

TRANSCRIPT OF A RECORDING OF A MEETING
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT, H.R. HALDEMAN, AND
JOHN EHRLICHMAN, THE EOB, ON APRIL 14, 1973,
FROM 5:15 TO 6:45 P.M.

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EHRlichMAN, APRIL 14 1973, FROM 5:15 P.M. TO
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(Tape noise occurs throughout)

EHRlichMAN: Well, he and his two lawyers who are ver-
very bright young guys came in.--So I said,
"Evidently, judging by your phone call
earlier this is moot." He said, "Yes, we
have just come from our informal conference
with the U.S. Attorney." He proceeded then
to voluntarily give me his whole testimony
from beginning to end.

HALDEMAN: (unintelligible) sticky wickets, but no new
ones.

EHRlichMAN: That's right.

PRESIDENT: Your definition of their (unintelligible)

HALDEMAN: On the other side (unintelligible) It's much
rougher on Dean.

PRESIDENT: On Dean, he told him to lie?

EHRlichMAN: No. He's been a participant, an active
participant in this thing right from the
very beginning.

HALDEMAN: (Unintelligible) talked about the case in
the most coherent way we've ever had.

EHRlichMAN: And I must say--

HALDEMAN: We finally will know what happened.

EHRlichMAN: This has the--this has the ring of truth
about it. He, he is a convincing witness.
So, ah, ah, you know. But at the same time
it has...

HALDEMAN: It also is not in conflict with anything else you've got

EHRlichman: That's true.

HALDEMAN: ...and almost totally corroborates everything else you've got except you get to end of this time.

EHRlichman: This all starts back in September of 71, when Dean, Caulfield and Magruder,--ah, met and contrived an intelligence effort called Sandwedge. Too much, 2 months later, ah, Dean had been unable to find the right people to make that thing work.--and Dean had approved of Liddy. And later ah, Dean, Liddy and Magruder met. Liddy, after-having some contact with Dean, and Magruder is a little vague on (unintelligible) forward with a million-dollar proposal. Magruder says that Dean says that a million dollars was the right figure. And that's why he picked that figure.--Budgets and so the four of them met. They went over it and Mitchell rejected it. A week later, Liddy came back with a budget half as big, the half-million dollar budget. And that was also rejected--

PRESIDENT: By Mitchell?

EHRlichman: By Mitchell. Dean went on and said "These kinds of things shouldn't even be run by Mitchell. He's Attorney General of the United States. He is sitting over herein his parochial office and he shouldn't even--"

EHRlichman: Liddy and Magruder then went on to try
CONT.: and develop a satisfactory project proposal.
PRESIDENT: A quarter
EHRlichman: A quarter million dollar level. Magruder
said he was never satisfied with it. He
kept sending Liddy back to the drawing
boards. Finally, Colson called, with Liddy
and Hunt in his office (unintelligible-tape
noise) vigorously. Finally, although he,
and he felt Mitchell, too, were nervous
about it and didn't feel comfortable about
it, he said, "Well all right, I'll start
this moving."
PRESIDENT: (Tape noise) he doesn't say that Colson
chewed him out? Specifically about this
proposal?
EHRlichman: He said, Gordon Liddy's projects. He did
not say wire taps. He used the word
"projects." In fact, there was indeed a
budget for this quarter million dollar
proposal. It was in writing. A copy of it
had been furnished to Gordon Strachan. And
it was very specific, in terms of the kind
of equipment to be used.
PRESIDENT: It was furnished to Strachan?
EHRlichman: Yes sir. (Unintelligible) There was no
problem from Strachan. That is he informed
Strachan that he was going to go ahead with
the so-called Liddy proposal and, I read
his, I read his non-response as okay from
higher-up. I am not able to say of my own
knowledge that there was any

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EHRlichman: Knowledge of anyone higher-up. Ah, in point of fact, the, the ah, ah, -was insisting upon was information on Larry O'Brien. That was the thing he called about and that's the thing that he had been driving at. Around the end of March, Mardian, ah, ah, excuse me, Magruder and LaRue went to Key Biscayne where John Mitchell was.

PRESIDENT: Magruder. LaRue?.

EHRlichman: Right. They presented it to Mitchell, Liddy's final proposal, which (unintelligible) installed bugs in three places--Watergate--

PRESIDENT: Was that on the phone?

EHRlichman: They were in person.

PRESIDENT: Magruder Magruder and Mitchell--and LaRue and LaRue. Presented it to Mitchell?

EHRlichman: Yes sir.

PRESIDENT: In three places, huh?

EHRlichman: It involved bugging three places -Watergate, McGovern Headquarters and the Fontainebleu. In the conversation, Mitchell orally approved it. Ah, now, it involved other things besides taps, and ah, he was not specific. He said, "In all, in all honesty this was a kind of a non-decision. Nobody felt comfortable in this thing but we were sort of bull-dozed into it."
(Unintelligible) Ah --

PRESIDENT: By Colson?

EHRlichman: That's the inference. (Unintelligible) Liddy's project. I said, "Well now, clear up for me just how well informed was Strachan?" He said, "I informed him orally of it. He had the budget."

EHRlichman: (Unintelligible) parts that started to come out of that thing were junk. Ah, we got, we got synopses of the log. He said, "I got the only copy. I, Magruder, is got the only copy of the synopses."

PRESIDENT: Mitchell got a copy.

EHRlichman: He thought they were a lot of junk too. Ah, (tape noise) named Gemstone. The one copy that Magruder had of the pictures of, of the kind of papers that you'd find around a campaign-(Unintelligible) synopses of the pictures of Mitchell. He thought it was so bad he picked up the phone and called Liddy and chewed him out. He called em "Shitty"--I told Strachan that the synopses were here. Ah, he may have come over and read them, and as I pressed him on that he got less and less sure of that. He says, "I told him they were there."

HALDEMAN: Strachan now, Strachan says, "I stopped reading the synopses, that they were -we had 'em"

EHRlichman: Now I've got to skip back a ways and then I'll come back to the, to Mitchell.

HALDEMAN: Be sure you make that point to Strachan.

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EHRlichman: I think March, about the time of the meeting down in Key Biscayne, Liddy threatened Magruder's life. He said he was transferred to the Stans' operation.

