

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

Transcript #1: Part of a conversation between President Nixon and H. R. (ABob≡) Haldeman in the Oval Office between 2:40 pm and 3:22 pm on April 22, 1971.

Conversation No. 486-5#1

President: I haven't really any idea what to do about the matter, but that=s not the question.
[Unintelligible] all we can do is hope --

Haldeman: I think we=re doin= all we can.

President: -- hope that, uh, the country=s still not gonna be --

Haldeman: Let me get a reading on that.

President: What do you think it's worth, Bob?

Haldeman: Um-hum.

President: I don't know what Al's [unintelligible].

Haldeman: I think what you'll find is, is, uh, an awareness that there's a demonstration, but they're not, they don't really know who it is or what they're doin'. It's a bunch of, the same old rowdy people are demonstrating [unintelligible] general line of disapproval. I don't think you're going to find that people are --.

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Transcript #2: Part of a conversation among President Nixon, H. R. (ABob≡) Haldeman, and Ronald L. Ziegler in the Oval Office between 3:22 pm and 3:32 pm on April 22, 1971.

Conversation No. 486-5#2

President: Why don't you, uh, why don't you get a picture of, uh, I mean the, uh, a little more positive-looking than those veterans down there. A picture in the Post this morning showing the two in the front very clean-shaven, nice-looking, all-American types and that, that --.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] you mentioned that. I never looked at that 'cause that may, if that's true, that's the first good picture of them.

Ziegler: Yeah, because they guy's coming up on TV and so forth just looked mangy.

Haldeman: Did you see those two today?

Ziegler: [Unintelligible]

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: Did ya see it at noon today, the arrests?

Ziegler: I didn't see that.

Haldeman: They had it on the noon --.

President: Did you, uh, how did you handle the arrests?

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] --

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Conv. No. 486-5#4 (cont.)

President: [Unintelligible] that=s not our --.

Ziegler: -- very low key.

President: Yeah, [unintelligible].

Ziegler: And, uh, [unintelligible] Chief Justice. [Unintelligible].

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Transcript #3: Part of a conversation among President Nixon, H. R. Haldeman, and Ronald L. Ziegler in the Oval Office between 3:22 pm and 3:32 pm on April 22, 1971.

Conversation No. 486-5#3

President: And that's what we're trying to do with these nice up-, clean-shaven little veterans down there, these good Americans.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] is we can't find a nice clean-shaven one.

President: [Unintelligible] look too bad.

Haldeman: You sure they weren't some of the Senators' aides or somethin'?

President: Well, they could have been, they could have been.

Ziegler: Interesting thing ca- --

President: Teddy went back out there this morning.

Ziegler: -- interesting thing in a briefing came up from the press guys.

President: Yeah.

Ziegler: I said, N-, ya know, I used the line the President feels that because he said before people should have a, in this country, have a right to express themselves in a peaceful, and so forth [unintelligible]. And then they said, AWell, Ron, does the, does the President feel that --

President: He oughta --

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Conv. No. 486-5#3 (cont.)

Ziegler: -- that the --

President: -- [unintelligible].

Ziegler: No, no. "Does the President feel that blocking the bridges and so forth th-'s, that's planned for next week is a, justi-, rightful --

President: [Unintelligible].

Ziegler: -- way to express themselves?" And I said, "Gentlemen, I'm not going to have a comment on reported activity in the future," but i-it was an interesting parallel that was attempting to be, you know, drawn there.

President: Well, don't worry. When that comes up, we're going to be hard as hell. If they start blocking bridges, we'll throw them right off the culverts. Teddy went back out. I bet they gonna follow him in again. Is that the purpose?

Haldeman: Yup. Said, "I'm with ya all the way."

President: He did?

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] Senator from Maryland.

President: Bell? Mathias?

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Conv. No. 486-5#3 (cont.)

Haldeman: The senior Senator from Maryland said,uh, "The reason that the people won't listen to you down there is because they're afraid of ya.≡ AWhy are they afraid of us?≡ He said, ABecause they don't know ya down there the way I know ya.≡

[Laughter]

President: What does he mean "down there"? At the White House?

Haldeman: Um-hum.

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: Good old Mac is --.

Ziegler: He says, "I think they may be afraid of ya."

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: He said something --.

Ziegler: He said, "I think they may be afraid of you." You know, he had this little up-, pious reflective accent.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible]. Suspicion [unintelligible].

Ziegler: I think it--

President: Yeh.

