

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

Transcript #1: Part of a conversation between President Nixon, H. R. Haldeman, and Stephen B. Bull in the Oval Office between 12:03 pm and 12:09 pm on May 4, 1971.

Conversation No. 490-16#1

Haldeman: They've got a, uh, plan for the Federal Employees for Peace to have a, a meeting in the Lafayette Park tomorrow at noon. We're gon', we're --

President: Just a second. [To White House Operator] Colson, please.

Haldeman: Our, our thought is to go for, have Justice go for an injunction, which they think they can get, and turn it off. And it would seem like it's a good thing not to have happen, at this point, and let the attention focus on the de-. The other bad guys are gonna go on the Congress. Let 'em, let it focus on that.

President: How could Justice get an injunction?

Haldeman: I dunno. They seem to think they can just on the basis of all the problems around or somethin'. But, uh, TV would make a big thing outta, outta the Federal employees demonstrating against the Federal Government, which doesn't seem to have --.

President: What the hell is this? He's got somebody down in the road here [unintelligible] here. Those dirty punks! [Unintelligible]. Okay. There, he's presenting him with a, with a summons.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] one there, didn't they?

President: No, [unintelligible]. Well, who the hell are they? They're a bunch of goddamn

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

Conv. No. 490-16#1 (cont.)

State Department bastards that [unintelligible].

Haldeman: I think most, they're probably mostly HEW, HUD, 'n' OEO and, uh, [unintelligible]. I, I would bet there won't be any State Department people there. I think they got --

President: The word?

Haldeman: -- better sense. They got enough problems without --.

President: [Unintelligible] for Peace. Bunch o' bastards in the bureaucracy! Gotta remember --.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] in the normal course it wouldn't make any difference if they --.

President: [Coughs]

Haldeman: The reason for not letting 'em do it is that TV will make such a big thing out of --.

President: Try to play it calmly. Fine-looking in a nice --.

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: Clean people.

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: [Unintelligible]. How will they enjoin them, on what grounds?

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

Conv. No. 490-16#1 (cont.)

Haldeman: I dunno.

President: [Unintelligible]. They got any legal ground it's just that right now they, I mean, to get some injunction, it'd say --.

Haldeman: They have a permit. They filed for a permit --

President: Oh.

Haldeman: -- and, uh, got it. So they have to --

President: Oh.

Haldeman: -- they have to move on some, some other grounds. But I think they've got, they've got a, doing it on the basis of the other activity here or somethin'.

President: The war will [unintelligible]. The little bastards'll be out on somethin' else.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible].

President: Yeah. Pot [unintelligible].

Haldeman: Federal Employees for Clean Air.

President: Why, they're the dirtiest damn people there are! They throw crap all over the place. Ragged, unkempt, as though the ecology of my time wasn't discovered, huh?

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

Conv. No. 490-16#1 (cont.)

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] the same bunch.

President: [Unintelligible] those bastards yesterday. [Unintelligible] that, that at least answers the charge that [unintelligible]. That's way they get their [unintelligible]. That's sort of a natural --.

Haldeman: That, it's very effectively does --

President: Good. [Unintelligible] well done.

Haldeman: -- 'cause it's --

President: That's right.

Haldeman: -- pretty hard to make that case on that basis.

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

Conv. No. 490-16#2 (cont.)

Transcript #2: Part of a conversation among President Nixon, H. R. Haldeman, and Charles W. Colson in the Oval Office between 12:09 pm and 12:29 pm on May 4, 1971.

Conversation No. 490-16#2

President: How do your, how do all your operations looking, I mean, some other --

Colson: Well, I --

President: -- of Elliot's schemes?

Colson: -- I think well, Mr. President. We, uh, we'll have six Senators at the moment, possibly some more being added this afternoon, who will speak tomorrow on the, attacking Muskie and Humphrey, particularly, uh, [unintelligible] by name.

Haldeman: Really?

Colson: It took courage. We've sent them up speeches this morning. Scott's gonna join 'em. Taft [unintelligible].

President: On what ground did [unintelligible] attack 'em?

Colson: Well, two grounds. Muskie on his charges against the FBI for surveillance of --

President: Right.

Colson: -- Rennie Davis on Earth Day.

President: Right.

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

Conv. No. 490-16#2 (cont.)

