

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

Tape Subject Log

(rev. 10/06)

Transcript #1: Part of a conversation among President Nixon, George Meany, and Willie J. Usery, Jr. in the oval office between 2:57 pm and 4:14 pm on May 7, 1971.

Conversation No. 495-21#1

President: See, after these people were in town last week, if we bug out now, uh, we just aren't gonna have a Government in this [unintelligible].

Meany: We, we view that, uh, you've got to stand we-, where you stand, you can't, you can't, uh, [unintelligible], uh, the way I, the way I see the thing, it's not gonna be very long before this war business is only gonna be an issue to Abbie Hoffman and these --

President: Yeah.

Meany: -- crazy kids.

President: 'N' Rennie Davis.

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Transcript #2: Part of a conversation among President Nixon, George Meany, and Willie J. Usery, Jr. in the oval office between 2:57 pm and 4:14 pm on May 7, 1971.

Conversation No. 495-21#2

President: I don't think that myself, that these people, that last week, this last week, when they tried to stop the Government, I don't think they helped themselves.

Usery: No.

President: They looked like [unintelligible].

Meany: Oh, completely.

Unknown: [Unintelligible].

President: When you had, the veterans were in town, everybody understood that. Well, when these guys came in --.

Meany: Even some of the most rabid, uh, antiwar people are pretty well disgusted with this thing that happened here, and, uh, anybody who's seen these kids --.

President: Did you see them [unintelligible] on TV then?

Meany: Uh, no, I've see them around, wandering around downt-, on TV too. They're the most motley-looking crowd, I mean, uh --.

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Conv. No. 495-21#2 (cont.)

President: Well, I just drove down to see the Department of Agriculture, uh, Salute to Agriculture Day, and I went by the, uh, I went [unintelligible] the Red Cross building [unintelligible]. They had, they had put a lot of obscene signs [unintelligible] --.

Meany: Oh yes, [unintelligible].

President: It looked awful, you know, just like kids, uh, uh, vandals, uh.

Meany: Yeah.

President: 'S horrible, uh, bunch, uh, well, that's, that' ll pass, that'll pass.

Meany: I'm, I'm sure it will.

President: We can do it.

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Conv. No. 495-21#3 (cont.)

Transcript #3: Part of a conversation among President Nixon, George Meany, and Willie J. Usery, Jr. in the oval office between 2:57 pm and 4:14 pm on May 7, 1971.

Conversation No. 495-21#3

Meany: Y' know, this, uh, these, uh, agitators announced a couple weeks ago that this rally, they were gonna have a good representation from organized labor. I looked awfully close and just nobody, they got --

President: [Unintelligible].

Meany: -- nobody.

President: [Unintelligible].

Meany: [Unintelligible], nobody, you know what happened, the auto [unintelligible] --

President: Um-hum.

Meany: -- who were a lot of left-wingers there, y'know --

President: Yeah.

Meany: -- they, uh, they had voted to participate in this march -- see --

President: Um-hum.

Meany: -- they, they had participated in several marches, y' know -- and Woodcock called a meeting of his executive board and made them reverse it.

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Conv. No. 495-21#3 (cont.)

President: Did he?

Meany: Yes, sir, reverse it.

President: Woodcock did this?

Meany: Yes, sir.

President: That's priceless [unintelligible].

Meany: That's what he did.

President: I didn't know he'd do that.

Meany: He says, "We don't belong with these people."

President: Good for him, because [unintelligible].

Meany: [Unintelligible]. An-n-n-n' I, I, I watched every move looking for some representatives of labor and I didn't see any.

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Transcript #4: Part of a conversation among President Nixon, George Meany, Willie J. Usery, Jr., and Bill Magruder [?] in the oval office between 2:57 pm and 4:14 pm on May 7, 1971.

Conversation No. 495-21#4

President: You know, a fellow that I think deserves a lot of, uh, good credit here is this, uh, this fellow, this, this police chief in Washington --.

Meany: [Unintelligible].

Usery: Jerry Wilson.

President: Now, uh, he'll be, he'll be [unintelligible] by few people, but I'm gonna have him in tomorrow.

Meany: CBS don't like the way he handled [unintelligible].

President: Well, that's [unintelligible].

Meany: They don't like, they don't like anything that [unintelligible].

President: Yeah.

Meany: [Unintelligible].

President: But this fellow, I think really, uh, you know his background?

Unknown: [Unintelligible].

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Conv. No. 495-21#4 (cont.)

President: This fellow at fourteen years of age [President speaks to an unknown person on another matter], uh, this fellow, uh, at fourteen years of age, I read his background before he came in, we pi-, we helped to pick him [unintelligible]

Meany: He's some guy.

President: At fourteen years of age h-he quit school and joined the Marine Corps. He served two hitches in the Marines. At twenty years of age came back [unintelligible].

Meany: I didn't know he was in the Marines.

