

## 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 26A**

### Conversation #2: President Kennedy and Vice President

August 16, 1963

1:00 P.M.

President: ----- situation you know, we got a vacancy here.

Vice President: Yes.

President: I was thinking of [Raymond] Telles, what do you think?

Vice President: Who?

President: Our Ambassador to Costa Rica; Mexican.

Vice President: Mr. President, I don't know a thing in the world about his administrative ability. He was a good mayor . . .

President: Yeah.

Vice President: . . . and I hear good reports on him in Costa Rica.

President: Yeah.

Vice President: But as an administrator, I just don't know.

President: Yeah.

Vice President: He is a good man and I would think uh, I would have to question about his real intellectual power. Whether he has what you want. But . . . really need to do something for that group. And it would set mighty well with the Latin Americans. Now California feels mighty left out.

President: Yeah.

Vice President: They think Texas has gotten off with more than they are entitled to because of \_\_\_\_\_ and the Latin Americans judge and the Latin American District Attorneys. They feel like we have let them down and they have got a good many recommendations. But I would heartily approve of it so far as clearing him and liking him and things like that. I don't know him well enough to know that he is Cabinet material. I would have a question about that.

President: Well, I think probably of all that group he is probably the only one that could be considered for it. Of course he has the outstanding record. Most of them uh, you know we are pretty hard put to find judges that you can clear and so on. So that if we are going to get a Mexican it looks to me like he is the fellow. The question really is we don't have much else to pick from that I can see. I haven't heard any other name.

Vice President: It may be. If Bobby doesn't know some top Latin American in California, I tried to get them to suggest to me this last week some top people that we could just be positive of. They said that they would get them together but they haven't. They have a million Latin Americans in Los Angeles.

President: I know, I know. That is one of the reasons why we are thinking about this fellow.

Vice President: Now they will be jealous of Texas. Those people will be.

President: This won't please them you mean.

Vice President: No, it will irritate them. I am just playing straight with you because I spent two days with them.

President: Well would it irritate them uh, they would feel better if we didn't appoint a Latin. Is that it?

Vice President: Not unless you had one of theirs. What they feel is uh, these damn groups I never saw them feel so bitter. But the Polish groups and Mexican groups. Now California feels that they have 42 percent of the Mexican population in the United States. That they don't have one single appointment.

President: Yeah.

Vice President: Now I have proved to them that they the Latins in the United States have only 1.2 percent of the jobs and of the total population and Kennedy has given

them 2.2 percent of the jobs and he has given them twice as many of the jobs than their population would entitle them to.

President: Yeah.

Vice President: And in California they have 10 percent of the California population and he has given them 8 percent of the jobs\_which is a mighty good record.

President: Yeah.

Vice President: But they are bitter because they have no judge, and no cabinet, and no under cabinet, and no anything. And they tell me the real reason Mrs. [Rosaline] Wyman and some of the other people tell me is that they just haven't had anybody emerge as quality material. Now Bartley maybe ought to see who his contacts are out there; I'd just been out there for two days; and I have no political thing and if I could think I would give consideration in trying to appoint a top flight Mexican from California. If you couldn't then maybe you would take Telles. I would be happy for Telles. It would be a feather in my crown, but I am thinking about you and the California situation. Because that is one state we have just got to carry.

President: That is right. Well I think I will go back on this matter.

Vice President: You just count me in, whatever you want to do as being strong for it. But I think I ought to raise it.

President: No I don't think there is any sense in that really I was thinking of California and of course Texas, Mexicans as the two areas, with California uh, I was just looking at the figures of 1960, one million five hundred thousand. So it must be up by now and if this is going to irritate them, rather than make them happy, well we certainly want to take another look at it.

Vice President: Here is what they said to me when I told them that President Kennedy has named two Ambassadors, one from California and one from Texas. They said well we know you got Texas, one Ambassador we never heard of, the one to Togo.

President: The one to where, Togo, yea.

Vice President: Yea, I don't know who he is. Then I said well he has named so many Assistant District Attorney's. He has named one Federal Judge. He has done more than any President has ever done before. I did this in answer to their vicious criticism. And I handle it very well I think but they kept

coming back, oh yes, but our recommendations in California have been ignored.

President: Well you see [Clair] Engle vetoed that Judge about a year and a half ago which was a bad mistake but however. Well anyway I will check back to see if they have got anybody out there and then I will see whether our investigation uh, wh don't have anybody else particularly in mind. I will be back in touch with you.

Vice President: Right and thank you and I will see you Monday.

President: Ok.