Conversation No. 525-001

Date: June 17, 1971
Time: 5:15 pm - 6:10 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President met with Rose Mary Woods.

BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1

President’s schedule

Page | 1
- Rose Mary Woods conversation with Thelma C. (“Pat”) (Ryan) Nixon
- Dinner arrangements
- Lucy Alexander Winchester’s schedule
- Conversation with Helene Drown

Thelma C. (“Pat”) (Ryan) Nixon’s schedule
- Florida trip
- Packing
- Drown’s potential travel
- President’s opinion

H.R. (“Bob”) Haldeman entered at 5:16 PM

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Woods left and John D. Ehrlichman and Henry A. Kissinger entered at 5:17 pm.

Pentagon Papers
- Administration response
  - John N. Mitchell’s court efforts
  - William P. Rogers’ statement
    - Need to win court case and public relations case
      - John B. Connally
  - Rogers’ statement
    - Quality
  - Lyndon B. Johnson comments
    - Possible press conference
      - Bryce N. Harlow's role
      - Kissinger’s previous call to Lyndon B. Johnson
  - Effect on administration
    - Personnel
    - Connally
    - Spiro T. Agnew
    - Gen. George A. Lincoln
    - General view of President’s position
      - Connally
    - Attack on Presidency
    - Attack on Nixon and Johnson
- Rebuttal by administration
  - Media coverage
    - Criteria for New York Times coverage
  - Desirability of comment by President
    - Possible space
    - Rogers’ statement
      - Letters to Senators
    - Legality of comments
      - Court case
      - Kissinger's statement
        - Quality
        - Content
    - Need for comment by President
    - Proper scope
      - Outline
    - Scope
    - Preparation
    - Coverage by "Northeastern press"
      - New York Times
  - President's comments on security
    - Follow up
  - Debriefing of employees
  - Enforcement of security laws
  - Responsibility of office heads for security
  - Timing of administration counter
  - Connally's action
    - Meeting with staff
      - Treasury Department relations with the press
      - Consequences of leaks

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[Previous PRMPA Privacy (D) reviewed under PRMPA regulations 12/01/2017. Segment cleared for release.]
[Privacy]
[525-001-w007]
[Duration: 35s]
Pentagon Papers
- Administration response
  - John B. Connally's action
  - Meeting with staff
  - Charles E. Walker
  - Trouble with facts
  - Staffing

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Pentagon Papers
- Administration response
  - President's remarks
  - Issuance of memorandum
    - Content
    - Ehrlichman's role
  - *Times* use of press cards
  - Mitchell
  - Reprinting problem
  - *Times* action
  - Haldeman's follow up to Congress
  - Daniel Ellsberg's story
  - *Washington Star*
  - Kissinger's remembrance of Ellsberg
    - Vietnam service
    - General demeanor
    - International Security Affairs [ISA] background at the Department of Defense
    - John J. McNaughton
    - Intellect
    - Change of political opinion
    - Contact during transition

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*[Previous PRMPA Privacy (D) reviewed under PRMPA regulations 12/01/2017. Segment cleared for release.]*

Page | 4
Pentagon Papers
   - Administration response
   - Potential drug use
     - The President’s desired use of information

Pentagon Papers
   - Administration response
     - Contact with Henry A. Kissinger
     - Massachusetts Institute of Technology [MIT] speech by Kissinger
     - Ellsberg heckling
     - “Murder in Laos” article
   - Obtaining documents
     - Research and Development Corporation [RAND] copies of Vietnam story
     - Ellsberg action compared to Alger Hiss and Whitaker Chambers action
   - Reason for Ellsberg action
   - Reason for Times action
     - Opposition to President’s Vietnam policy

[Previous PRMPA Privacy (D) reviewed under PRMPA regulations 12/01/2017. Segment cleared for release.]

Pentagon Papers
   - Administration response
     - Potential drug use
     - The President’s response
Pentagon Papers
  - Administration response
    - President's comments
      - Ehrlichman's role
    - Haldeman's role
      - Remarks
        - Patrick J. Buchanan
    - Kissinger's comments at North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO] lunch
      - Response
    - Remarks by President
      - Content of papers
      - Principle of secrecy
    - *Times* determination of national interest
  - Embarrassment of Johnson and John F. Kennedy
  - Defense of principle
    - Reaction to loss of security
    - President's legal obligations
      - Reasons for the law
    - Congressional mandate
      - Kissinger memo
    - Declassification procedures
  - Case before Supreme Court
    - Possible action by the President
  - Need for remarks by President
    - Impact
  - Rogers' statement
    - Impact
    - Content
      - Political predispositions of authors, et al.
      - Conviction of Johnson
      - Relation to Joseph McCarthy era
        - Prosecution for advice
          - *Times*’ previous view
          - Lack of content
    - Stewart J.O. Alsop editorial
      - *Times* previous stance on security of communication
      - Adlai E. Stevenson, III and Kennedy
Use by administration

Timing

Need for running battle

-Ronald L. Ziegler and Herbert G. Klein view

-Restriction of *Times* reporters

Attacks from other papers

-McCarthy era analogy

-Richard M. Helms comments

-*Times* interpretation of morality

-Stevenson

-Johnson

-Selective embarrassment

-*Times* interpretation of First Amendment rights

-*Times* wrongdoing

-*Times* responsibility

-Johnson's action

-Robert S. McNamara

-Rebuttal

-Position as president of the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development [World Bank]

-Loyalty to Johnson

-McGeorge Bundy comment

-Attack on Johnson

-Kennedy

-Ngo Dinh Diem death

-Henry Cabot Lodge and Kennedy's role

-William Moyers

-Diem death

-President's revelation

-Constraints of lawsuit

-Diem death

-President's knowledge

**Ziegler entered at an unknown time after 5:17 pm.**

Legislation

-Defeat of anti-war bills

-Margin
Ziegler left at an unknown time before 6:13 pm.

