

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

Part of a conversation among President Nixon, H. R. (ABob≅) Haldeman, and William P. Rogers in the Oval Office between 3:41 pm and 4:35 pm on April 22, 1971.

Conversation No. 486-7

President: One other thing I just wanna say. I have, you know, we've been, we, we had a little incident today we couldn't do anything about. The Chief Justice with these [unintelligible] and so forth. Veter-veterans went up to the Supreme Court and squatted up there and raised hell. So the Chief Justice called a policeman, the Chief of Police, and had 'em removed. So they finally got the picture they been trying to get. I had no, even though we had a court order. We got Mitchell in. We had ordered, we had told Mitchell just to continue to negotiate with Ramsey Clark and say we're trying to negotiate a peaceful evacuation of the area because I don't want a picture of a policeman throwing veterans out of the place. Uh, do you think it's, it's [unintelligible]?

Rogers: It's absolute chaos.

President: Have you, is there anything else we can do on the thing? We, we=re trying to locate a, God! [unintelligible].

Rogers: Can we just --

President: He is giving me a hell of a [unintelligible].

Rogers: -- can we give them, uh, some place on locale, you know?

President: No, it's been offered. [Unintelligible] They've offered 'em Kennedy Stadium.

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

Tape Subject Log
(rev. 10/06)

Conv. No. 486-7 (cont.)

Rogers: They did?

President: They've offered 'em the Washington Cathedral. They've offered 'em the Bolling --

Haldeman: Bolling Field.

President: -- Bolling, uh, Bolling Field. All of 'em with tents and everything else.

Haldeman: They won't got though th- --.

Rogers: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: That's right. Their interest is not, you know, everything's a turn-off. They're frantically trying get at, uh --

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- a genuine confrontation.

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: This may satisfy 'em. They got it at the Court today. Burger arrested a hundred and ten of 'em. Sent 'em to jail.

Rogers: He did?

Haldeman: Yeah. Well, he had the Washington Police do it but he, they were on his grounds.

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

Tape Subject Log

(rev. 10/06)

Conv. No. 486-7 (cont.)

President: But not on the grounds of, uh, but on the interesting ground of disturbing the peace. Not disturbing the peace --

Haldeman: Not disturbing the peace, no --

President: --Obstructing justice.

Rogers: Exactly. But I don't they're gonna make any friends doing that. I think they --.

President: You don't think so?

Rogers: People still respect them.

President: Well, what about veterans?

Rogers: I don't think they --.

Haldeman: They're such ratty-looking people, and two of them were up on top today [unintelligible].

President: [Unintelligible]

Rogers: [Unintelligible]. Yeah, yeah.

President: And you'd be asked about it. You'd be asked about it. Let me say it'd be helpful if, I think, in all of your interest tomorrow, if you would, it would be very helpful to say that that we've talked about this and that, as a matter of fact, the President is, respects the right of dissent, you know, uh, but, and we, we, uh, we want

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

Conv. No. 486-7 (cont.)

peaceful demonstration that, uh, we=ve, uh, we, uh, uh, we have, uh, you know, a li--little of that, but on the other hand we, we can=t do that.

Rogers: I think I might like to test the Court. Having been Attorney General, I=d say that

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President: Yeah.

Rogers: -- we respect the right of dissent. The President, of course, is, is watching and listening to the comments they have to make but to, I have great concern about the disrespect for the Court of the United States, the Supreme Court of the United States.

President: The Supreme Court of the United States.

Rogers: Show that to 'em.

President: Showing disrespect for the Supreme Court. That's, there's another idea too. The Supreme Court has been very vigilant in its decisions --

Rogers: That's right.

President: -- and, you could say the Supreme, that we, that is, that the President and the Congress is one thing, the Supreme Court --.