Colson: We're sure it comes back to haunt 'im.

President: Right.

Colson: Humphrey for, uh, condemning densities: demonstrations, lobbyists. [Unintelligible] has endorsed them and in fact encouraged them. Muskie obviously for his open endorsement of the May, for the April twenty-fourth demonstration, and his visiting the, uh, demonstrators on the Mall --

President: Yeah.

Colson: -- sending 'em oranges [unintelligible]. He sent 'em oranges today [unintelligible].

President: [Unintelligible].

Colson: I've heard that today.

President: And having somebody from California givin' 'em to 'em?

Haldeman: Ray Irwin's gonna. [Laughs]

Colson: [Unintelligible].

President: Hell of a lot of oranges. Uh, anyway, uh, what's Kennedy doing about all of this?

Colson: He's out of town, conveniently, and, uh, we've been trying to get his --.

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

Conv. No. 490-16#2 (cont.)

President: Smart as hell.

Colson: Yeah.

Haldeman: Shit, he really is, he --

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: -- he really doesn't, he --

President: Fumble that [unintelligible].

Haldeman: -- he stayed off that damn television thing with all those guys. When this comes up, he pops outta town. He was --

President: He was with the veterans.

Haldeman: -- he was with the veterans 'n' he quit them. You know, just incredible demagoguery! He put on that flight jacket with the Presidential seal on it to go down 'n' talk to the veterans.

Colson: He's, uh, he's playing it the smartest of all. He's had nothing to say about April twenty-fourth. He, uh, [unintelligible]. And now with Vietnam Veterans Against the War, 'n' he, uh, I found him yesterday in his office, would not comment. Reporters called four times yesterday and once again this morning and still didn't get a comment. He's not gonna get caught on this one.

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

Conv. No. 490-16#2 (cont.)

President: [Unintelligible] now is the time for you to charge up our guys. They should just, uh, they should take the offensive. Put these in the goddamn lily-livered mealy-mouths, ya know. I mean, some of 'em have been all right, but they wanna get up there 'n' stand up 'n' kick 'em, kick 'em in the balls.

Colson: Well, these --.

President: Jesus Christ, what, just think what they'd do to us, if we'd been involved in such things.

Colson: That's right.

President: Tired of the whole bunch of 'em. Just say that, I mean, throw it around there that, uh, get, they gotta get the impression after all that they're they have condoned it, uh, permissiveness. I don't know; I --.

Colson: Well, this is, this is really --.

President: They, they've [unintelligible]. For Christ's sakes, if they could take us on for those silly damn Birchers, what'n the hell they gonna do with these people?

Colson: That's right.

President: These people are part of them. They come into their offices. They, they also've the same contributors.

Colson: Well, this, this group that has caused the trouble this week was a co-sponsor of the April twenty-fourth show --



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

Conv. No. 490-16#2 (cont.)

President: Rally.

Colson: -- so they --

President: Yeah.

Colson: -- they s-, this --

President: Yeah.

Colson: -- Rennie Davis was --

President: Sure.

Colson: -- this is --

Haldeman: [Unintelligible].

Colson: -- not a --

Haldeman: I don't know.

Colson: -- this isn't the guilt by association. This is direct. These guys one week were for it, and then, when they got out of hand, they're against it.

President: That's right.

## NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

## Tape Subject Log

*(rev. 9/08)*

Conv. No. 490-16#2 (cont.)

Colson: And it c-, it's the hypocrisy of it that I think is, is the grounds for that. There are also some columnists who're, uh, on to this, 'n' when they start using it, I think we can, I think we can build a little backfire here against these fellows.  
[Unintelligible]. This, this week has really raised the hopes of the whole social issue, and these, uh --.

President: It has?

Colson: I think so, Mr. President. I think the, uh, scattering --

President: [Unintelligible].

Colson: -- of the people coming in and outta Washington is, showed that it doesn't take much to, uh, provoke once again the, uh --.

President: The social issue in terms they don't like -- kids with, uh, smokin' pot, [unintelligible], and raisin' hell --

Colson: Blocking traffic 'n' being [unintelligible] and, uh, vandals, destruction, destroying property. [Unintelligible] you never watch television, but if you --

President: No sir!

Colson: -- ever saw the last two minutes of NBC News last night, it, uh, gets 'em better than any Laurel and Hardy comedy that I've ever seen. Did you see the --?

