

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF**Tape Subject Log***(rev. 10/06)*

Part of a telephone conversation between President Nixon in the Oval Office and John B. Connally between 10:16 am and 10:19 am on March 23, 1971

Conversation No. 472-6

President: Hello. [A Yeah≅ in background]

Yeah, I thought it was, uh, was very, very helpful for, uh, you to give those guys a good shot like that this morning. And as I, and I as I am sure you could see I was, uh, trying to shame a few of them a bit because --

Yeah.

Yeah. Well, uh, I, I tell you that it=s very tight in the Senate. It looks like we=re about two votes short. Isn=t that something?

Yeah. But it=s, but for this country and what it is, it=s, uh, almost a death wish isn=t it? It=s a death wish. They, uh, we, uh, we=re afraid to do this or that because of, uh -- Well, it=s a -- as the country gets more and more intelligent, they get, uh, more and more fearful; and that=s, and that=s what happened to the Greeks, and what happened to the Romans, it=s what=s happened to the British, it=s what happened, you know -- That=s what happens.

Yeah. Huh, well, it=s a retreat from greatness, too. It=s a retreat from leadership. Retreat from leader -- but anyway, we=re on the side of the angels, and, uh, and I appreciated your picking up and pitching. That=s the way to do it, slug it right to them.

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Um hm.

Yeah.

Yeah. Well, you=ve handled it all extremely well. That=s all right. [Laughs]

Yeah. Yeah, the -- don=t worry. They, uh, they=ll remember it. [Laughs]

Yeah, at 10:30. [Telephone rings]

Yeah. Yeah. They=re quite a, quite a group.

Uh hm.

You=re, you=re, you leaning to, to the, [telephone rings] to do it this year?

Uh hm. Uh hm.

Huh.

Yeah.

Get out the argument that if you do it this year you raise the price and all that sort of thing.

Right.

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Conv. No. 472-6 (cont.)

Well, I=ll try to, uh, be equipped for other things. He=s going to, uh, meet with >em at 10:30, and I=m going to try to keep --

Yeah. Yeah, but I want to be sure I don=t, don=t, don=t cross the bridge today, that=s what I mean, and I=m glad to talk to you about it. I didn=t know that --
Okay.

Got it.

Um hm. Um hm.

Yeah. All right.

Okay.

We=ll [unintelligible] in there.

[Hangs up]

President: Hello [unintelligible].