Pentagon Papers
  - Bombing halt file
    - Relation to Lyndon B. Johnson’s statement
    - Attempts to obtain it
    - Tom Charles Huston recollections
      - Brookings role
    - Implementation of Huston plan
    - Johnson’s concern
      - Timing of bombing
      - Content
      - W. Averell Harriman
    - Effects of release
      - Johnson’s reaction
    - Harlow contact with Johnson

Upcoming Vice Presidential trip
  - Harlow's attendance
    - Harlow's role
      - Agnew
      - Korea

Pentagon Papers
  - Agnew's role
    - Recent performances
    - Ehrlichman contact with Agnew
      - Future Agnew role
    - Robert J. Dole
    - Agnew attacks on Times
    - Nelson A. Rockefeller attacks on Times
      - Role of advertisers
      - Bonwit Teller
    - Administration attack
      - Role of sources
      - Treasury Department role
      - Council Economic Advisers [CEA]
        - George P. Shultz
        - Connally
- Maurice H. Stans
- Elliot L. Richardson
- George W. Romney
- John A. Volpe
- Rogers C.B. Morton
- John N. Mitchell
- Ken Martin ("Ken") Worthy [?]
  - Morton contacts
- Morton
- Melvin R. Laird
- Rogers
  - Willingness to join attack
  - Ending backgrounders
- "Good" reporters
  - Max Frankel
- Mitchell
- Stans
- Connally
- Dole
- Republican National Committee contact with Times
  - Franklyn C. Nofziger
  - Effect on Stewart Lurie
  - Effect on columnists
- Other contacts with Times
  - Ziegler's tactics
  - Return of calls
  - Kissinger action
  - National Security Council [NSC] staff
  - Media fallout
    - Need for perseverance
- James B. ("Scotty") Reston
  - Position
    - Barry M. Goldwater
- Contact with Times competition
  - Daily News
    - Jerry Greene action
  - Chicago Tribune reaction to Times story
  - Bill Mullen (?) reaction
  - James S. Copley, Richard Wilson, William Randolph Hearst, Jr. reaction
- Contact with Hearst
  - *Los Angeles Times* reaction
- Policing of press
- *Times* and White House relationship
  - Future relations
    - Access to Oval Office
- Upcoming trips
  - *Times* travel courtesies
- Eastern liberal press
  - White House contact with Clark M. Clifford
    - Extent of information from
    - Congressional statements
- Effect on Hubert H. Humphrey
  - Humphrey comments
    - Effect of Vietnam study on behavior
- Effect on Edward M. ("Ted") Kennedy
  - Support for McNamara
- *Times* material on Kennedy administration activities
  - Use by President
    - Henry Cabot Lodge's role
  - Ngo Dinh Diem file
    - Kennedy activity
    - Lodge evidence
    - Lodge position on release of evidence
    - Kennedy's communication with Lodge
    - Consequences of coup
- Action against the *Times*
- Severity of *Times* transgression
- Press double standard
- Expected *Times* actions
  - White House files
    - Kissinger staff checks
  - Set up of files
    - Helmut ("Hal") Sonnenfeldt
      - Access to Kissinger conversations with Anatoliy F. Dobrynin
    - Sonnenfeldt duties
    - William A.K. ("Tony") Lake access
- Edmund S. Muskie reaction to *Times* story
- Humphrey reaction
- Johnson's position
  - Support for Ted Kennedy
  - Support for Humphrey
- McNamara's statement
  - Humphrey knowledge of Vietnam activities
  - Johnson
- Agnew exposure to White House tactics
- Humphrey statement
  - "Need to known" doctrine
  - Johnson's Vietnam judgement
- US actions
  - Rogers and Laird
  - World War II
  - Korea
  - Vietnam
    - President’s questions
    - Tactics
    - Kissinger’s recollection
    - "Purpose" of U.S. action
    - Methods
    - Goals

Drug policy statement
  - Play in media

Rochester trip
  - Kenneth B. Keating invitation
  - Congressional contacts during trip
  - Keating
    - Performance

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[Previous National Security (B) withdrawal reviewed under MDR guidelines case number LPRN-T-MDR-2012-002. Segment declassified on 12/01/2017. Archivist: JD]
[National Security]
[525-001-w006]
[Duration: 49s]
Indian diplomatic skills
  - Kenneth B. Keating
  - Age
  - Flattery
  - Effect on survival
  - Indian women
  - The President’s opinion

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Pakistan
  - Life magazine issue

US and Federal Republic of Germany relations
  - Willy Brandt
  - Kissinger’s conversation with Egon Bahr
  - Purchase of aircraft

Pentagon Papers
  - Effect on White House enemies
  - Haldeman
  - Need for White House attack
  - Reduction of ambassadorial access to Times
    - D. Kenneth Rush
    - Ellsworth F. Bunker
    - Arthur K. Watson

Kissinger left at 6:05 pm.

Haldeman and Ehrlichman left at 6:07 pm.

Alexander P. Butterfield entered at 6:07 pm.

[Signing of documents]

President’s schedule
  - Rochester schedule
-Action folders

Marjorie P. Acker entered at 6:09 pm.

Rose Mary Woods’ schedule
- Executive Office Building [EOB] meeting with President

The President, et al. left at 6:10 pm.

Date: Unknown between June 17 and June 18, 1971
Time: Unknown between 6:13 pm, June 17 and 8:40 am, June 18, 1971
Location: Oval Office

Unknown people [Secret Service agents?] met.

President’s location
- Executive Office Building [EOB]

Unknown people [Secret Service?] left at an unknown time before 8:40 am, June 18, 1971.