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: LaRue approached Magruder and said, "We need that operation. You ought to take him back because it's, it's dead water without him." In fact, from the White House to the Headquarters, he says he told the U.S. Attorney, convinced him that they needed the operation. Back to the quality of the work, they, what they were were getting was mostly this fellow Oliver phoning his girl friends all over the country lining up assignations. And paying money and discussing their Young Leaders' Conference. Liddy was badly embarrassed by the, ah, chewing out he got. (unintelligible) again met in meeting with him. He said to John Mitchell, "Mr. Mitchell, I'll take care of it." That was all that was said. So the next break-in was entirely on Liddy's own motion. But Magruder says neither Mitchell nor Magruder knew that another break-in was contemplated. I said "What ah, (unintelligible) after the firing of Liddy." Magruder was very nervous about him. He phoned John Dean and asked Dean to talk to Liddy and try and settle him down because he was acting erratic. Who in the White House is--involved in this whole thing?-the names that-I have given you. Dick Howard, some of Colson's people, and a lot of the secretaries in the EOB,

EHRlichman have various information about a lot of
CONT.: different projects, and pickets--all kinds
 of things that will come pouring out in the
 process of this whole thing. Well I said,
 "Back to the burglary, who else?". He said,
 "No one else." He said, "The U.S. Attorney
 is hot after Colson:-they know he was close
 to Hunt. The only thing they have him on
 right now is the phone call to Magruder ah,
 so far as Jeb knows. But his attorney then
 chimed in, and said, "I think the U.S.
 Attorney has a good deal more because the
 U.S. Attorney told the lawyer that Hunt had
 re-perjured himself with respect to
 Colson."-when he was called back in under
 immunity and testified as to the break-in,
 and the capture of the burglars, and the
 cover-up. Mitchell, LaRue, Mardian and the
 lawyers basically--plus Magruder. Ah, Dean
 devised a cover story, ah, in concert with
 these other people, and enlisted, ah, Bart
 Porter who went to the Grand Jury and
 perjured himself in concert with the cover
 story. Dean prepared Magruder and others
 for the testimony at the Grand Jury,
 cross-examining and getting them ready.
 Likewise, he leaked out information from the
 Grand Jury to the people at the Committee
 for the Re-election. The U.S. Attorney knows
 that he did that. It is illegal to do so.

PRESIDENT: Did he say where he got it?

EHRlichman: He got it from higher-up. Ah, I assume that's Henry Petersen, but I don't know. Okay, with Magruder and Mitchell in the operation of their, of this cover story about ah, these meetings. And they, they worked out a, a, deal and they cancelled one meeting -the million dollar meeting-and the second meeting which was the half-million dollar meeting -they told the Grand Jury they...

PRESIDENT: He's testified to all this?

EHRlichman: Yes. They talked about election laws. Yeah, he's just told the U.S. Attorney all this. He--destroyed his diary, but he couldn't do that. Ah, there's a million and a half dollars in cash that was distributed.

PRESIDENT: Jesus Christ!

EHRlichman: LaRue and Stans know about it. There is quote the famous list un-quote of where that money went. Ah, I don't know I am going to have to check my notes with O'Brien. O'Brien may have told me about that. He may have given some idea of where that went. The three-fifty is a part of that. Mitchell says to Magruder, "Don't talk."

PRESIDENT: Discouraged him. What about Haldeman?

EHRlichman: Haldeman's very much a target of the U. S. Attorney. So far they, they, they indicated that they, he was implicated only by association with other people--meaning Strachan

EHRlichman: presumably.--The attorney gave
CONT.: me his private evaluation, that that was a
little puffing on the part of the U.S.
Attorney. He did not think that they had
anything. Reisner and Powell Moore-Powell
Moore is somebody on Timmons' staff who was
at the Committee and who accompanied Liddy
on what are called "The Saturday Events."
"The Saturday Events" are the events that
took place the day after the burglary.
Liddy went out to find Kleindienst at
Burning Tree and, ah, told him to let
everybody out of jail, on orders from John
Mitchell. And LaRue, of course, and
Mardian, largely on obstruction. They're
developing many counts of obstruction of
justice. Ah, one of the attorneys then in
winding up, I told him-I gave Jeb your
wishes and congratulations and so on and one
of the attorneys said "Well, you know, in
all of this there is not a scintilla of
evidence that the President was in any way
aware of any of these transactions." And he
said, "Well I didn't say that for any
purpose except just to express to you an
impression I have about the way this thing's
going." He said, "Literally tens of dozens
of people down there crying to, to be heard
by the U.S. Attorney. And he said, "This
thing is rapidly deteriorating." But, ah,
he said, ah, "In all of this I don't see any
evidence of the involvement of the
President." So that was that and I thanked
them and sent them on their way. Now I have
the Attorney General of the United States
sitting at home waiting to go to this dinner
party and I have the Deputy

EHRlichman: Attorney General out of town. But
CONT.: as Bob points out, there isn't anything in
my report that isn't pretty well covered and
expanded on in what they've just got from
Magruder. So, I think what. I can do is
call the Attorney General, tell him what I
was going to tell 'em, tell him that
Magruder has just disclosed to me what he
has shown to the U.S. Attorney and that I
really don't have anything to add, but that
I did want him to be aware of the fact of
the work that was done, and what I have done
today. And, ah...

HALDEMAN: Meetings which you had with Mitchell...

EHRlichman: Yeah.

HALDEMAN: ...and Magruder,

EHRlichman: Yeah.

HALDEMAN: The purpose of your meetings was to make the
point to them that they should not go on-on
the misguided assumption that that was for
the President...

EHRlichman: Right.

HALDEMAN: (Unintelligible) This says that the meetings
at Key Biscayne (unintelligible) existed
long, after...

PRESIDENT: Tell me this Bob, ah, what is, what about
Strachan? Strachan says he did not know
about this.

HALDEMAN: Can I give Strachan a report on this?

PRESIDENT: Sure. Sure. What is your, what was your view about Strachan's perjury?

EHRlichman: I don't know. (More than one voice heard, all unintelligible) Make the headlines.

HALDEMAN: (Unintelligible) He goes to the Grand Jury Monday morning. That's why it's fair that he be given this information so he doesn't perjure himself.

PRESIDENT: Right.

HALDEMAN: I don't think he's testified on any of this so I don't think he has any perjury problem. What he's got to do is build the defense that, that ah...

PRESIDENT: Meets these points.

HALDEMAN: Meets these points and ah

PRESIDENT: Could...

HALDEMAN: And he could--he can keep himself as a, as an office boy, which is what he was. A conference boy. If he lied about a thing--he persuaded Gordon to keep Liddy on, or something, or Jeb to keep Liddy on--ah, I would think he would argue back that--"Jeb said to me, 'Now, what should we do?' and I said, "Jees, I think--we better keep him on--he's getting good stuff."
(Unintelligible)

HALDEMAN: I think Gordon knows how to deal with
(Cont'd) that if you give it to him. But I -See now,
I went back to Gordon today on this point
(unintelligible) and he said, "Absolutely,
there was no other money." That on the
22 the only deal was for a fella to
handle it according to what Howard told him--
that's who they sent the money over to.

