

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

Tape Subject Log

(rev. 10/06)

Transcript #1: Part of a telephone conversation between President Nixon in the Lincoln Sitting Room and Charles W. Colson between 8:10 pm and 8:23 pm on April 22, 1971.

Conversation No. 2-30#1

President: Well, what's the news on your front today?

Colson: Well, we had, uh, had a little bit of, uh, activity with the demonstrations that was helpful, I think.

President: You think that was helpful, huh?

Colson: Well, the network news tonight, uh, though I'd only say ABC and CBS, but they both carried, uh, our good friend Chief Rainwater for about a minute.

President: Did they! What'd he say?

Colson: Well, he said that, uh, these weren't really veterans unless some of the, the g-girls that were with 'em had been in the service components of the military --.

President: [laughs] Really?

Colson: -- [unintelligible]. And, uh, he hit 'em pretty hard. He said they'd been infiltrated by radicals.

President: Um-hum.

Colson: Then they had some reporters who, uh, at least on ABC, did a little survey of the veterans and found that many of them were not veterans.

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Conv. No. 2-30#1 (cont.)

President: They reported that?

Colson: Yes, sir.

President: Well, good. We finally got that across.

Colson: We finally got that one out at least and that, that came over the wires today also. [clears throat] Then our, our loyalists up in the Senate today, uh, a hell of a good job for us. Uh, they were on the wires all afternoon with, uh, Hansen, uh, Bob Taft - Bob Taft was marvelous.

President: I heard he made a great talk about the, uh --

Colson: The doves.

President: -- the doves. What did he call 'em, the, uh --

Colson: The new doves that are being hatched every day.

President: -- yeah, the new-hatched doves, yeah.

Colson: Uh, well, we set that up yesterday to get seven or eight of them speaking, and I think all seven --.

President: Did they get on the wires, some of 'em?

Colson: Oh, yes. There was, uh, guess there were two pages, uh, letter-size pages of the UP wire, and, uh, AP, I understand, had a good one - I didn't see it. But they, they

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Conv. No. 2-30#1 (cont.)

got some good publicity. They put 'em out. They're beginning to learn the technique; they got 'em all out last night --

President: Um-hum.

Colson: -- and, uh, the wire services used >em overnight and got some very good publicity. I didn't see any of it on television tonight, but I did hear it on the radio.

President: That's all right. That'll help.

Colson: So they're, they're, they're comin' along. The, uh, the spirit was very good up there. Oh, Taft was good. Saxbe was good, uh, Hansen, uh --.

President: You know, uh, one of the most miserable characters is this Mathias. Did you see what he did today?

Colson: Oh, he's a, no, I didn't, but he's a --.

President: Oh, he said that, uh, well, he said, uh, uh, "I think those people down there," referring to the White House, "they fear you." And he said, he said, "Well, why? Well, because they don't know you like I know you." For Christ's sakes! Isn't that awful?

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Conv. No. 2-30#2 (cont.)

Transcript #2: Part of a telephone conversation between President Nixon in the Lincoln Sitting Room and Charles W. Colson between 8:10 pm and 8:23 pm on April 22, 1971.

Conversation No. 2-30#2

Colson: How did the House members do this afternoon, Mr. President?

President: They were fine. Yeah, they were good.

Colson: Were they a little more upbeat?

President: Oh, yes, they were strong upbeat, sure.

Colson: Well, I, I talked to Clark, and we, uh, tried to get >em ginned up a little bit.

President: Sure, they were fine. I, and I don't mind the Senate being down because the Senate basically are, they're sort of a bunch of individualists and whiners 'en 'ey really get down to it, aren't they?

Colson: Yes, they are. Prima donnas more than, more, more so than the House fellows, but, uh, but I think the, uh, the Senators that spoke today, uh, did so with a lot of spirit. I was just tickled to see it, and, uh, I think they are, I don't know how the newspapers will play it, but they sure did well on the wires and the radio.

President: That's good.

Colson: We, we came out reasonably balanced tonight. I think the, uh --

President: Um-hum.

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Conv. No. 2-30#2 (cont.)

- Colson: -- uh, it could have been a lot worse than it was, especially with the arrests up at the Supreme Court.
- President: [laughs] Did that get a big play? I guess it did; it had to.
- Colson: Yes, it did, 'cause they, uh, they marched off as, uh, POW's with --
- President: Yeah.
- Colson: -- their hands over their heads. Uh, naturally, the three networks played that and they played this fellow Kerry, who, uh, a pretty articulate young man. He=s uh, uh, well-coached, well-coached in what he's doing. But I think, the, uh, I don't think they're making, I don't think they're making a positive impression on the country.
- President: You don't think they, they still didn't look so good, they, uh --.
- Colson: Oh, they looked terrible, just awful. And, uh, every picture of them, uh, well, like that one last night. Did you happen to notice the one of Ted Kennedy sitting among the, uh --
- President: Yeah.
- Colson: -- the veterans? I just, uh, I told Scali that I'd pay him a hundred dollars out of my own pocket if he could get that on the AP wire, so, 'nstead just the Washington Star because, uh, I just can't imagine people seeing that without being turned off, frankly.

