

## Dictabelt 6A.2

**Date:** 1962-11-07

**Participant:** John F. Kennedy

**Participant:** Edmund G. "Pat" Brown

"I Don't See How He Can Ever Recover"

In 1960, John F. "Jack" Kennedy defeated Richard M. "Dick" Nixon in the U.S. presidential election. Two years later, Edmund G. "Pat" Brown beat Nixon once again, this time in the California gubernatorial race. In his concession speech delivered the morning of 7 November 1962, Nixon blamed the press for his defeat and famously declared to reporters: "You don't have Nixon to kick around anymore because, gentlemen, this is my last press conference." Here, Kennedy and Brown discussed their shared opponent.

**Editor's Note:** *Some passages repeat several times throughout the recording.*

**Operator:** Mr. President?

**President Kennedy:** Yeah.

**Operator:** He's in a conference room down on the fifth floor. They'll send for him.

**President Kennedy:** Uh-huh. OK. No hurry.

**Operator:** [*Unclear.*]

**President Kennedy:** [*needle skips*]—to it in '60. Hell, I'd gotten them all in shape, so that—  
[*needle skips*] What?

**Edmund G. "Pat" Brown:** Well, let me just tell you this—

**President Kennedy:** I'll tell you this: you reduced him to the nuthouse.

**Brown:** Listen, but you gave me instructions, and I follow your orders [*unclear*].

**President Kennedy:** [*chuckling*] I understand. But God, that last farewell speech of his . . .

**Brown:** Wasn't that terrible?

**President Kennedy:** Well, no, but it shows [*unclear*] . . . [*needle skips*] . . . So what's going to happen [*needle skips*] way out there?

**Brown:** I don't see how he can ever recover. [*needle skips*] [*Unclear*] the leaders.

**President Kennedy:** Yeah.

**Brown:** [Goodwin J. "Goodie" Knight walked out on him. [Joseph C. "Joe" Shell [Sr.] told me. [*needle skips*] This is a peculiar fellow. [*needle skips*] I really think he's psychotic. He's an able man, but he's nuts.

**President Kennedy:** Yeah.

**Brown:** Like a lot of these paranoiacs, they're . . . But [*unclear*]

*End of excerpt.*

CITATION: "Telephone Conversation with Pat Brown and Jerry Brown on 7 November 1962," Dictabelt 6A.2, President's Office Files, Presidential Recordings Collection, John F. Kennedy Library, Presidential Recordings Collection, *Presidential Recordings Digital Edition [The Winds of Change, vol. 5, ed. David Coleman]* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2014-).  
URL: <http://prde.upress.virginia.edu/conversations/8050004>