Haldeman: Is that when he hit the guy in the face? John Ehrlichman told us the time.

## NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

## Tape Subject Log

*(rev. 9/08)*

Conv. No. 490-16#2 (cont.)

Colson: Oh, yeah, they, uh, fella out in the street, gettin' out of his car, 'n' he was carrying his raincoat 'n' his umbrella 'n' he never let go of 'em, 'n' he kept goin' around, 'n' he'd pick up a trash can, and it was all, it was like a s-, old silent movie, except you could hear the trash cans. No voices, 'n' he'd, he'd move it out of the street, 'n' the demonstrators'd move it back, 'n' eventually the frustration got too much for him. He walked over the NBC cameraman 'n' just popped him in the nose, 'n' [laughs] all you could see was the camera [unintelligible] up in the air. [Laughs]

President: Good, good.

Colson: Total frustration had it. But what people saw when they saw that was just decent citizens who were pretty fed up with garbage being thrown in the streets --

President: Good.

Colson: -- out of cans.

President: Good, good.

Colson: I was amazed --.

President: I think one thing, of course, is that this gives a bad name to the whole demonstration.

Colson: Yes.

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

Conv. No. 490-16#2 (cont.)

President: Nobody's gonna stop it, you know what I mean. They, it's the last act they remember. I, I, don't you think, Bob, that, uh, awful lot of people are gonna think who, he was in that demonstration in Washington. Who's gonna remember it was the twenty-fourth?

Haldeman: 'S gonna be a big blurb in the dissidence. Not only is it collapsing, but it's by far the most vivid. There's much more --

President: Action.

Colson: No.

Haldeman: -- impressionable type stuff on the, in this, last night's --

President: Well, our guys don't --

Haldeman: -- [unintelligible] than last week.

President: -- our guys should play it just solely in terms of their hypocrisy: they endorsed the demonstrators. In other words, I would even try to say that they distinguished it. I wouldn't say they changed their minds. I would "Let it be noted that," say, "that the people that have endorsed, Humphrey has endorsed, Teddy Kennedy's endorsed." Him too.

Colson: Um-hum.

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

Conv. No. 490-16#2 (cont.)

President: [Unintelligible]. Then let them deny it. The way to make the charge is to just charge that they endorsed demonstration, then let them deny. That's the way to do it.

Colson: Dole did that. He set the stage for that [unintelligible].

President: Did he?

Colson: Yeah, when he, he gave a speech, that was well reported, in which he said, "Let all of those who have called for these demonstrations and encouraged them, all Democratic Senators, come forward now and insist on the preservation of order in Washington." And he, he gave it a good broad brush that, uh, is what I'm sure caused Allen's, uh, disavowing against it. [Unintelligible] guess with the exception of the Kennedy --.

President: Of McGovern?

Colson: Bayh, Bayh, uh --

President: Well, hell --.

Colson: -- he didn't do anything. McGovern --.

President: Bayh probably deplored it. He didn't make any [unintelligible].

Colson: No, McGovern's denounced yesterday.

President: Huh?

## NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

**Tape Subject Log**  
(rev. 9/08)

Conv. No. 490-16#2 (cont.)

Colson: McGovern denounced yesterday.

Haldeman: As they [unintelligible] --

Colson: -- which is a different --

Haldeman: -- it was hurting the cause.

President: Yes --

Haldeman: [Unintelligible].

President: -- hurting the cause, that made all the front pages.

Colson: -- which is a different --.

President: Jesus Christ! Hurting the cause? The point is that they're n-, wrong! Good God, they're wrong.

Colson: Um-hum.

President: It's alright, it means it's alright, fellas, to use violence if it helps the cause. That's the, that's the antith-, that, that speech [unintelligible]. "Are you suggesting, Senator, that you approve violence if it helps the cause?"

Colson: Well, that point we think someone is gonna get in tomorrow. Some --

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

Conv. No. 490-16#2 (cont.)

President: Yes?

Colson: -- of the House fellas are talking this afternoon to Devine. Devine's little group is, uh --

President: Yeah.

Colson: -- speaking half an [unintelligible].

President: Those guys are great, uh, putting all those numbers. Get this, fight the thing. Just fight and talk. They defended Hoover. Nobody paid any attention to 'em.

