

**NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF****Tape Subject Log***(rev. 10/06)*

Part of a telephone conversation between President Nixon in the Lincoln Sitting Room and H. R. Haldeman between 7:55 pm and 8:01 pm on April 26, 1971.

Conversation No. 2-43

President: I just talked to John Ehrlichman and I agree I should come back, uh, Monday. Uh, th-th-here's the view I have on the thing is that we announce tomorrow that I am going out for this, you know, wi- they, they don't know how long they're planning to stay anyway, do they?

Haldeman: We haven't set any --

President: Fine.

Haldeman: -- specific time, no.

President: Fine. We just say that we're going out for this and I'll come back, uh, plan to come back and on, uh, Monday morning, you see, so that I'll be here during this period. I, if, the, you know, if, if the damn Capitol is, uh, you know --

Haldeman: Well --

President: -- stirred up, I oughta be here. I shouldn't be out in, uh, out in the hinterlands.

Haldeman: Okay. Well, uh, the view of everybody but Ehrlichman, and I thought he shared it, was that you should not come home on Monday unless that happens and then you should only ceom home, ya know, at the last minute on Monday. On the otehr hand, and there=s --.

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Conv. No. 2-43 (cont.)

President: If we, if we announce we are going to stay for a week and then come back -I don't think that's a good idea that if we create a national crisis then that I rush back because of this and that. I don't want the press to go out there with their wives and everything and then plan to stay a week and then, uh, how, how are we gonna handle the announcement?

Haldeman: We, we have, we haven't set any specific time. We weren't going to. We were just gonna, uh, leave it that, uh, you'd be back obviously. They've already said that obviously, that you haven't set a return time, that you will have to be back by, uh --

President: Um-hum.

Haldeman: -- for the agriculture thing on Friday.

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: We've just left it at that.

President: Well, I'd like to be in a position, though, that I don't appear to be --

Haldeman: Um-hum.

President: -- doing something because of pressure, that we sort of planned it this way.

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: How, how can we --

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Conv. No. 2-43 (cont.)

Haldeman: Well, I think a lot of --.

President: -- we can't, tomorrow we'll, before Ziegler makes his, uh, press announce-, tells the press that I'm going out and --

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: -- I'll be there for the weekend and then I'll, ya know, be returning to Washington after the, ya know, don't, I just don't think we ought to, uh --.

Haldeman: I can see your point.

President: See, I don't want to be in a position where we, uh, uh, where we have announced we're gonna be there a week and then we rush back because of the Capitol is under siege and all that sort of thing. I feel that he may have a point there.

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: But we'll think about it, sleep on it overnight, and then, uh, in the morning sort of develop a plan.

Haldeman: Uh, the, the thing right now is this, this looking at the TV news tonight. The, the [unintelligible] --

President: I understand that according to John they sort of, they didn=t, didn=t play up the profanity or anything of that --

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Conv. No. 2-43 (cont.)

Haldeman: No.

President: -- but they just sorta made them, made them look awful good, really.

Haldeman: They didn't do that. They didn't make them look good, but they sure didn't make it look bad --

President: They didn't, huh?

Haldeman: -- and, uh --

President: Um-hum.

Haldeman: -- I don't think that th-, I'm sure that folks at home didn't get the impression that there was anything very important goin' on, that --

President: Is that right?

Haldeman: -- that it was the same old stuff of people running around.

President: Um-hum.

Haldeman: Uh --

President: Boy, isn't it something

Haldeman: I --.

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Conv. No. 2-43 (cont.)

President: -- the, I hope that, well, I guess there=s nothing we can do, that, that, the, the, that the network truly ought to be taken to task for not, uh, reporting the whole thing. Well, what the hell [unintelligible].

Haldeman: We'll see what, what stirs up now tomorrow. They and they may, they may get discipline of their people on and, and I don't think they want this to get that far out of control yet 'cause what they're trying to do is build up --

President: Um-hum.

Haldeman: -- and, uh --.

President: In other words they think they may have moved a little too fast too soon?

Haldeman: Could be. That's what some of 'em were saying today and we're trying to st-, turn the others off.

President: Um-hum. They may not be able to control them though.

Haldeman: No, they may not. That's --.

President: Um-hum. Well, let's think in terms of not getting, getting, uh, you know, uh, tied in to, I mean, I don't want any, uh, I, I do think we do not want to leave an announcement in the way that we're planning to stay a week, see --.

Haldeman: Yeah, yeah. [Unintelligible].

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Conv. No. 2-43 (cont.)

President: I'm just going out for this event 'n' I'll be there over the weekend and be returning to Washington early next week.

Haldeman: Right.

President: Right?

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: And then we'll come back Monday if I feel like it. Fine?

Haldeman: Right.

President: B-but I don't know whether we're gonna know much more. You mean you think we'll know more on Monday, do you?

Haldeman: Oh, sure, we'll know. See, the, the tie-in type stuff hits on Monday morning. We, we may know a lot more, we got much better intelligence on this whole thing than we have had before 'cause we got four informers at, in the top levels of the operation and --

President: Oh, really.

Haldeman: -- a whole bunch. I think twenty-three in, in the organization.

President: Good.

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Conv. No. 2-43 (cont.)

Haldeman: And, uh, uh, in the next few days we'll know a lot more about what they're really gonna do --

President: Right.

Haldeman: -- and their capability of doing it and by Sunday we'll know, we'll know --

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- pretty much precisely >cause their crowd their, their people will all gather Saturday --

President: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Haldeman: -- and then anything they do on Monday morning, the effect that they have there Monday morning, will, will --

President: Um-hum.

Haldeman: -- uh, be between seven and eight or seven or nine which is six o'clock in the morning.

President: Tomorrow they're gonna work over at the agencies, are they?

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: Well, that's f-, that's all right. Let's just let it develop [unintelligible].

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Conv. No. 2-43 (cont.)

Haldeman: They're gonna move around to departments.

President: And if it, uh, if it gets, uh, the departments though should take a hard line. I don't want 'em inviting them in to, uh, you know, to sit in and all that sorts --

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: -- stuff. None of this sort of stuff. Not, not even at HEW, huh?

Haldeman: Right. Well, we definitely should.

President: Because you know the, the people may, it's too bad the networks didn't carry what really happened.

Haldeman: Well --.

President: One thing for sure, the Senators know it, don't they?

Haldeman: Yup. So they promptly adjourned apparently.

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: They recessed.

President: 'Til Thursday. Fine.

Haldeman: [laughs] Right.

President: Okay. Well, we'll play it that way then.

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Haldeman: Okay. Right.