

April 14, 2008

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Processing Note

A copy of this transcript was interfiled on this date from the Alpha transcript series.

There is no recording to go with this transcript.

DATE: 4/2/68

TIME: 11:59 AM

CALLER: George Meany

Pages of Transcript: 1 page

Barbara Cline
Archivist

April 2, 1968

11:59a

Mr. George Meany called the President and said substantially:

I don't have to tell you how much I regret your decision. But I understand it, and I think you made a great sacrifice, and as far as we're concerned, it doesn't change the record of your administration--which is terrific! Secondly, I have talked to the Vice President and told him I thought he ought to get in the race. I don't think we should leave this campaign go with nobody in the field defending the record of your Administration. Bobby and McCarthy aren't going to defend it at all, and I think Hubert ought to be in there even if he knows he's going to lose.

The President told him that he had been a steady and wise counselor and he appreciated having him at his side. On the Vice President he said that he never knew a better man and there is nothing that he has done that I could fault. He has been loyal and understanding. But I don't know if anybody can come up against these odds because I've seen the strongest men crumble. I was fearful that the whole Presidency would be diluted, and our nation wouldn't be number one at all.

Mr. Meany closed the conversation by saying that he didn't think Bobby and McCarthy had the substantial solid citizens of the country with them, but that with the President out of the race, ~~the~~ the machine could win by default, and he wanted the President to know that he had called the Vice President this morning to encourage him to run and defend the Johnson Administration.

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