Colson: That's right.

President: What's happened to Boggs?

Haldeman: It looks like every day they hit Boggs 'n' defend Hoover. Every day there's a --.

President: Just keep it up.

Haldeman: One guy just keeps the drumbeat going.

President: Keep it up.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible].

President: Keep it up. Incidentally I th-, I think Hoover an issue now.

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

Conv. No. 490-16#2 (cont.)

Colson: Um-hum.

President: Let him be an issue. This is a good time. Everybody for him. A-ask the Democratic candidates to say, let them all come out for getting him to retire. 'S all right.

Colson: Well, if we got a little bit of law-and-order concern in the country as a result of what happened this week, uh, it becomes a very bad time politically to attack J. Edgar Hoover or the FBI.

Haldeman: Arresting Rennie Davis --

Colson: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- doesn't hurt, did it?



## NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

## Tape Subject Log

(rev. 9/08)

Conv. No. 490-16#3 (cont.)

Transcript #3: Part of a conversation among President Nixon, H. R. Haldeman, and Charles W. Colson in the Oval Office between 12:09 pm and 12:29 pm on May 4, 1971.

Conversation No. 490-16#3

President: Let me say this. The other thing, the other thing is this: that, uh, this, this, the, the networks will quickly recover. They, uh, they must be dying, don't ya think?

Colson: I'm sure they hated to run that last night.

President: Severeid and the rest, Jesus Christ, they must be dyin' o' [unintelligible]. But, uh, they're, uh, Chancellor now, he snarled around, "It's beautiful day, a beautiful day in the city." Bitch. But my point is that they had to run it, didn't they? Finally, finally had to run one.

Colson: That's right.

President: This really the first time they've run a nasty one. They didn't run anything on November fifteenth or October --.

Haldeman: It's the first time they've really run nasty stuff since Chicago.

President: That's right. Completely nasty stuff.

Colson: And the point, and the point which Cronkite did not let people forget last night when he said, "This is not dissimilar from Chicago." [Unintelligible].

President: [Unintelligible] Police Board Executive Committee complaining about, uh, being [unintelligible] of the hippos.

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

Conv. No. 490-16#3 (cont.)

Colson: No.

President: Have you seen that yet?

Colson: I didn't see that. He's, uh --.

President: See, that's what burned 'em up in Chicago: a lot of them got roughed up. These police didn't rough anybody up --

Colson: No.

President: -- 'cept some of the damn bums.

Colson: No, the police handled it beautifully.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible]. You know, most of these men are behind us.

Colson: Most of the footage, uh, that was shown on this thing, uh, was, was good as far as the police are concerned. They showed 'em using a lot of restraint.  
[Unintelligible]. They, they couldn't avoid covering, got to have scenes, uh,  
[unintelligible].

President: Keep it goin'.

Colson: I suspect there'll be more.

President: Is the position of the administration clear, that we're talkin' strong and firm?

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

Conv. No. 490-16#3 (cont.)

Colson: Yes, sir.

President: No doubts about that? Nobody is squealin' about our position, huh?

Colson: No. N-not at all.

President: Then it's across the country now, huh?

Colson: Well, I didn't see much beyond Washington, but --.

President: But you think it is getting across?

Colson: I think so, yes, sir. And your message ran into, uh, Police Chief Wilson, which came --.

President: That really helped at a very good time.

Haldeman: It really did.

President: Uh --.

Colson: That went on national wires [unintelligible] and --.

Haldeman: And on the networks.

President: Good.

Colson: And got on the networks and on the out-of-town papers. I had a few on my desk.

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

Conv. No. 490-16#3 (cont.)

President: Well, let's come out for the Chief. That's good: law and order.

Colson: Well, he did it beautifully. He, he announced it to his troopers at five a.m. yesterday.

President: Smart, smart. That shows you what a telephone call --.

Haldeman: He's a-, you know, he's a sort of George Patton-type guy, in a way --

Colson: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- I guess. I've never even met the guy, but I --.

President: Tries to charge up his troops.

Haldeman: He wen-, yeah. And yesterday he was out, they made the point that he was out on the front lines at four o'clock yesterday morning, and he, he covered every trouble point. He was zooming all over the city --.

Colson: In his motorcycle.

Haldeman: He got o-out of his squad car [unintelligible].

