

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

Part of a telephone conversation between President Nixon in the Oval Office and Harry F. Byrd, Jr. at an unknown time between 10:15 am and 10:30 am on May 5, 1971.

Conversation No. 2-84

President: Have our, have our, uh, our little animals been to s-, call on you fellows yet today?

Byrd: Uh, not today. I've had a good many in my office, in, in, uh, over the past week or so.

President: Yeah, I, uh, well this latest crew is a pretty scruffy bunch, isn't it?

Byrd: A very scruffy bunch.

President: [Laughs]

Byrd: Oh, my, I think --

President: Yeah.

Byrd: -- I think the Government has handled --

President: Yeah.

Byrd: -- it mighty well.

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- President: Well, well, I appreciate that. As a matter of fact, what I called to tell you is that I heard from, uh, uh, Clark MacGregor about your talk yesterday and I'm most grateful for on the Vietnam situation.
- Byrd: Well, I, I --
- President: Yeah.
- Byrd: -- just think --
- President: Yeah.
- Byrd: -- it's important to put this thing in perspective --
- President: Right.
- Byrd: -- and for the people to know what you've done.
- President: Well, I appreciate it very much and, as a matter of fact, we'll, uh, this thing is, uh, the main thing is for it all to come out in the end and it will and, uh, we're just holding the course and, uh, there'll be some good announcements as time goes on here so, uh, you can be sure that, uh, the fellows like yourself that have stuck their necks out, you're gonna find y-y-you, I think you're gonna come out all right.
[Laughs]
- Byrd: Well, I ---
- President: You better! [Laughs] Completely.

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Byrd: I, I --

President: Yeah;

Byrd: -- think

President: Yeah.

Byrd: -- you've done mighty --

President: Right.

Byrd: -- well --

President: Right.

Byrd: -- with it now. I just wanted --

President: Right.

Byrd: -- to say so and --.

President: Well, I appreciate it. Matter of fact, you know, the, uh, Pat was down with the Senate ladies yesterday and she said that, that, the number of the, er, the ladies, you know, oh, Mrs. Stennis and others, were saying they believe that the Government had done just right in cracking down on these demonstrators when they came in, you know --

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Byrd: Oh.

President: -- we didn't, we weren't rough on 'em but we, but if they said when they wouldn't clear the, I, I gave the, uh, uh, uh, uh, you know, I was in California and I talked to Mitchell and the Chief of Police and I told 'em Saturday night, the, the next morning, I said, just go in there and clean out that camp if they don't want to go and that, that way we, we just can't let them stop the Government. That's the way I feel.

Byrd: Absolutely, and I, I think that, uh, I think that this will have a good effect.

President: And this Chief of Police has done a marvelous job. He's been awfully good, this Wilson. We're, we ought to give him a medal.

Byrd: Good.

President: Well, [laughs] I --.

Byrd: I think you did a great --

President: Right.

Byrd: -- job on it.

President: Well --

Byrd: And I do appreciate your calling me so --

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President: Yeah.

Byrd: --often, Mr. President.

President: Th-thank you, thanks a lot, Harry.

Byrd: Glad you enjoyed [unintelligible].

President: Give my --.

Byrd: -- with Pat yesterday.

President: Yes, I know, I, I know she was there and give her my best, will you?

Byrd: I shall. Thank you --

President: Bye-bye.

Byrd: -- so much.