

**NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF****Tape Subject Log**
(rev. 9/08)

Part of a conversation between President Nixon and H. R. Haldeman in the Oval Office between 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm on April 26, 1971.

Conversation No. 489-11

Haldeman: The last bastion of resistance has fallen in, in, uh, [unintelligible] Moore. He, uh, talked to him this morning.

President: Um-hum.

Haldeman: He was the one who --

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- the only one, really, who was opposed to having a press conference at all 'n', 'n' he said he thought about it yesterday, and part of it would depend on how you went at the moratorium business or the demonstrators. And I told him what Ron, you know, what line Ron had, so that's absolutely perfect. He said, "The key --

President: Which way does he --

Haldeman: -- [unintelligible].

President: -- which way does he want to play it?

Haldeman: He wants to take a very fine line, where you in no way can be quoted as praising them but where you don't take 'em on.

President: Um-hum.

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Haldeman: And the point of saying we're both for peace, our job is to bring about peace, you know, go, in other words, turn it around to the, back to the substance. Reiterate your old line, which they'll get tired of playing anyway. But, uh, a lasting peace is what we're concerned with, uh, and that their, their interest is, is, uh, to end, uh, end this war. Your interest is to end all war. And, uh --.

President: The point - they're against this war; I'm against all wars. Tryin' to develop --.

Haldeman: Which is why you're tryin' to end this one in a way that we don't have others. And that, that the great line of that, that you're working at the tough decisions that have to be made to make sure that the teenagers who are here demonstrating over the weekend won't have to go fight another one.

President: I use it a lot, 'n' it irritates the shit out me, boy.

Haldeman: But that's, he said, "If you do that, then it's fine." Uh, the hesitation that he had on doing the press conference was that it might build up the appearance of relating to the events. That's basically the same hesitation that Rogers had, which you might be appearing to react to the, to the marchers. I think that's the case now and he's lookin' at. See, that's what you're gonna think on Saturday afternoon while they're marching. I don't think you're gonna think that on Thursday, when the march is five days past. That's true, there's another one coming but people aren't all that involved in the marches. They knew it happened. Just, uh, 's gonna be s'more. He says if you don't build up the demonstrators, if you can, y'know, on any question on that you take a positive line, then he would vote for the press conference. He doesn't feel it's overexposure.

President: Um-hum.

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Haldeman: He never felt that there was an overexposure question.