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Conv. No. 486-5#3 (cont.)

Ziegler: "I think it, yeah, I think it may be because they're, they're afraid of ya but, uh, that's probably because they don't know you like I do."

Haldeman: "Like I do." All these Senators, the way they suck around, is absolutely nauseating.

Ziegler: S--let 'em s--, let 'em do it.

President: I think--

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] it was just great.

Ziegler: Let them, let them jus= --.

President: [Unintelligible] Does he work for >em.

Ziegler: For who, the veterans?

President: The Senators. Senators who do that suck --.

Ziegler: No, I don't, I don't. I, I --.

President: They feel they're against the war? A guy said to me [unintelligible] .

Ziegler: [Unintelligible] yes, no question [unintelligible].

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Conv. No. 486-5#3 (cont.)

Haldeman: Its absolutely sickening the way these guys act, and I don't think, I really don't think even a guy who's against the war and who wants you to get out today is gonna to be very proud of his United States Senator down there acting like that. It just doesn't look good.

President: I don't think so either, Ron, [unintelligible]. I don't think people like unmanly conduct, that's my feeling, so I may be wrong, maybe the country has gotten, uh, frankly, uh, uh, maybe, uh, the whole country may be queer.

Ziegler: I think it's going to catch up with these guys. I don't, I, [coughs], I don't think there's a sharp public attitude now. I think people mi-- , uh to say, "What≡, you know, uh, A[unintelligible]≡, you know, Awe want out≡, and so forth, and they [unintelligible] a year and tell us and then they see the Senators down there smilin= and saying, AIf you can bivouac, you can be bivouaced in Vietnam, you be bivouaced in Washington.≡ I thinks-- after --.

Haldeman: He said he=s going.

Ziegler: That study's on.

Haldeman: Is that what he said?

Ziegler: Yes.

Haldeman: "Can find a place to bivouac you in Vietnam, they ought to be able to --

Ziegler/Haldeman: -- find a place to bivouac you here in Washington."

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Conv. No. 486-5#3 (cont.)

President: What do they have?

Haldeman: We've given them places to bivouac, for Christ sake. They've given 'em Bolling Field and they've given them --

Ziegler: Offered 'em.

Haldeman: -- Kennedy Stadium.

President: And they won't, they won't go.

Haldeman: They won't bivouac in the National Cathedral, that pillar of strength, your great friend, the dean --

President: Sayre, he's offered them.

Haldeman: -- offered 'em the Cathedral grounds, and they can have, if it rains, they can have the Bethlehem Chapel.

Ziegler: About three months from now, four months from now, when these guys have been having 'em over to the house and so forth --

Haldeman: Yeah.

Ziegler: -- that is when it's going to catch up with these guys.

Haldeman: I agree.

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Bull: The Secretary=s here, Mr. President.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] Doesn't know which way --

Unknown: [Unintelligible].

Ziegler: It's very easy to get on the side of the [unintelligible].

President: Does he think it'll catch up with him?

Ziegler: I think it will. Yes, sir.

Haldeman: I think there's some damn good footage there. If Teddy Kennedy's a Presidential candidate, it will look awfully interesting.

President: [Unintelligible] the war.

Haldeman: A year and a half from now with the war will see him with those [unintelligible] people.

President: Yeah, well, particularly if we, we do a couple of other things now. It could be, and we'll say, AHere he is. There he is." I think that's our strength. Do we have that footage, though, or can we get it?

Haldeman: Yes, sir.

President: From how, the networks? How do we do it?

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Conv. No. 486-5#3 (cont.)

Haldeman: We can get it now. We have a tape of most of it.

President: We hear from that guy down in, uh--

Haldeman: He has it.

Ziegler: We have it right here in the White House.

Haldeman: We, we taped the, that stuff.

President: Do you?

Ziegler: Yes, sir.

President: Good. Well--

Haldeman: A--and we can buy the original footage from the networks.

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: It=s all available on a, on a purchase basis [unintelligible]

Ziegler: But I, I, I'm talking more about the country's attitude toward people who are now very clearly planting themselves, are associating themselves with, with this movement of the moment or this action of the moment. Uh, uh, Taft had some pretty, pretty good things to say today.

President: Taft?

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Conv. No. 486-5#3 (cont.)

Ziegler: Yes, sir.

President: What did he say?

Ziegler: "New hatching doves."

President: What did he call >em?