PRESIDENT: For him (unintelligible).

EHRlichman: Well, we got Magruder, now, in this pickle.
He's still on the government payroll in the
Commerce Department.

PRESIDENT: In Commerce?

EHRlichman: I think it is.--I thought he was.

HALDEMAN: As I listen to this the second time around.
Let me tell you what my concerns are.
(Unintelligible) When he got down to it, he
told the truth. And when he is talking to
us, at least, he is bringing us into it. He
will, for instance, he'll want to elaborate
on uh, Sandwedge and say I was involved in
it. Wow, to the extent that I listened to a
presentation, I was. But I, at the time
said, "This is something I don't want to be
involved in. Something that should not be
handled in here. Don't, come to me any more
with it", and they didn't. And then he'll
say I was also involved in the meetings.
That he came to me after that second meeting
and said, "They came up with, ah, you know,
the plans,

HALDEMAN with a preposterous plan." I told him
CONT.: that, "It can't be done." They shouldn't
even be talking about it in the Attorney
General's office. I said, "John, get out of
it. You stay out of it, too." And he did.
He said he would stay out of it from then
on, and I suspect he did. They'll tie me in
that way by indirection in a sense that,
but, the problem. is, that, I think--his
people with him. May be that sounds like
"everybody go down with the ship" but, ah,
when it comes to this cover up business
Expanding-on, ah -Yes, he has a feeling--the
three fifty. I am not uncomfortable with
that, but Dean, Dean is uncomfortable.

PRESIDENT: What do you do about Dean? In other words,
John

HALDEMAN: The U.S. Attorney's got to (unintelligible)

PRESIDENT: But Dean has been ah...

EHRlichman: I think this all has broken since. I think
they were probably playing it just right.

PRESIDENT: Play their game (unintelligible) Magruder
testifies. (Unintelligible)

EHRlichman: I, I think that's their...

PRESIDENT: Analysis.

EHRlichman: ...analysis.

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: I think they are after Colson, you, -me and (unintelligible) I say to the highest level provable objection.

PRESIDENT: Let me say that this, this tends to ah, with the Ervin Committee overhanging...--

HALDEMAN: One, of these items each day, has come up.

EHRlichman: Well, looking at the line, I should call Kleindienst to be sure and catch him before he gets out.

PRESIDENT: Why don't you call him?

EHRlichman: If I can find him.

PRESIDENT: All right. That's the only thing I'm thinking about--is that, with the thing on...

EHRlichman: I see. If it turns out I call him (unintelligible).

PRESIDENT: I don't see how McCord can be put on now without prejudicing the cases of the defendants.

EHRlichman: That's right.

PRESIDENT: I mean, I (unintelligible) try to call Ervin and tell him not to do it.

HALDEMAN: Ah, Jeb's attorneys felt that they would do so, and they say that there are cases that would require it.

PRESIDENT: Do you have negotiations with Ervin on Monday?

HALDEMAN: I have.

EHRlichMAN: I really think Ervin would be delighted. If you give him a chance to prove his case better, you will have more than you have here.

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

HALDEMAN: That gives him better keep an eye on him. He's going to think it solves all his problems. (Unintelligible) I'm not sure it does this (unintelligible). At least I should get her written stuff (unintelligible).

----- (Ehrl
(Ehrlichman begins conversation on telephone)

EHRlichMAN: Hello, Hi, General. How are you?
How was the golf?
First half good?

To keep you you up to date on what I've been doing. Ah, for about the last three weeks--well, since I saw you, before I saw you out in San Clemente--the President has had me trying to gather together, as you know, a certain amount of law. Yesterday, I gave him my it was hearsay, some of it pretty, pretty reliable. And the whole thing fit together pretty well as, I told him was that I had encountered people to come forward because

EHRlichman: somehow felt that the Presidency, er, er,
CONT;: was served by their not coming forward. So
 he has had me today, in a series of
 conversations with people, to straighten
 them around on that point, and the first one
 I talked to was your predecessor. Then I
 talked to Magruder, and-

Ah, as, at it turned out, I was just a
little late in talking to Magruder, because
he had just come back from telling
everything to the U.S. Attorney. He has
decided to come clean.

Yep, and ah, and he had his informal
conference just minutes before he came in to
see me.

(Unintelligible) inconsistent.

And he, he implicates everybody in all
directions, up and down in the Committee to
Re-elect.

Yep, cold turkey--My instructions were, that
after I had complete--well I, I might say
that I also talked to a couple of other
people who are around here, ah, just to pass
the, the word to encourage them, ah, to
testify, if the only reason they were not
testifying was some concern about the
(unintelligible). Also, being very careful
to say that I recognized everybody had
rights, and that it didn't mean-now.
Magruder then...

Yep.

EHRlichman: --More than just a participation in a
CONT.: conspiracy, Dick.

Ah, I must say that my conversation with him was reassuring in that regard. He's very steadfast in his protestations of...

...the Magruder case is not only testamentary but it is circumstantial and is persuasive to me.

...I didn't have all of this here I am a, a citizen of the United States and a, the designated inquirer with a body of information. Ah, my purpose and intent was to advise you of this when I had finished with this process and tender this information for whatever purpose it would serve, recognizing that until just a few minutes ago it was almost entirely hearsay. Magruder has just unloaded on me the substance of his conversation with the U.S. Attorney-informal conversation. And I find that I now have very little to add to what Magruder has already given the U.S. Attorney.

I felt that I should go forward and at least advise you of this and to-ah

(Unintelligible, loud noises) let me spoil your afternoon completely, will you? One of the things Magruder told me was ah, and, ah, and his attorney who was with him corroborated, was that they are very

EHRlichman: concerned about Dean's ah, facility for
CONT.: advising people at the Committee of the
proceedings of the Grand Jury.

Well, he was apparently informing Magruder
and others of what the Grand Jury was saying
and doing. Silbert or someone else said to
Dean's Attorney, "Well, we know the source
of Dean's information and it was from higher
up."

In any event, ah, I remember what you told
me before (noise) and I originally had
thought that perhaps something would be
served by you and Sneed coming in and the
three of us but this thing has taken the
Magruder bounce, -to think now that you
better, to tell Sneed the substance of this
conversation.

--well, don't you think?

Yep.

I think the President's feeling is that
Sneed could do that.

Well, I, I think he is pretty firm on that.

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EHRlichman: Well, I think you should on Monday.

CONT.:

Alright.

--thought and we will too, and then we should talk on Monday.

--along to me.

I just, just wanted you to have a nice time this evening.

Dont't forget my tender if there's any way that any of this hearsay of mine that ah, that I have collected is in, in anyway useful, I would be glad to make it available. But I, I, my thinking is that I could add very little to what Magruder just told me.