President: His motorcycle?

Haldeman: He got out of his Chief's car and got in a side-sidecar of his escort's motorcycle. and had it whip around in and out of the cars 'n' stuff. He led the charge up the Hill to get a bunch of people 'n' --.

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

Conv. No. 490-16#3 (cont.)

Colson: When he went out --.

Haldeman: Really great. He's like that, you know, the old-time great generals.

President: Great guy.

Colson: An' and when he went up Friday to the Republican Senators he, uh, to brief them - uh, Kleindienst took him up -- he went up with his helmet on, with his walkie-talkie radios, and he just impressed the devil outta these guys. And [unintelligible] said to him, "Now, Chief, what d'ya gonna do for us?" And he said, "You got your own police force up here, unless you, unless you Senators feel we need some help." [Laughs]

President: Good.

Colson: [Unintelligible].

President: That's right. Put it right to the Senators.

Colson: Oh, [unintelligible].

President: They have, they've always been jealous of that stupid Capitol Police Force, and they oughta clean it up.

Haldeman: Well, his line yesterday showed great skill, y'know, when they said, "Well, don't you think you moved too hard and too fast on it?" And he said, "We'll let the American people be the judge of that."

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

Conv. No. 490-16#3 (cont.)

President: Um-hum.

Colson: That's pretty [unintelligible].

President: So aren't we lucky, aren't we lucky to have 'im?

Haldeman: We really are.

President: That we got him rather than some dumb jerk like, y' know, which we could have had, that jackass Murphy, who's in New York or --

Colson: [Unintelligible].

President: -- jackass from New Haven or --?

Colson: And he programs beautifully. We talked to him Saturday night about things he should say 'n' he just, just took it word for word and he did the same thing Sunday.

President: What's his background?

Colson: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] gotta find out. Nobody knows. He has a Southern drawl.

President: Yeah.

Colson: He's from the South.

## NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

**Tape Subject Log**  
(rev. 9/08)

Conv. No. 490-16#3 (cont.)

President: Well, I'd like to know, I'd like to know educational background and --.

Colson: I'll get it.

President: This guy's got to be a hell of a fella. He's gotta be an' he's got great talent. I don't care whether he went to school or not. He's got talent such as you don't have among most of our bureaucrats, y'know, judgment --

Colson: He's got --

President: -- talent

Colson: -- he's got the feel.

President: -- poise, style, he's got that 'n' stature.

Haldeman: And command. His, he gets out an' --

President: He leads --

Haldeman: -- [unintelligible].

President: -- inspires --.

Haldeman: Got guts. Nothin' bothers him. He loves, li-like that last demonstration, when they were attacking the Justice Department, he went in there and, y'know, or, he personally ordered the crowd to disperse. They didn't disperse, and he personally

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

Conv. No. 490-16#3 (cont.)

threw the first tear gas canister in.

President: Good.

Haldeman: Good God, and lobbed it in himself. [Laughs]

President: Did he?

Haldeman: Oh yeah.

Colson: Oh yeah, yeah. I know [unintelligible].

Haldeman: Th-that was last year, last autumn [unintelligible].

President: Oh, that's right. That was last year.

Haldeman: That's when they marched on Justice Department.

President: And he threw the first can?

Colson: Yep, and was, and was well covered in the press doing it.

Haldeman: Damn right, he made sure he's like, he, very Patton-like, he made sure the cameras were there.

President: [Unintelligible] funny.

Haldeman: Then he got on the bullhorn, y 'know, and ordered 'em to disperse. Then he



## NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

Tape Subject Log  
(rev. 9/08)

Conv. No. 490-16#3 (cont.)

lobbed the tear gas in.

President: That's the way to handle 'em.

Colson: Um-hum.

President: That's the way to handle 'em.

Haldeman: With this kind of police force you've gotta have a guy like Patton 'cause you got a  
--

President: Half of 'em are Negroes.

Haldeman: -- you got a potentially shaky police force in here that, because they keep pourin'  
these blacks in --.

Colson: He keeps them fired up. He keeps 'em, he keeps the *esprit de corps* going, which  
is [unintelligible].

President: [Unintelligible] is, uh, you know, we, we knew that the veterans' thing had been,  
had hurt us. I know, we knew it could be temporary but we got a benefit out of  
this we didn't expect --

Colson: Um-hum.