President: Yes, sir.

Meany: I didn't know that.

President: Well, he came back at twenty years of age, here it is after his six years, he lied about his age to get in fourteen and came back and finished high school in Washington. He was thinking then as to what he would do and he saw an ad in the paper about joining the police force. He joined the Washington police force --

Meany: [Unintelligible].

President: -- and he started walkin' a beat and then he came up the line, and this guy, this guy --

Meany: [Unintelligible].

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Conv. No. 495-21#4 (cont.)

President: -- on, uh, television, and they, like for example, they asked him the other day, you know, [unintelligible] when they busted these people on Sunday, y'know, and after --.

Meany: [Unintelligible].

President: And I knew what was going to happen.

Meany: That was good, that was the message.

President: Mitchell, Mitchell called, I talked to him from California and I said [unintelligible]

Meany: [Unintelligible].

President: I said, "Tell the Chief to go and get 'em," ya know.

Meany: Oh, he did.

President: Yeah.

Meany: What about their headquarters? [Laughs]

President: So they asked the Chief, they got him on in the middle of the week, CBS and the networks, said "Now, Chief, uh, did, uh, did you do this on orders of the President," and so forth and so on. He said, he said, "I did it, uh, because, uh, as in my responsibility as Chief of Police." He didn't pass the buck and then, and then they said, "Well, now what about the, uh, the rights of these people," uh, and

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Conv. No. 495-21#4 (cont.)

so forth and so on.

Unknown: [Unintelligible] that doesn't make any --.

Unknown: Let the people --.

President: Yeah, of course, and also he said, "How about the American people?"

Meany: That's right.

President: Now listen --

Meany: [Unintelligible].

President: -- a guy with that much sense --

Meany: Yeah, he's gotta lotta --.

President: -- he's gonna go places. I noticed he's already [unintelligible].

Meany: And, uh, you notice that during the demonstration he was right there.

President: All the time.

Meany: When they were marchin' down, he was marchin' right there.

President: He went around to all those posts himself, to the command posts. He walked right up there with 'em. He helped, uh, y'know, with these oth-, y'know, he has a force here that has an awful lot of Negroes on it --

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Meany: Yeah.

President: -- and to have him keep that many in line was a tremendous achievement --.

Meany: I agree that he, uh --.

President: I just think that everybody, uh, [unintelligible].

Meany: He did a very good job.

President: I think that all the, that some of your fellas could just, just praising him just good, y'know. I'm sure you have --

Meany: Oh.

President: -- because basically he, we've got to stand up for the good guys --

Meany: Yes, sir.

President: -- and the people who have the guts.

Meany: He's done a remarkable job, no question about it, he didn't enjoy it.

President: That's right. [Laughs]

Unknown: This is Washington, DC.

Unknown: How the hell do you [unintelligible] Southwest Washington? [Laughs]

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President: Southeast, Southeast. That's right.

Meany: He, I, I admire him [unintelligible] but I don't know him strictly, but I, uh, sure admire him. He --.

President: I tell you what you should do some time. You get [unintelligible] very soft-spoken fella, you just have him over sometime and talk to him, and he, he really is very tough. He's got a --.

Meany: He's got a lot of courage --

Usery: [Unintelligible] --

Meany: -- an-an' the newspaper boys don't faze him a damn bit. He, he looks [unintelligible].

President: Well --

Meany: [Unintelligible] out here too [unintelligible] respect because he [unintelligible].

President: -- [unintelligible] he kept the Government going. He kept the --.

Meany: Yeah, he said, "And my job is to keep the city moving, keep the Government goin' an' that's my job."

President: And he has the morale of his, uh, forces loyal to him. They're all in good shape.

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Meany: And I thought they handled the kids, of course, uh, you can't, you will always get the cry of brutality --

President: Yeah.

Meany: -- no matter what the hell you do [unintelligible].

President: [Unintelligible].

Meany: I thought they handled 'em, uh, damn [unintelligible].

President: With all the --.

Meany: [Unintelligible] nobody was slugged; nobody was hit.

President: 'S right. With nobody, with, look, those kids, some of them running around ripping the wires out of cars, slashing tires --

Meany: Slashing tires.

President: -- trashing, all the rest, for these policemen to handle that without anyone being killed --

Meany: Yeah.

President: -- and no serious injuries --

Meany: No.

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President: -- that's a tremendous achievement.

Meany: Yes, it is.

President: And, uh, we gotta give him credit.

Meany: They were throwin' over at Canal Road, uh, they were pushin' rocks from the top of the hill an' pushin' 'em down the road, any damn thing but, uh, uh, he disorganized them completely on that Sunday morning operation.

President: That was good.

Meany: If you do that, that, that was to be their big planning session, see, an' he, he just chased 'em.

President: [Unintelligible] hard core is, uh, they didn't know what to do the next day.

Meany: Yeah, uh, he, he certainly deserves credit.