

**NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF****Tape Subject Log**  
(rev. 9/08)

Part of a conversation between President Nixon and H. R. ("Bob") Haldeman in the President's office in the Executive Office Building between 10:24 am and 10:48 am on April 29, 1971

Conversation No. 251-27

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] not --

President: [Unintelligible] heard about the demonstrators.

Haldeman: -- not hitting the demonstrators at all. I'd ignore 'em. Make it a positive day and go [unintelligible], I mean.

President: Tomorrow.

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: Oh, oh, tomorrow I'm not askin' about. What I'm askin' is, what I want to talk to you about is today.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible].

President: Yeah, [unintelligible] I, uh, read this column which [Patrick J.] Buchanan slipped in there b-by Smith Hempstone[, Jr]. Who the hell is he?

Haldeman: A columnist.

President: [Unintelligible] the administration to fall into the other error. The college presidents, that's what I'm concerned about here.

Haldeman: Sayin' they're all good people 'n' [unintelligible] --.

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Conv. No. 251-27 (cont.)

President: Well, they're good people and also not enforcing the law. But, uh, that's my problem because I see --.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible].

President: You don't think we have that problem, do ya? [Unintelligible] arrest yesterday was, uh --

Haldeman: The arrests yesterday showed we're enforcing the law.

President: -- [unintelligible].

Haldeman: The arrests on Monday convinced people that [unintelligible] business as usual. The Civil Service Commission now has put out a policy [unintelligible]. We're not backing down on anything; we're certainly not doing anything to antagonize 'em. We're, we're [unintelligible] on those kids, I mean, on that, on that posture, either. [John N.] Mitchell kinda got last week that we, that was --

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- one of the things, sayin' that we expect them to be violent, but I don't think we should say that.

President: No.

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Conv. No. 251-27 (cont.)

- Haldeman: Because if there isn't violence, then we look foolish, and if there is, we're charged with fomenting it. Thing to do is wait and if there is violence, then we can play the hell out of it.
- President: [Unintelligible] feeling of the staff now that they want the, uh, the, uh, the [unintelligible]-ist the mood, whenever they want to --
- Haldeman: [Unintelligible] anything we can get to the mood of the country is that nobody is that acutely aware of the demonstrations or stirred up by those. There's a fair amount of stir in the Capitol. The outcome [unintelligible] --.
- President: What I, what I'm concerned about --
- Haldeman: [Unintelligible].
- President: -- [unintelligible] that I raised before as to whether or not there oughta be a little [unintelligible] and so forth and so on. I'm inclined not to change the style at all but, uh --.
- Haldeman: [Unintelligible] you haven't done what some people have, and what others have, have suggested --
- President: Sure.
- Haldeman: -- which is to say they're wonderful people or I think it was great so many expressed their view that [unintelligible] any of that crap, but [unintelligible] do that.

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Conv. No. 251-27 (cont.)

President: That's not gonna be said.

Haldeman: Anything ya do [coughs] to anticipate trouble just --.

President: Yeah, thinking beyond the demonstration. Well, actually, uh, uh, as I, as I did warn the editors, [unintelligible] this kinda mistake.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] kind of a question where [unintelligible].

President: You always have a--, naturally.

Haldeman: [Coughs]

President: Price to [unintelligible].

Haldeman: [Coughs]

President: Balance [unintelligible] one that [unintelligible]. In my case it would just sound hypocritical as hell.

Haldeman: Yeah, you'd --

President: I don't believe it.

Haldeman: -- you can't get [unintelligible] and [unintelligible].