(Unintelligible) my dear.

Your're, my favorite law enforcement officer.

Do you want ah, do you want me to give you anything additional on Monday?

EHRlichman: Well no I have been talking to people'
CONT.: for three weeks. I have talked to everybody
but the milkman.
--outside, and people's lawyers, and every
damn thing.
Well, I've talked to them and in some cases
they know I've talked to other people.
They had to know that because, you know,
they knew the source of my leads,
Ah, no. He's largely implicated on
obstruction of justice.
Yeah.
--was having a terrible time living with it,
and he didn't see any point in waiting any
longer. His attorneys said they analyzed it
very carefully, and they could see, ah, no

EHRlichman: --advantage to waiting, and every
CONT.: advantage to getting in now.
--couple of very bright guys,. I, I've got
their names over there, but I can't tell you
now. Bernbaum and somebody else. Sears, I
think is the other guy. (unintelligible).
Pardon?
Sure.
Sure.
Alright, let me know.
I am going to go see Bernstein and what's
his name get their awards.
(End of telephone conversation)
EHRlichman: He is shook (unintelligible)
PRESIDENT: --both his eyes were closed.
(Two people heard talking, but
unintelligible)
HALDEMAN: Think this was surprise to him?
EHRlichman: A subject of great distress to him, I'll
tell you that.
PRESIDENT: Of course he was distressed. Let me ask
you, John, about Colson. Ah, everything
that has been said here, despite the fact
that they were not after him-it would be
consistent with Colson's not, ah, knowing
the Watergate business.
EHRlichman: Magruder doesn't lay a glove on him.

PRESIDENT: But he said they're hot after him. But where they may have the "hot after him" is on the, ah, what?

EHRlichman: on is connection with Hunt. Their premise apparently is, according to their lawyers, that everything Hunt knew, Colson knew.

PRESIDENT: But Hunt ah, then Hunt therefore will ah, they're going to try to get him to come in and let, and let, uh, lay a glove on Colson now.

HALDEMAN: Colson (unintelligible) It will be Colson's role to get himself a defense.
(Unintelligible)

EHRlichman: Well, Kleindienst says, for reasons I have to be very careful about who I communicate with, for the next little while.

PRESIDENT: Okay.

EHRlichman: He wants me to meet with him and Henry Petersen tomorrow. I, I'm possessed of information establishing the committing of a crime. And, uh, I've got to be darn careful about who I talk to.

PRESIDENT: On, ah, on things that you have done (laugh)

PRESIDENT: Ah,

EHRlichman: He says that Sneed detached from Watergate-was in a perfect position to act on it, but, he wishes we'd get a special prosecutor.

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible)

EHRlichman: He wants to talk about it Monday, and ah

PRESIDENT: Do you still think that's a bad idea?

EHRlichman: I think it's very bad. All these people-prosecutor.

PRESIDENT: I want you to say that to him tomorrow.

EHRlichman: I sure will.

PRESIDENT: That "I have just decided against it."

EHRlichman: Well, if you could hear me...

(More than one person talks, unintelligible)

PRESIDENT: This is outrageous...He's considered it. Thought it through. He doesn't want a special prosecutor because then it's a reflection on the people you've got there. They're doing a hell of a job here. As the cases will point out. And we shouldn't throw them out, then, throw them out now. Let them continue..."

HALDEMAN: Correct?

PRESIDENT: Yeah. I agree.

EHRlichman: Interesting, the interesting fact--the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia has just had Magruder in the office and can sew up the case.

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

HALDEMAN: (Unintelligible) Attorney General
(unintelligible)

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

PRESIDENT: If he doesn't resign?

EHRlichman: Well I don't think...

HALDEMAN: I don't think he has to.

EHRlichman: I don't think he has to, though. I think he may want to, and if he does want to, I think he should.

PRESIDENT: And if he doesn't want to we could put Sneed in the job?

EHRlichman: As acting until you get somebody damn good.

PRESIDENT: You wouldn't keep Sneed...

EHRlichman: (Unintelligible/**REMOVED**) he's-ah,
(unintelligible)

PRESIDENT: You'd rather have our friend over at HUD?

HALDEMAN: Somebody like him, yeah. yeah.

PRESIDENT: Well, we need somebody that's damn good.

EHRlichman: You should have a spokesman.

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible).

EHRlichman: Yeah.

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible) Ehrlichman to get out the facts that he has made this investigation, that we weren't drug kicking and screaming into this thing. I don't know.

EHRlichman: --legal problem. I'll talk to Dick tomorrow.

PRESIDENT: Yeah, it may be a legal problem.

EHRlichman: And if a, if there's not a legal problem,--be a question, an, Monday for Ziegler on what Mitchell was doing at the White House. (unintelligible) He should say he was here talking to me."

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible) "The whole matter (unintelligible).

EHRlichman: Yeah. (unintelligible)

PRESIDENT: And he'll say, "Oh that's been given to the proper authorities." That's what I would say.

HALDEMAN: All he has to say is, why can you just say...

EHRlichman: In due course.

HALDEMAN: Unless you want that authority to say you've been investigating.

PRESIDENT: That's the whole-point.

EHRlichman: Given the opportunity, I'm sure it's the occasion.

HALDEMAN: Yeah.

PRESIDENT: With regard to the hearings, shouldn't we, at least get this..about. First, the hearings when they eventually come are gonna be anti-climatic in my opinion. Ah,

EHRlichman: Could be anti-climatic. The networks might just, ah, not want 'em.

PRESIDENT: Because of the fact that the big fish have been indicted.

HALDEMAN: Can't tell.

PRESIDENT: And so forth.

EHRlichman: Or you may have Weicker saying "the wrong guys got indicted again" (unintelligible) that way. And you could say that...

PRESIDENT: I think I've reached the conclusion, but the two of you and Ziegler will disagree with that conclusion, but it's a loser for us to continue trying to say that, ah, I think you've got to say, that I agree on their bill of law, now, what do you think Bob? Let's be forthcoming on that -and get that out fairly soon. (Unintelligible) I'm trying to get some appearance of, of cooperation. (Unintelligible) Do you agree, Bob, or not?

HALDEMAN: I do, I...

PRESIDENT: Now the question is what do you do about Dean. That may be moot. For that reason I would say--

HALDEMAN: (Unintelligible) guess that Mr. Dean's going to be indicted.

EHRlichman: Magruder does not think Dean with the break-in and the bugging.

PRESIDENT: No, but he says he was there...

EHRlichman: He's in the inception,

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: But they have...

HALDEMAN: But he's in the inception only up to the (unintelligible) (Two people talking, unintelligible)

EHRlichman: Up to a point,...up to a point. Sir? and he is not a participant in the Liddy, Magruder quarter-million, take it to Florida plan.

