

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

Transcript #1: Part of a conversation among President Nixon, John B. Connally, and H. R. ("Bob") Haldeman in the Oval Office between 12:30 pm and 1:08 pm on April 22, 1971

Conversation No. 486-3#1

President: That's a goddamn mess over there. All those bla-. He even had to, ya know, open parta, one of his auditoriums to all, uh, these marches they've had so they could have their smoke-ins and pots and whatever they would do over there. They always do that. Either that or they, uh, or they would, uh --.

Connally: Take him over.

President: Exactly. But, but Richardson has been fine, reasonable. Have you found him good to work with?

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Transcripts #2: Part(s) of a conversation between President Nixon and H. R. ("Bob") Haldeman in the Oval Office between 1:08 pm and 1:43 pm on April 22, 1971

Conversation No. 486-3#2

Haldeman: Now on our demonstration, uh, the Chief Justice ordered the arrest of the demonstrators on the Supreme Court steps this morning, which is his prerogative. Uh, a hundred and fifty of them went up and set up a noisy demonstration on the steps of the Court, and he ordered their arrest on the grounds of obstructing the business of Government and, uh, he called Chief Wilson and, and said, "Arrest these people," and Chief Wilson sent police up, and they arrested 'em. [Unintelligible] of 'em went out and notified them they were in violation of such and so-and-so and, and that they must disperse, and they didn't 'cause obviously they wanted to be arrested. They jus' sit-in on the steps. So they, they, uh, sent the police up. Fortunately they all s-said that there was no object-, no resistance. They all, their plan was they put their hands behind their heads like a prisoner of war.

President: Did they?

Haldeman: Yeah, and then they didn't have to be they walked voluntarily. The policemen would come up and say, "You." They showed all this on the Washington television. Two policemen would come up to the man and he'd say to you and the guy would stand up, put his hands behind him, go down, they'd ask his name, and put him in the wagon and take him off to the clink. The charge they're in under is not disturbing the peace, which is ten-dollar bail, but obstructing the business of Government, which is a five-hundred-dollars bail, which means we got a hundred an', a hundred and ten arrested. That would be a hundred and ten guys in the clink that ain't gonna get out probably. Uh --.

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Conv. No. 486-3#2 (cont.)

- President: No, somebody'll raise the money.
- Haldeman: There's not much we can, could have done about it. He, he, he, uh, exercised his prerogative of, of the Court. Gave up their appeal of the Court to be considered. Now we're still doing exactly what we're supposed to be doing. Justice is negotiating. We're in a tough situation in that we have a court order that we requested, sustained by the Supreme Court, that we are not enforcing. And, uh, we're maintaining a semblance of enforcing it, but the problem we got is the ju-, the circuit court judge, Hart, who is a bad guy, who issued the order at our request, is threatening apparently to vacate the order, which will then collapse the whole thing, and he will vacate it on the grounds that, that the Executive Branch is not enforcing and that puts us in a, in a non-law-and-order situation.
- President: He's trying to get us into a position of arresting 'em on targets.
- Haldeman: Maybe. [Unintelligible]. Our problem takes place at four thirty every afternoon because they're allowed in the Mall until four thirty but they're, they're supposed to disband at four thirty. They, of course, will not disband at four thirty.
- President: Well, what does --
- Haldeman: [Unintelligible] wanna be arrested, too.
- President: -- what did Ehrlichman suggest?
- Haldeman: Ehrlichman isn't here. He's in California. All of our, our little planning group

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Conv. No. 486-3#2 (cont.)

suggest that we go right on doing what we're doing --

President: All right.

Haldeman: -- that if he vacates the order, uh, uh --

President: Nobody, who the hell cares?

Haldeman: -- we can overrule that. The Supreme Court can, can overrule the, the order vacating the order --

President: That's right.

Haldeman: -- and, uh, we can say we are working to enforce it --

President: That's right.

Haldeman: -- by all peaceful --

President: By peaceful means.

Haldeman: -- means possible --

President: That's right, that's right, that's right.

Haldeman: -- and that we are not sending police in at this time --

President: That's right, good.

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Conv. No. 486-3#2 (cont.)

Haldeman: -- to enforce it and that we just leave it at that.

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: We've still gotten what we in a way didn't want, which is policemen arresting veterans. But they are the rattiest-looking people in the world. The news story says, you know, that demonstrators shouted at the Supreme Court, "One, two, three, four we don't want you f-blank war." And, uh, makes a point that --.

President: For settlement, I suppose they did that. It might make points in the South. The South's all mad at the Supreme Court now because of the position, uh--

Haldeman: The veterans, most of them in rag-tag clothes consisting of parts of military, ya know, 'n' many wearing beards, have said that if arrests came they would go off peacefully but, like POWs, hands behind their heads. That was the scene intended by the protesters to be seen by Americans in the newspapers and on television as they were arrested at the Court and escorted to waiting buses to be taken to police station. There was no immediate definitive word whether the Government would continue to divert its eyes from the camp-out of sorts on the Mall at the foot of Capitol Hill. The Justice Department said late this morning that its attorneys and lawyers, its attorneys and lawyers for the veterans were in consultation over the situation. And that's what we've been up --

President: Keep it up.

Haldeman: -- so --.

President: On Sun-, on Saturday anyway, that, that demonstration will engulf this one.

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Conv. No. 486-3#2 (cont.)

- Haldeman: One double amputee in a wheelchair was refused arrest in spite of his insistence that he be taken in along with others. Lost his legs in a land-mine explosion. Asked to be arrested and Wilson, Chief Wilson, said curtly to his subordinate, "We're not arresting him." [laughs] 'N' they wouldn't take him. The TV at noon today replayed that Texas lady saying, "Why don't you go out and get jobs."
- President: Yeah, [unintelligible].
- Haldeman: Get, get jobs, go to work.
- President: God knows what effect all this has on the country. We just have to [unintelligible], it's true, Bob.
- Haldeman: They're getting a hell of a play, which is too damn bad, because it's so totally out of proportion.
- President: They're getting the play on television, ya mean.
- Haldeman: That's what I mean, yeah.
- President: Well, it's because the television is, is frustrated by not having a war, isn't that it? They don't have any, they don't have any big, big battles to report, so they're playing this.

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Conv. No. 486-3#2 (cont.)

- Haldeman: [Unintelligible] just climbed on top of one of the statues which flank the Court steps, 'n broke the toy machine guns they were carrying over the head of the allegorical figure. We're gonna have to move in somewhere along the line. They're gonna move 'til they get a confrontation.
- President: Support for the telephone poll. About a thousand, you know, just y-, would you believe that the-, there're these, uh, people seeing them on television. Have you seen this or heard or seen this, this [unintelligible] thing? The Chief Justice of, uh, has ordered that they [unintelligible] the order should be executed, you know what I mean? Arrested if you find we, I mean, I mean, there's no support for it. Just, just, just, just roll over, play dead.
- Haldeman: Those are damn good grounds, the fact that we're still talking about the Mall and that the Supreme Court ordered the arrest of the, the others. We got some pretty good [unintelligible] we've, we're trying to work it out. If they don't work out, at some point [unintelligible] --.
- President: You know [unintelligible].

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

Conversation No. 486-3#3

President: [Unintelligible] these demonstrations, it's really something. No, it's, uh, I think the TV, what they're looking for is an incident.

Haldeman: Well, sure.

President: That's why they're down there.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] Fauntroy was up there awhile yesterday afternoon waiting for the arrests arrived this morning.

President: Did he?

[Room noise]