

**NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF****Tape Subject Log***(rev. 9/08)*

Part of a conversation between President Nixon and Rose Mary Woods in the Oval Office between 11:27 am and 11:47 am on April 23, 1971.

Conversation No. 487-5

President: Well, look [unintelligible]. Some of 'em're [unintelligible] down here, ya know, raisin' hell.

Woods: Diane just made a, a good comment about the veterans. Once in a while, ya know, they're, I had on the news --

President: Yeah.

Woods: -- and she said, "Well, if they're turning 'em back in, now why did they take them, if they felt that way?" See this is, shows people are working on these, ya know, these darn radicals work on 'em. If they didn't feel they, that, that medal was [unintelligible], then they shouldn't have taken it in the first place, if they really felt that way. Then they act like [unintelligible] mob. They, uh, for the most part they're a pretty motley bunch. They could be easily worked on; that's why they're here. Look at the many who arc back who, who are --

President: Two and a half million.

Woods: -- out working and, and --

President: Decent.

Woods: -- have done their duty, and --

President: Proud of it.

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Woods: Um hum. [Unintelligible] don't dare go around these people because I just want to hit at 'em. Umph!

President: Well, they do get them there. These clever left-wingers who're, uh, the Communists, and basically a lot o' this is Communist.

Woods: Oh, of course it is. Look how hard this Bella Abzug or whatever that terrible beast's name is, look how hard she's working on it. And all the, these Congressmen and Senators who are out shoutin' and encouraging these people.

President: Yep.

Woods: I tell you, i-if it --.

President: Well, Teddy Kennedy [unintelligible], ya know, says --

Woods: Te- --

President: "I'm with ya all the way." Mathias --.

Woods: Teddy Kennedy, Mathias --

President: Mathias [unintelligible].

Woods: -- Hartke, or Hart --

President: [Unintelligible].

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Conv. No. 487-5 (cont.)

Woods: -- [unintelligible].

President: Huh?

Woods: All these people are encouraging 'em to, to show up, be here on the twenty-fourth. They're, you know, urging these people to come here. Somehow or other we ought to be able to mow everyone of 'em down in the next election.

President: Well --.

Woods: Too bad some of 'em are in for six years already.

President: I hope that at least we could [unintelligible] we've done [unintelligible] about the war. They [unintelligible].

Woods: Carl Curtis's statement last night on radio, anyway, was good. After those Senators, I didn't see those Senators. But, uh, I did hear, I had my radio on, and, and he sounded very good on the radio saying, "Where were all these people? They were very quiet all through all this time of the escalation of the war. And now," and he recited how much you had done, "and now, why now? Why now are they talking when we are ending it?" And he really did a good job. I was very proud of him.

President: Yeah. Well, Taft was pretty good too.

Woods: Taft --

President: Very good.

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Conv. No. 487-5 (cont.)

Woods: -- has been very good, amazingly.

President: And Saxbe.

Woods: Well, and Saxbe. I was absolutely shocked at Saxbe doing something for us.

President: I always [unintelligible]. Well, well, we're not gonna lose it. I, that's the other thing. Ya see, these people want to get it over and let it go Communist. They really do.

Woods: They don't care what happens, and they, and then if, if, if everything goes Communist, and then if, eventually it's gonna react and ruin this country, then it, it won't, won't be because they hollered, and they said this. Course it's you. And basically it's the country. I think, I think a lot of people know that. Course they're tired of the war. Everyone's tired of war. No one could be more tired of it than you. No one!

President: Sure.

Woods: That's what I always tell 'em. There isn't a soul on earth that wants peace in Vietnam any more than you do. They're terrible phonies. They holler about, ya know, what else the Democr-, makes me so mad. They talk about how they had this big dinner, five hundred dollars, and, of course, they were very, they weren't like the wealthy Republicans havin' it be a thousand.

President: Oh, no, they [unintelligible].

Woods: And they are in debt so much. They owe everyone. Ya know that they don't

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want 'em back in Chicago 'cause they haven't paid for that convention yet. That's what Jim Miller told me anyway. And they don't pay anyone.

President: No, they get in and they steal and they start payin' em. Johnson - course they talk about thousand-dollar dinners, Kennedy and Johnson's were ones that stated that they shook 'em down real good.

Woods: Well, and they [unintelligible], they even had 'em right in their own [unintelligible].

President: Course the real, one of the real problems, this goddamn press is so [unintelligible] unfair. They, they don't give our Republicans who are out tryin' to answer these people, and they put 'em on. Apparently the guy that's really good, the only good one of the damn veterans' group, only good from a PR standpoint, is Kerry. He's very [unintelligible]. Did you ever see him?

Woods: No. Ya see, I have, bell, I have the [unintelligible].

President: [Unintelligible] news all Kerry. [Unintelligible].

Woods: Well, they don't, and, and the thing is that, that a few poeple have tried to say it. They, uh, well, cvcn these vetcrans, all the, they just have given them way too much space in on Time and newspapers and, and everywhere, uh. But they always do.