HALDEMAN: He is no link at all to the plan that was carried out.

PRESIDENT: All right then, so they get him for what? They get him for the aftermath, the aftermath, it's kind of constructive, isn't it?

HALDEMAN: (Unintelligible)

PRESIDENT: Huh.

HALDEMAN: He had a chance.

EHRlichman: He's got a chance.

PRESIDENT: But not much. They say that he believed that he has a constructive ah...

EHRlichman: Immunity.

PRESIDENT: ...immunity there on that.

EHRlichman: But he doesn't have it any more.

PRESIDENT: No, (unintelligible) this would tend to bear out the Colson story that Magruder told from here it sounds like the story (unintelligible).

HALDEMAN: (Unintelligible) But Colson's interest to tell us that Magruder had nailed him.

PRESIDENT: That's right.

EHRlichman: It's established that what he told me was substantially what he told the U.S. Attorney.

PRESIDENT: I understand.

EHRlichman: They obviously were interested in giving you all the information (unintelligible)

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible)

EHRlichman: I doubt it. He's completely relaxed. A smile on his face. He wasn't shaking. He wasn't going to fight it the way he's been every time I've seen him. He just said "I hope this isn't going to be for too long."

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible) the right thing. we're all...We've all got to do the right thing. God damn it! We just cannot have this ah, this kind of a business, John. Just cannot be.

HALDEMAN: (Unintelligible) according to Magruder Magruder said the same thing. (Unintelligible).

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible)

EHRlichman: Yeah.

HALDEMAN: But they are lawyers. They may have this more worked out than we have too, or something. I

PRESIDENT: I think Mitchell is beyond belief (unintelligible) or do you think (unintelligible.)

HALDEMAN: Do you believe Magruder (unintelligible).

PRESIDENT: (unintelligible) what I meant is

EHRlichman: Well, that's true. What it basically comes down to, a question of credibility sure, the circumstantial--

PRESIDENT: But, but, but LaRue?

HALDEMAN: If LaRue tells the story about McCord...

PRESIDENT: your friend Liddy. Liddy, Liddy.

UNIDENTIFIED: Dean.

HALDEMAN: Well, Liddy can't crack and completely discuss (unintelligible)

(More than one person talks, all unintelligible)

EHRlichman: Cause Mitchell says I've seen Liddy doing so and so and so and so. And Liddy says, "Boy, that's crazy, look here, I saw him on this day, and this day, and this day..."

PRESIDENT: How about Dean? Of course that's the big question. And what about the Haldeman statement: should it be made now?

EHRlichman: Can't hurt anything...

PRESIDENT: Hmm?

EHRlichman: Can't hurt anything.

HALDEMAN: Clearly, it would have, it would have to be broader, on Strachan-

PRESIDENT: The point that I am, wondering, you see, I don't know what we could say about (unintelligible)

HALDEMAN: Say that Strachan did get the thing.

EHRlichman: No.

PRESIDENT: Did participate?

EHRlichman: I suspect Strachan is not going to corroborate anything. "My relationship with the committee was to--

PRESIDENT: Yep. No harm in putting it out. What the hell. You've got to get it out. What do you think, Bob? (Unintelligible)

HALDEMAN: I don't think it does, but I'm somewhat, you know, puzzled by it, by, in my own assurance that it's a good idea, but,

HALDEMAN I have the feelings of Kissinger's
CONT.: and Ziegler's that it's a disaster for me to
be (unintelligible)

EHRlichman: You're not about to be out front.
(unintelligible)

PRESIDENT: --the point is Bob, that, ah, that, you
have...(unintelligible)

HALDEMAN: ...to be that far out front before this
hits. And then this hits. It puts me in
the lead with it, is what they would argue.

EHRlichman: The story of his new found freedom he's
made, will run around and tell everybody in
town.

PRESIDENT: He just launched into this, you know. I
didn't ask him.

HALDEMAN: Of course.

EHRlichman: You can understand that. A guy that's had,
had...
(More than one person talks, all
unintelligible)

EHRlichman: ...constipation for eight months and all of
a sudden is able to take a crap is gonna
enjoy it.

PRESIDENT: Why don't you make the deal on Monday for
this...It, ah, just so that we keep some
honor. (Unintelligible) and we'll take all
the people, ah, any members

PRESIDENT of the White House staff, (unintelligible)
CONT.: with any privilege, (unintelligible) any
executive privilege waived, ah, reserved,
ah, to, a, to be, ah, ah, to be decided in
executive session. How does that sound to
you?

EHRlichman: Well, my position would be that they don't
get to decide

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible)

EHRlichman: ...the question of executive privilege. We
decide that (unintelligible).

HALDEMAN: Assert it,...don't answer

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: Let the judge decide that.

PRESIDENT: So, you would say that the (unintelligible)

HALDEMAN: (Unintelligible) cover up the whole
(unintelligible)

EHRlichman: We say we are going to send our people up
there and we don't care if you have
television or a night in a damn circus tent.
You can send them up there and every
question is subject to research under
objection for executive privilege. We're not
guilty and (unintelligible)

HALDEMAN: What do you do with my knowledge of hearsay.
I just throw it all out now?

PRESIDENT: No, you don't do it. Well...

EHRlichman: I, I have gone into that in great with Ervin and he agrees with the concept that we are conduits to the President, that anything that was given to us is privileged.

PRESIDENT: He agrees with you, (unintelligible) given to the President, in other words.

HALDEMAN: If anything is given to me and the (unintelligible).

PRESIDENT: I would say, "We'll give you Dean in Executive Session." How does that work out. (Unintelligible) start with Dean. Not at all.

EHRlichman: I did.

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible) Interrogatories. But you see, you, you, get in a position where you can, uh, can say, they claim executive because of the (unintelligible) nature of the situation (unintelligible) of making the substance part public.

EHRlichman: I must say that I think part of the trouble with our agreement...

PRESIDENT: Yes.

HALDEMAN: John Dean may be into this where they can't call him anyway.

PRESIDENT: That's what I'm thinking about, that.

EHRlichman: Yeah.

(more than one person talks, all unintelligible)

PRESIDENT: You see I'm ah, I'm just thinking

PRESIDENT: about this one. Which appeared to be
CONT.: forthcoming and, and, I wouldn't, I wouldn't
let the Dean thing be a, be a big fracas, if
necessary. I just think that that's one move
you can make now at the present time. I, ah,
just go and I, I think the proponent of the
idea that will buy, buy a good headline for a
day and invite Dean back for, for later on.
But ah, we're going to get beat around the
head and shoulders.--Let's, let's ,let's face
it. We're going to get it until the Grand
Jury indicts, and then 'til the Grand Jury
(unintelligible) that would be maybe another,
ah, two, three weeks. After that, when they do
indict, then they'll say "Christ, Mr.
President, what the hell are you going to do
to that, we'll beat 'em to the punch. I think
we've got to do that. I just feel it's one of
those things. (Unintelligible) to announce
that I make it tomorrow night. Would you do
that?

