

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

Tape Subject Log

(rev. 10/06)

Transcript #1: Part of a conversation among President Nixon, Leslie c. Arends, Gerald R. Ford, Herbert G. Klein, Clark MacGregor, Hugh Scott, and Ronald L. Ziegler in the Oval Office between 10:04 am and 10:12 am on May 4, 1971.

Conversation No. 490-11#1

Scott: [Unintelligible] commend them for their restraint.

President: I'd, uh, I would commend the police. I would commend the Attorney General, the, uh, also that the, uh, 'n' the, the, the, 'n' the other representatives of the Government, 'n' that they handled with great restraint --.

Scott: And that the vandalism was to be deplored and that, uh, the demonstration was counterproductive and, uh, unfortunately had to be typed the reverse of [unintelligible] intended [unintelligible]. Joe McCaffrey said last night - he's a critic of yours, frequently, Channel Seven --

President: Yeah.

Scott: -- "There is no question that the impact of this demonstration is favorable to the Administration." But --.

Ford: I was out home over the weekend, Mr. President, and everybody said they hoped there would be firm action. There wasn't --

President: There was?

Ford: -- one, one iota of difference. The people in the country want firm action, and there was, and I think we ought to --.

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Conv. No. 490-11#1 (cont.)

President: Eight thousand arrests.

Ford: That's right.

President: Well, the whole idea that we're gonna, we'll let 'em break the peace at home. I just keep that one theme --.

Ziegler: Something that's a theme to repeat, that --

President: Yeah.

Ziegler: -- you're the President --.

President: [Unintelligible] they may demonstrate for peace abroad, but they cannot break the peace at home. They can't say they are for peace, then come out 'n' --

Ford: That's right.

President: -- stick a bunch o' holes in somebody's tire or trash or raise hell. Take, take a absolute hard line that it's, I think it's hyprocrisy of our Democratic friends. Those bastards are really in trouble.

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Transcript #2: Part of a conversation among President Nixon, Leslie c. Arends, Gerald R. Ford, Herbert G. Klein, Clark MacGregor, and Hugh Scott in the Oval Office between 10:04 am and 10:12 am on May 4, 1971.

Conversation No. 490-11#2

Scott: You should've heard Tunney at Charlottesville Friday telling these little nasties, "You are not going to stop the Government; you are inexpressably rude, and any attempt to prevent people from getting through to their work and earning a day's pay is bound to defeat your objectives."

Unknown: That's Tunney!

President: Why, that little son-of-a-bitch.

[Laughter]

President: Now look, I think you, you've gotta get back to the hypocrisy o' these people. I mean, after all, Muskie was on a platform with Rennie Davis on Earth Day, ya know.

Scott: Oh, yes.

President: Yeah, and they're, so they said, "Oh well, it's all right, kids. Uh, nothing, it's all right if ya trash a little, but don't puncture any tire." Huh? That's [unintelligible] too bad. Now wait'll they come up Wednesday, you know, to your place. You'll have a little fun with 'em. They're coming up Wednesday to --.

Unknown: I don't think --.

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Conv. No. 490-11#2 (cont.)

President: That's Congress Day.

Unknown: Yes, and most of 'em won't get there.

President: You don't think so?

Unknown: Mr. President, another thing [unintelligible] --.

President: Take a hard line now, a hard line and, but the main point is, uh, that the hard line is just well, the country supports the President's --

Unknown: Uh --.

President: -- leadership in trying to bring this war to a, and, uh, in a way that we can have a lasting peace for those little bastards.

Ford: I couldn't help but put a needle into some o' the hyprocrisy on the SST, on the --

President: You're damn right.

Ford: -- Lockheed matter. Uh, Mr. President, does that, uh --?

President: Right. I know, uh --

Ford: Uh --.

President: -- incidentally --.

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Conv. No. 490-11#2 (cont.)

Unknown: Well, they're, I think the Rennie Davis thing is important. They were supporting Rennie Davis on April twenty-fourth. He was one of the organizers of the mass march here. And once they begin to trash and engage in vandalism, then they have the first ones to criticize Rennie Davis, not because of the vandalism --

President: Yeah.

Unknown: -- but because it's counterproductive to their December --

President: Yeah.

Unknown: -- thirty-one seventy --

President: Yeah.

Unknown: -- one end the war --.

President: Yeah.

Unknown: The wrong reasons --.

Scott: Look --.

Unknown: See, they're all [unintelligible] the wrong reasons --.

President: Oh well, we're gonna, we, we, uh, the, uh, they think that's hurting the cause, uh, ignore, wow, what the hell? Vandalism is wrong, period.

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Conv. No. 490-11#2 (cont.)

Unknown: Certainly.

President: It's the same Rennie Davis, the same group of vandals. Doesn't make, whatever the cause is, nothing justifies breaking the peace, whatever the cause.

Scott: You know that I forced two of those five witnesses at Foreign Relations to admit that they discussed this program with Madame Binh in Paris?