



NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

**Tape Subject Log**

*(rev. 10/08)*

Part of a conversation among President Nixon, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, John B. Connally, Hugh Scott, Robert P. Griffin, Margaret Chase Smith, Gordon L. Allott, Norris Cotton, Milton R. Young, John G. Tower, Gerald R. Ford, Leslie C. Arends, John B. Anderson, John J. Rhodes, Richard H. Poff, Robert C. ("Bob") Wilson, Barber B. Conable, Jr., Robert T. Stafford, H. Allen Smith, Frank T. Bow, William B. Widnall, George P. Shultz, John D. Ehrlichman, Clark MacGregor, Kenneth R. BeLieu, Herbert G. Klein, Ronald L. Ziegler, Patrick J. Buchanan, and Bryce N. Harlow in the Cabinet Room between 8:04 am and 10:04 am on May 4, 1971.

Conversation No. 55-4

President: Good morning. Uh, would you like to begin with, uh, questions? First, uh, I guess, a brief, uh, reference to the fact that I, uh, all the members [unintelligible] here [unintelligible] [room noise] [unintelligible] the broadcast went very well. But does anybody [unintelligible]? You see [unintelligible] the cost of living.

Connally: No, sir, no.

[Laughter]

President: Do you believe in that? [Unintelligible].

[Laughter]

President: How about on your side, Jerry?

Ford: I didn't hear any voices, uh, from the, well, that we normally would get. Had some on the other side.

President: [Unintelligible] well [unintelligible].

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Conv. No. 55-4 (cont.)

Ford: I thought the military and the police did an exceptionally good job on this.

President: A military person, they always do. This police chief should become, be a star with publicity. Hell, anyone could.

Unknown: Um-hum.

President: The thing is, you never know what, how a chief's gonna handle his fellows in a really difficult situation. He just did a superb job. Jerry, nothing ever works unless you've got the top man [unintelligible] in charge of the [unintelligible] overall departments. You just have gotta [unintelligible] and these people are all good sports. I was down to, uh, to visit the Washington police headquarters a coupla weeks ago to go to their headquarters to see [unintelligible]. It's just like these people out here demonstrating, except that they [unintelligible] but most of them have not [unintelligible] at least a high school education [unintelligible] radical school in Washington [unintelligible] but, uh, uh, uh, [unintelligible] handle themselves with such discretion [unintelligible] bridges [unintelligible] people that young. [Room noise] There's always been these charges of police brutality and all that sort of thing. There are instances of it, one out of fifty [someone coughs] [unintelligible] ninety-nine times out of a hundred it's --. The television which emphasizes poor police [unintelligible] exhausts some of em. Considering his educational background, considering his provocation, considering the kind of people he handles [unintelligible], I think [unintelligible]. What do you think, Bob? [Unintelligible] wash?

Unknown [Wilson?]: Yes, sir. I agree.

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Conv. No. 55-4 (cont.)

President: I guess, uh, [unintelligible].

[Laughter]

President: [Unintelligible]. A political [unintelligible] at the moment.

Unknown: A WTOP editorial with a very hard line last night on Channel Nine--

President: [Unintelligible].