HALDEMAN: (Unintelligible) to be repudiated by the
committee, that meets Tuesday.
(Unintelligible) to, to wait...

Phone rings:

PRESIDENT: Ya, Ya. (Unintelligible). Very nice, sure
would. Oh great, great. You're going over to
the...Oh, you did. (Unintelligible) Aren't
you going to have dinner there? Oh, it starts
at ten of eight. I see. Well, we're supposed
to be there at eight forty five.
(Unintelligible) at eight forty five, OK.
Well we'll have a wonderful time and I'll see
you there. See you when you get back. Bye.
(Someone speaks, voice unintelligible)

PRESIDENT: Maybe we should. (Unintelligible) I think, I
think we've got to get bouncing. Ah, that,
there, there's another thing I'm thinking of,
Bob, is that there's...I'm thinking of the
fact that this (noise) here now, may make the
hearings a hell of a lot less interesting and
also a hell of alot...they sure as hell

HALDEMAN: --my wife about that.

PRESIDENT: Sure.

HALDEMAN: I hate to see that stuff keep getting obstructed by Watergate. That isn't the problem we're dealing with today. All this stuff's developing on Watergate. This makes Watergate look a lot worse than it really used to look in a way.

PRESIDENT: This does?

HALDEMAN: Oh, I'll say it does because it involves so many people. (Unintelligible) and we got-a way (unintelligible)

PRESIDENT: That's our problem.

HALDEMAN: Well it be two weeks before this gets out? Is that...they were saying before that it was going to be May 15th, but now with Magruder's now on the applesauce. Huh? What can they (unintelligible).

PRESIDENT: Well...

HALDEMAN: (Unintelligible)

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible) they want to wind up all the others; if they want to get all the obstructions, they've got to hear all these people.

HALDEMAN: Right.

EHRlichman: Not, not all of them, but they've got a, they got (unintelligible)

Get a leg up. (unintelligible) will give 'em a leg up, this Hunt thing give 'em a leg up,...

(Several people talk, all unintelligible)

EHRlichman: They make their case from the time that they either vote on indictments (unintelligible). They may recess the Grand Jury for a couple of weeks. (Unintelligible) indictments.

HalDEMAN: Where else.

PResIDENT: Where else do you have a, ah...a what's the latest we've got on the problem that's my point again (unintelligible). Say you're not going to do it because of Dean.

HalDEMAN: If the situation's going to get worse, then you maybe have to do something. If this is as bad as it's going to get, then, if this going to change in a different direction, maybe you're better off not doing anything. Of course, the alternatives are, it's more likely to get worse. In other words (unintelligible), if you, if you think you're ready to swing, my guess is probably there is an actual danger, that the Republican House will meet and pass a resolution calling on the President...

PResIDENT: That's what I think

HalDEMAN: ...and probably a unanimous resolution.

PResIDENT: I think it's very close to that right now. I think this would trigger it, without question. They would be so horrified about that the White House staff (Unintelligible).

HalDEMAN: Could be. But I guess that's not going to satisfy them. But, this pretty much establishes the Watergate thing and then you say (unintelligible) like Goldwater,

HALDEMAN: the people that want this done with are going to---You've got to look at the other possible boxes to say, "Well, thank God, it's been, all been cleared up now. Let's forget all this other shit" and, a, some will say, "It's now clear the White House wasn't involved, and thank God they weren't. And it's clear the President wasn't involved and thank God he wasn't. It's a tragedy that they great man, John Mitchell, was." Ah...

PRESIDENT: And that so many people at the Committee were.

HALDEMAN: And then, everybody will dwell on that.

PRESIDENT: Except that, except that except that you've got a fair chance that Dean will get it. A fair chance that someone will break.
(Unintelligible)

HALDEMAN: I would spotlight it as the, as the umbilical cord at the White House and in the Committee and the question will be, "What's at the other end of those umbilical cords?"

PRESIDENT: Then, you-don't think

HALDEMAN: (Unintelligible)

PRESIDENT: You don't think there's much, ah...

HALDEMAN: The unbelievableness...

PRESIDENT: Dean, no, Dean's high enough.

HALDEMAN: The ah, now, the unbelievableness of it is being answered by this. "There is somebody higher than Gordon Liddy had to have agreed to spend

HALDEMAN: a quarter of a million dollars...

CONT.:

PRESIDENT: That's the point

HALDEMAN: ...the Democratic National Committee." Now you've got that somebody.

PRESIDENT: That's Mitchell.

HALDEMAN: Now that you've got somebody who was, you've got a believable case where you can now say, "Well, so there was some other stuff going on but, ah, this was where the problem was."

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible)

HALDEMAN: (Unintelligible)

PRESIDENT: I'd just like to get Segretti out in our, in our forum. Don't you think so?

HALDEMAN: Yes, you've got to get it out.
(Unintelligible) Watergate (unintelligible)

PRESIDENT: Haldeman. They'll say, they'll say Haldeman (unintelligible)

HALDEMAN: ...and let's see what they say.

PRESIDENT: Huh?

HALDEMAN: If it says Haldeman admits guilt, I mean that's pretty clear.

PRESIDENT: I know.

HALDEMAN: What I want to do...

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

HALDEMAN: But, ah, the Ziegler or Kissinger view is very strongly that that's what I shouldn't do. I'm the last guy to decide

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

HALDEMAN: ...which is right.

PRESIDENT: Yeah. What do you think, John?

HALDEMAN: John thinks I should.

EHRlichman: I think he should come out.

PRESIDENT: It will come out right after that. Several of the Republicans...

EHRlichman: Now as I say, I haven't, I haven't heard Henry's...

PRESIDENT: You start with Weicker and other Republicans and right after that and say, "Haldeman should resign because of his involvement in the Segretti matter."

HALDEMAN: Either (unintelligible) you'd have to resign

PRESIDENT: Or I defend it.

HALDEMAN: Or you defend it. You can't, I don't think you can ignore it. If, ah, if I've done that you've either got to, you've got to then make the judgement that that was sufficient to cause me to resign or it wasn't. That's the first question of the first person. (Unintelligible) it should be answered before...

(Several people talk, all unintelligible)

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible) that Haldeman's gonna resign, you mean?

EHRlichman: Yeah. Ziegler can, the next day, say "His connection to this was very remote, was very benign." And he...get that out...(unintelligible) in my view, before it was established that a crime was committed by Segretti.

