's doing all he can.

JFK: Well, I think that it's very important, Governor, aside from, uh, this issue, we don't want a lot of people, uh, killed, just because they, particularly, uh, evidently two or three guardsmen have been shot. And, of course, so-, our marshals and then that state trooper, so we don't want . . .

*[Recording ends abruptly.]*