Ziegler: ANew hatching doves.≡ He says, AAll these new doves are hatching all, all over the place.≡ He says, AYou look around and there=s another dove hatching up--

Haldeman: [Laughs]

Ziegler: [≡He says they were surprisingly quiet during the nineteen sixties when the Democratic administration was sending thousands of troops into South Vietnam." He says, "Now, when the administration is bringing the war to a conclusion, they're all hatching up, new doves are hatched up all over the place."]

Haldeman: [Unintelligible].

Ziegler: [Unintelligible].

President: God, that's great.

Haldeman: But, you know, it's [unintelligible] Well, there=s something there, too. You get, the two Ohio senators are all [unintelligible].

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Conv. No. 486-5#3 (cont.)

Ziegler: [Unintelligible] Excuse me, sir.

President: Well, let's say that, uh, [unintelligible], under the last [unintelligible]

[Room noise]

Haldeman: Doves, huh?

President: Why don't you study [unintelligible] all week long. [Unintelligible]. Let's do the same [unintelligible].

Haldeman: All right.

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: [Unintelligible].

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Transcript #4: Part of a conversation among President Nixon, H. R. (ABob≡) Haldeman, Ronald L. Ziegler, William P. Rogers, Fred Maroon, and Stan Wayman in the Oval Office between 3:32 pm and 3:35 pm on April 22, 1971.

Conversation No. 486-5#4

President: Bob Taft made a speech on the new hatching doves.

Rogers: New hatching doves?

President: Bob, tell him about it. It was very interesting. We got, we got an interesting combination. Taft and Saxbe, uh, [unintelligible] Saxbe.

Rogers: [Unintelligible]

Haldeman: Taft cut, cut loose today. He said, "You know, every time you look around, there's another dove hatching somewhere," and he said, "I wonder where all those people were in the sixties when the Democratic administration was sending the troops by the thousands into Vietnam."

President: [He said, "Now that we're coming out by the thousands, they=re all hatching]."

Haldeman: All these doves are hatching.

Rogers: That's very interesting.

President: He had to say that, you know.

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Conv. No. 486-5#4 (cont.)

Haldeman: I didn't think he, I didn't think he was that colorful.

Rogers: I think they've handled the McCloskey thing pretty well, wha--those two.

President: Why should [Unintelligible]?

Rogers: Well, Paul's in Las Vegas. He answered most of it and, uh, he made a good, uh, wait a minute now, Teddy Kennedy'll get it, probably to play it on television, but, I mean, we haven't, we haven't escalated the thing. McCloskey doesn't look very good. He's had to back down for most of the things he's said.

President: It hasn't got McCloskey [unintelligible]. What's he done?

Rogers: It didn't get much of a play.

President: It didn't get much of a play from the veterans on --.

Rogers: [Unintelligible] the veterans [unintelligible].

President: What'd you think of the veterans? How'd they look? I haven't seen them.

Rogers: Oh, they don't look too good.

President: Don't think so?

Rogers: [Unintelligible].

President: They tell me they're pretty horrible-looking group.

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Conv. No. 486-5#4 (cont.)

Rogers: That=s true. [Unintelligible].

President: Did you hear what, tell him what Teddy did today. He talked to >em.

Haldeman: Teddy out there talking with the veterans, you know. He says, AI=m with you all the way,≡ all great feeling, what?

President: He said, "If they can bivouac you in --

Haldeman: Oh, yeah, yeah.

President: -- "if they could bivouac you in Vietnam, they can bivouac you here."

Haldeman: "If they could find a place to bivouac you in Vietnam, they ought to be able to find a place to bivouac you here in Washington."

President: And tell Bill about what your senior Senator from Maryland said.

Rogers: Jesus Christ, I could tell, he's a --.

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: [Unintelligible] good American. [Unintelligible]

Rogers: [Unintelligible]

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Conv. No. 486-5#4 (cont.)

Haldeman: He went in to talk to 'em, he went in to talk to 'em, and, and he, they, they, he said, "This is all a communications problem that you fellows have. I think those people down there" - he's talking about the White House --

President: The President.

Haldeman: -- he said, AI think they=re afraid of you. I think that=s the problem.≡ And the --

President: Great.

Haldeman: -- the veterans said, "Well, why are they afraid of us?" He said, "Well, I think they're just afraid. They probably don't understand you the way I do." That miserable slob.

Rogers: [Unintelligible].

President: [Unintelligible] but he is a miserable bastard.