PRESIDENT: Right.

(Several people talk, all unintelligible)

PRESIDENT: I would not, I would not be, I would not be as, not be as strong for your getting it out, except for his having said "self incrimination", the fact that that made him...

HALDEMAN: You've got a really- crunchy decision, which is whether you, whether you want me to resign or whether you don't. You, that's one you've got to figure out. The problem with that is if I go on the basis of the Segretti matter, you've got to let Dean go on the basis of his implication, which is far worse.

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

HALDEMAN: Strachan's already out of the White House so that's no problem. If they wait awhile (unintelligible) Ehrlichman in, you are going to have to let him go.

EHRlichman: He's got, he's got sort of a, got sort of a hypothesis that he's developing in our conversation that,

EHRlichman: that referring him to Kalmbach was almost as
CONT.: good as action (unintelligible).

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: As a matter of fact, I didn't refer him to
Kalmbach. He came to me and said, "May I go
to Kalmbach?".

HALDEMAN: He did the same thing to me.

PRESIDENT: Go to Kalmbach for the purpose of?

EHRlichman: For the purpose of getting Herb to raise
some money. For the purpose of paying the
defendants. For the purpose of keeping
them, quote, on the reservation, unquote.

PRESIDENT: Right. With that they could try to tie you
and Bob in a conspiracy to obstruct justice.

EHRlichman: That's his theory.

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible) questionable.

EHRlichman: Well, I'm not so sure that makes any
difference at this int. He's coloring this
in order to induce (unintelligible) the key
was in their (unintelligible).

PRESIDENT: Well, lesser (unintelligible).

HALDEMAN: Strachan's position is totally tenable and
true (unintelligible) --without giving
him any help.

(Beginning of Reel Two)

PRESIDENT: I know. The way you have to handle that, let's face it, is that, uh, I mean, is there, of course, you've got the whole business of the aftermath, as to

(End of Reel One)

uh, as to motive. And, uh, there, if you or Bob are asked, uh, what do you say?

EHRlichman: Well, a, as far as I can reconstruct it and I may be putting it favorably, (unintelligible-tape noise) clearly-is concerned about what these fellows are going to testify to. The Grand Jury in secret couldn't hurt, whether they would go out and sell their stories, uh, to Saturday Evening Post...

HALDEMAN: Life Magazine.

PRESIDENT: Sure, sure.

EHRlichman: Yep.

PRESIDENT: That's right. They're not a bit concerned about (unintelligible).

EHRlichman: So, uh, I, I, was concerned about that, particularly Hunt who is a kind of aro- an author type and, and would be inclined to do that kind of thing.

HALDEMAN: In fact I had no knowledge who was or wasn't guilty or where the thing led.

PRESIDENT: I see. I see.

HALDEMAN: That's exactly right. We weren't protecting anybody.

EHRlichman: I'm even willing to buy that.

HALDEMAN: I know, I said that to John, and John didn't agree with me.

PRESIDENT: I wish we could keep Dean away from that. Magruder we don't have to get that in, uh, (unintelligible) unless it's a-Let me say, uh, let's, let's, let's, let's sleep on what we do with the uh My, my view is, though, I think that, I think the odds are, that the interest in the Committee is less. (Unintelligible) some of the big fish. The second thing is going to be, uh -

HALDEMAN: A lot of people are going to say, "For Christ sake, you solved the Watergate now, forget it." Will that come to this?

PRESIDENT: Some of our people can see it. Christ, that's not what he wanted investigated.

HALDEMAN: He said that the folks out there got fed up with it anyway. Just say, just get an answer and get it out of the way. That's what I'm talking about. They don't care.

PRESIDENT: It's really such a crappy thing. And he'll come in, plead self-incrimination, and clear him.

EHRlichMAN: Be a lively copy when they start bringing in all these people from around the country. What they did or who were victims, or witnesses, or something.

PRESIDENT: It'd be lively copy, John, but it's sorts stuffy.

EHRlichHAN: Yep.

PRESIDENT: It, it's not the good stuff.
(Unintelligible)
(Unintelligible).

PRESIDENT: Horrible, horrible. But we got eight months to go. Well, let me finish my analysis.
(Unintelligible). The, uh in my opinion, Bob, for the forthcoming thing which I think, I tilted against I think Magruder (unintelligible) is for (unintelligible) as many as we need, any move right now.

HALDEMAN: I think you've got it if you're going to do it, though, I think you've got to face the likelihood that Magruder or somebody is going to call for my resignation for having hired Segretti.

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible).

HALDEMAN: I did hire Segretti. (Unintelligible)

PRESIDENT: It's Strachan.

HALDEMAN: Yeah. (Unintelligible) over a period of time will come back with these This is the-first time? You've got a couple of others who should have been said, uh -

PRESIDENT: We've gotta face that.

HALDEMAN: You might want to, want to tie it to a resignation at the time I do it. On the basis that, that, ah "Well, here is a mistake, and I have no problem with it. But I'm also not going to be in enough trouble in all this stuff now without, without my (unintelligible).

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible) ought to resign sometime, don't.

HALDEMAN: I'm not suggesting I'm not suggesting I'd like to resign.

PRESIDENT: Don't.

HALDEMAN: To tell you very frankly, I would not like to

PRESIDENT: Uh.

HALDEMAN: At this time I'd be willing to, without creating any sticky problems.

PRESIDENT: That's the duty of our, uh, all our It's the duty of our whole, duty of our whole staff, and uh, though, they would play, play, play their role (unintelligible).

HALDEMAN: I'm free from some other things and I can cut loose, which I do. The problem we get there on the other side is that there's some pluses to it. What about that?

PRESIDENT: With an Attorney General added in. And a White House Counsel, possibly. White House counsel.

HALDEMAN: Pretty big bag, John.

EHRlichman: The biggest.

PRESIDENT: The least; that's the point.

HALDEMAN: Yeah.

PRESIDENT: Historically, people think in perspective, but it, uh, take some time.

HALDEMAN: Historically you expect to (unintelligible) that. (Unintelligible).

PRESIDENT: I see.

HALDEMAN: Well, fire some people, because you cannot

PRESIDENT: I have given them leave. Uh, if they should not fall under indictment (unintelligible), may be they can continue their duties.

HALDEMAN: If they intend to plead innocent.
(Unintelligible several talking)

HALDEMAN: (Unintelligible)

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible) in the United States look, that's about it, are you gonna plead innocent or guilty? And if you're going to plead guilty innocent fine, you are suspended, I'll tell you when you can concentrate on the (unintelligible).

EHRlichman: Set out the Ervin negotiations and how we get out the, uh, investigation and, uh, all this.

