

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

Tape Subject Log

(rev. 10/06)

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

Conversation No. 2-86

President: Well, as a matter of fact, the, uh, the, uh, as you noted, they, uh, they've handled the demonstrators very well. I, uh, I'm, I'm awfully glad that you got, you know, we've gotta give high marks to Mitchell and, uh, and this Chief of Police. We just fell into a good one. He has been excellent. He --

Laird: Yeah, he's been very good.

President: -- he's used the strength, but he's used it with very, and the military f-fellows have been just superb. They've, uh --.

Laird: I think, uh,--.

President: This is one time, ya know, we, it's, it's, uh --

Laird: Ted Beal over there, the Under Secretary of the Army, kept his cool and did a good job, too. I was talking with, uh --

President: Beal.

Laird: -- Mitchell and, uh --

President: He --

Laird: -- [unintelligible] about it. Yeah.

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Conv. No. 2-86 (cont.)

President: -- he was the key man over there --

Laird: Yeah, and he was --

President: Yeah.

Laird: -- in charge 'n' he --

President: Right.

Laird: -- right there down in that, that with 'em all the time 'n' he --

President: Yeah.

Laird: -- [unintelligible] it.

President: Yeah, well, we're going to see that all the people that participated get little notes so that they get some commendations at the proper time, when it's over. They're goin' up to Congress today. I [laughs] hope, I hope they go into a few of our friends' offices.

Laird: [Laughs]

President: [Laughs] It might stir 'em up. I think it's put them on a hell of a spot, you know. Some of these guys are really moaning that they got out in front too early and endorsed the demonstration, ya see.

Laird: Yeah.

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Conv. No. 2-86 (cont.)

President: Don't ya think --

Laird: Yeah, they got a little bit fa-a --

President: -- Mu-Mu --

Laird: [Unintelligible]-ed on that, I think.

President: -- Muskie and Teddy and the rest --

Laird: Yeah.

President: -- because these people don't --?

Laird: They're backin' away a little bit, don't ya think, Mr. President?

President: Well, they hafta back away, but, ya know, for the average person, Mel, he doesn't, uh, separate the one, i-i-it's just the demonstration, ya know.

Laird: Um.

President: The one really that, the one really that, uh, that, that was effective, uh, as, as against us was the veterans' one because of that, but since then, this, this group, God, that's a horrible-looking bunch of people. I, on television they just look so bad that people are gonna just --

Laird: Right.

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Conv. No. 2-86 (cont.)

President: -- throw up their hands.

Laird: Well, if the veterans' thing would've been de-, uh, separated by about three or four weeks from this --

President: Yeah.

Laird: -- operation it would have been a, been a little difficult to handle.

President: That's right, that's right. The fact that this blurred now makes it look all part of the same --.