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Conv. No. 2-30#2 (cont.)

President: Well, and he went in saying, "I'm with you all the way," and that, uh, gee, he really went, slobbered all over 'em, didn't he?

Colson: Yes, he sure did.

President: He decided to go that line, but Muskie's kinds quieted off on 'em a little, huh?

Colson: Well, I think Muskie was, uh, frightened by the publicity. He, uh, he just hasn't even been visible much this week.

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Transcript #3: Part of a telephone conversation between President Nixon in the Lincoln Sitting Room and Charles W. Colson between 8:10 pm and 8:23 pm on April 22, 1971.

Conversation No. 2-30#3

President: I don't think McCloskey's getting a hell of a lot of play, is he? This, uh, veterans' thing sorta taken a little away from him, hasn't it?

Colson: It's taken a lot away from him, 'n', and I don't, I don't know where he goes for his next issue, uh. He hasn't really caught fire with this.

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Transcript #4: Part of a telephone conversation between President Nixon in the Lincoln Sitting Room and Charles W. Colson between 8:10 pm and 8:23 pm on April 22, 1971.

Conversation No. 2-30#4

Colson: [coughs] I'm gonna send in a note for ya to call, uh, Rainwater tomorrow because even though he's always there when we need him, uh --.

President: Why sure, we'll call him.

Colson: He was just superb today. He, uh --

President: Good.

Colson: -- he got a full minute on the two networks I watched tonight. And he was just great, just, uh --

President: Um-hum.

Colson: -- just what we needed --.

President: 'Cause he's a VFW, Veteran of Foreign Wars, ya know, and those boys are okay.

Colson: Oh, they=re tough.

President: Yeah.

Colson: They're tough.

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Conv. No. 2-30#4 (cont.)

- President: And I think this thing's turning them off too, don't you think?
- Colson: Oh, completely, totally. And I think if there's a little, uh, student outpouring this weekend, it'll, uh, it's not gonna hurt us a bit.
- President: Well, we'll see how big it is. It could be very big, could be maybe quarter of a million. It might not be.
- Colson: Oh, I, I'd, I'll be surprised if it's that large.
- President: You'd, you would be?
- Colson: I will be surprised, yes, sir.
- President: Um-hum.
- Colson: I think if they, if it were going to build up that much, there'd be a lot more of them here --
- President: Um-hum.
- Colson: -- by now than there are.
- President: As a matter of fact, too, it [laughs] may get a break with the weather. I mean, it [laughs] didn't rain today; it might rain tomorrow.
- Colson: Well, it=s, uh, that would sure help down in that Mall area. I drove by it today, and it=s quite a sight.

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Conv. No. 2-30#4 (cont.)

President: Is it? What is it?

Colson: Well, it's worse than, uh, Resurrection City which I remember, uh, a few years back. It's, it's much dirtier; uh, the kids are just awful. They're, they're all longhairs. They're, you can smell the marijuana when you drive by it.

President: Boy.

Colson: Uh, and they're just, uh, they're lying on the ground, and, uh, it's just one big block that's a mess. And if people saw it, well, they do. They see it on television.

President: The television does show it, does it?

Colson: It, it's worse when you see it in person, than when you see it --.

President: Television doesn't want to show it as bad as it is, but they, it's pretty hard not to show some of it, isn't it?

Colson: It's pretty hard to miss it. But, uh, it, it's an awful scroungy lot of people over there, assembled there.

President: Scali - how does [unintelligible] feel about it?

Colson: Uh, he's getting right into the groove. Now I think he feels that, uh, I think he feels that the handling of it so far has been just exactly right, as I do.

President: [clears throat] We haven't, trying not to arrest them --

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Conv. No. 2-30#4 (cont.)

Colson: That=s right.

President: -- let the Chief Justice arrest a few, but --.

Colson: Well, they, and they refused to arrest two that were, uh, amputees --

President: Amp-, 'course. They shouldn't.

Colson: -- which was marvelous, uh --

President: Right.

Colson: -- so I, I think so far it's gone just, uh, exactly right, if we can, uh --

President: Um-hum.

Colson: -- if, if it continues on this basis, I think we're fine. It really is.

President: Well, tomorrow nothing's gonna happen because, uh, the, uh, Attorney General has vacated the order or moved to vacate it --

Colson: Right.

President: -- in view of the fact that there's nothing more, uh, you know, we can't do anything in a day. So that's that.

Colson: Had no choice with that, uh --

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Conv. No. 2-30#4 (cont.)

President: That's right. And then --

Colson: -- judge that we had.

President: -- and they may stay. And then if they stay, then, uh, we may move on 'em next week.

Colson: Well, they=ll be, uh, if they stay this weekend, they=ll be swallowed up in the crowd, and then it won=t be a --

President: Yeah.

Colson: -- veterans' thing. It'll be just a great big mass, uh --

President: Yeah.

Colson: -- they'll loose the separate identity of veterans which they --

President: Right.

Colson: -- which is the only thing they've got going for them.

President: Right. Okay.

Colson: Now, I have, I do have the feeling that our, our fellows up on the Hill are gettin' just a little better for us [unintelligible].

President: Do ya? Yeah.