PRESIDENT: Well, this (unintelligible), I want to keep Ervin at the (unintelligible), but I kind of feel myself that (unintelligible)

EHRlichman: I do too.

PRESIDENT: We ought to say, uh, and I think, uh

EHRlichman: With that being the case, and the Dean material

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible) Now wait a minute, there's no need to grapple with it.

HALDEMAN: If he breaks off, you could make a bargain with the Committee

PRESIDENT: I think -

EHRlichman: My exponent-

PRESIDENT: Yes, and what would you say? You could say, "The President is directing this he's not in (unintelligible)." They will appear (unintelligible). I don't think that's needed tomorrow. I think, I think, I think you ought to meet with Ervin and cut the deal and then, then even though it isn't much of a compromise, you could say, "We have work, worked out a compromise under which there is an open session. They won't get, you 'on Dean, Dean goes free. Dean in Executive session is the, it's very nice (unintelligible).

HALDEMAN: (Unintelligible)

PRESIDENT: How's that sound to you, Bob.
(Unintelligible) get a story out which will, uh, keep the animals a little cool for awhile. (Unintelligible)

EHRlichman: More than that, but you can date it back to negotiations commencing two weeks ago,

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: three weeks ago, whatever it was.

PRESIDENT: Yeah. Yeah.

HALDEMAN: You put it on my statement at the same time?

PRESIDENT: No.

HALDEMAN: You have to do it.

EHRlichman: The next day.

HALDEMAN: The next day - Wednesday.

EHRlichman: Wednesday. You should put my statement out on Wednesday also, or wait until Thursday for my statement. (Coughs) (Unintelligible) we better be right on the heels of the, uh

PRESIDENT: That's right. I'd put yours out right with it. You're going to have the next day to build it up a little.

HALDEMAN: No, you don't want to build it up.

PRESIDENT: Put it right out. The problem here, let me say, in your case, is not Segretti. (Unintelligible) with Segretti stuff and then, the in your case is Strachan. I mean the (unintelligible) purpose of keeping the (unintelligible).

HALDEMAN: (Unintelligible).

PRESIDENT: Oh, yes, uh, uh, (unintelligible) I know that, testify on that.

EHRlichman: (Unintelligible)

PRESIDENT: Would you carry that secret?

EHRlichman: The question is whether Strachan is indicted or not.

PRESIDENT: If he is indicted?

HALDEMAN: I think I've got to cover myself on the Strachan thing, as you said, in such a way so that if anything does happen it's, it's covered and you can go back to my statement and say I said that he was the guy to contact, that, that he should not be built up as a central figure, nor should I try to explain his every action. As I can't. Some of his actions were obviously carried out unilaterally.

EHRlichman: I think that's overly objective.

PRESIDENT: I think some of Magruder's stuff could be (unintelligible) pretty, pretty lively. I think it's probably basically true. (Unintelligible) you remember back that far? Think of that for a few days, (Unintelligible).

HALDEMAN: You can't be that precise -

PRESIDENT: You can't be that precise: You remember what (unintelligible) were in You remember the things that you want to remember, pretty much.

HALDEMAN: Well, especially when you've lived through a whole series of varying very heated -

PRESIDENT: Magruder's?

HALDEMAN: Which he has.

PRESIDENT: Magruder's, Magruder's--You've got to remember now, Magruder is going to be as, as uh, potent a witness, and again as (unintelligible).

HALDEMAN: Strachan (unintelligible) a strong witness too, an, and they're going to, they, they are going (unintelligible) do something.

PRESIDENT: And they will--They have to say, "Who's lying?" "Who's going to lie? I mean, here's a guy who has a record of lying. He lied (unintelligible). Are you going to take his word against Strachan who did not lie and came back to the U.S. Attorney?"

HALDEMAN: We can produce people around here who can give you give different stories that Magruder's told you, but which one is true?

PRESIDENT: What do you think Mr. Colson is going to be doing-to us? You're not going to tell him this, are you?

HALDEMAN: No.

PRESIDENT: I wouldn't think so.

EHRlichman: Colson is undoubtedly sending all kinds of signals to Mr. Hunt _

HalDEMAN: And that Chuck is, is overkill. I think, he's his own worst enemy. He's very lucky that, that (unintelligible).

PResIDENT: (Unintelligible)

EHRlichman: He says that, uh, the New York Times has a story that he was here for a meeting with me yesterday.

HalDEMAN: He acts like it was the first time he has ever been in the White House and he wants everybody to know.

(Unintelligible Conversation).

PResIDENT: Well, you fellows need a little rest.

HalDEMAN: Rest? Taking us all td that damn dinner (unintelligible).

EHRlichman: We'll grin at the White House Correspondents.

HalDEMAN: That's no rest.

PResIDENT: Well, then (unintelligible).

HalDEMAN: That's work.

PResIDENT: A year from now, it's gonna be different.

EHRlichman: Oh, yes.

HalDEMAN: (Unintelligible). Yes.

PResIDENT: Nope, seriously, seriously (unintelligible). You know what?

EHRlichman: Six months from now.

PResIDENT: Sooner than you think. Let me tell you, John, the thing about all of this that has concerned me is the dragging the God damn out thing out and dragging it out and being and having it be the only issue in town.

Now, and the thing to do now is to have the son of a bitch done - indict Mitchell and ail the rest and there'll be a horrible two weeks a terrible, terrible scandal, worse than Teapot Dome and so forth. And it isn't doesn't have anything to do with teapot. It isn't as bad as--

EHRlichman:

No.

PRESIDENT:

I mean good God, there's got to be no venality involved in the damn thing, no thievery or anything of that sort of thing. Nobody got any favors, and, uh - You know what I mean?

HALDEMAN:

John (unintelligible).

EHRlichman:

Yeah. That's true.

HALDEMAN:

Glad to hear it.

PRESIDENT:

The big, the, the, the, uh, the bad part of it is the fact that the Attorney General, and the obstruction of justice thing, which it appears to be. And yet, they ought to get-up fighting, in my view, a fighting position on that. I think they all ought to fight, and say this was not an obstruction of justice, we were simply trying to help these defendants. Would you agree on that or do you, do you think that's my - is, is that--possible. (Unintelligible)

EHRlichman:

I agree. I think it's gotta be defended, obviously.

PRESIDENT:

Yeah, but -

EHRlichman:

Yeah.

PRESIDENT:

I know if they could get together on the strategy, it would be pretty good for them.

EHRlichman:

Yeah and, I think, uh, undoubtedly, that will, that will shake down.

PRESIDENT:

I would think that the U.S. Attorney's and the rest (unintelligible).

APRIL 14, 1973, FROM 5:15 P.M. TO 6:45 P.M.

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EHRlichman: Thank you, sir.

HalDEMAN: Yes, sir