President: -- don't you think?

Colson: Absolutely.

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

Conv. No. 490-16#3 (cont.)

President: It may have, it may have re-re-re-issue, re-, has brought up the word "law and order." What about the idea that, some of the news summary and all that they seem to think of, you know, well, just raise the war issue again --

Colson: Um-hum.

President: -- when it hurts. You don't think so?

Colson: Um-hum. I don't, well, to the extent that it raises it, Mr. President, it causes people to arch their backs and say, "Well, by God, we're not gonna be pushed around by kids in the street."

President: Um-hum.

Colson: And, uh, if it raises it, it raises it in a helpful way. The reason that the doves are saying what they are saying is because it's so. The, uh --.

Haldeman: Same effect as the November moratorium in sixty-nine.

Colson: Yeah.

President: You mean, it went too far, backfired.

Colson: [Unintelligible] really did. October --.

President: The October one, the October one particularly.

Colson: They're worried on the Hill that, uh, if they now start pressing for an immediate

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

Conv. No. 490-16#3 (cont.)

legislative end to the war, it'll look like they caved in to this kind of protest in the street. It has a --.

President: All r-, get hold, that's a speech that needs to be made. Somebody has got to take that on, 'n' these people are giving in to the protesters, they're giving in to the protesters. We ca-, we must not react to [unintelligible] threat. The idea that policy is to be made in the Senate, it's not to be in the House, and it's not to be made in the streets. They oughta start crackin' that hard, don't ya think so, Bob?

Colson: Yes.

Haldeman: Yes.

Colson: That's one of the speeches we have up there [unintelligible].

Haldeman: That's the, that's the line they've been --

Colson: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- yeah, been developing.

President: Keep right at 'em.

Colson: Yeah.

Haldeman: That --

Colson: I think that [unintelligible].

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

Conv. No. 490-16#3 (cont.)

Haldeman: -- they're, the other side is very bitter, moaning about how this is gonna kill McGovern-Hatfield.

Colson: [Unintelligible] I, I don't believe it's, it, uh, real, raises the war issue, and I, from our standpoint, in a negative way, it may, uh, raise a little more of the law and order concern to try and work itself --.

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: Well, the one thing that, that I think bothered 'em on the news that maybe wasn't a very good idea was this helicopter landing on the Monument grounds. That's one I still don't understand, either.

Colson: No, no.

President: I don't think it was turned out that bad.

Haldeman: Uh, but it was. What, what was the point? The streets were open; they could have driven in. Why did they come in in helicopters 'n' stage a big thing, ya know?

President: Yeah. What I meant is it, that may bother us, but it, it was right on the general theory. The helicopter landing: people like that, too, they --

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] --

President: -- oughta do that --

## NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

**Tape Subject Log**  
(rev. 9/08)

Conv. No. 490-16#3 (cont.)

Haldeman: -- probably right.

President: -- too. [Unintelligible] all the time.

Haldeman: Probably right. And it --.

President: Helicopter, sure! Comin' in there with a helicopter, ya know: dih-dih-dih. Ya know, the kids get out their toy pistol: bih-bih-bih-bih-bih-bih-buh. Hell, they love it. If we're right on the basic issue --

Haldeman: It adds, adds to the --.

President: -- if we're right on the basic issue, it adds to the drama. If you're not right on the basic issue, it doesn't make any difference. That's what I feel.

Colson: The whole, the whole key to that --.

President: Incidentally, they, they protected the flag, and I am glad that, that that fellow over that at State did it, uh, Macomber.

Colson: I sent you in a call recommendation on him.

President: Yeah.

Colson: He's a bright [unintelligible].

President: Right. It's good. And, uh, another thing, too, is that, by God, I, too, did you find

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

Conv. No. 490-16#3 (cont.)

anybody that is willing to walk up and tear down the goddamn Viet Cong flag? I want it torn down every place they have it.

Haldeman: We've still gotta mobilize --.

President: Somebody's gotta do that! We can't have that flag flyin' around here. Fight, get them into a fight about that! That's a lovely thing to get into a fight about. Nobody has a right to carry a damn flag of an enemy around here! Don't you agree? What do you think, Chuck?

Colson: I agree with you. Uh, they were flying on the inside of the compound yesterday, where the, uh --

President: Yeah.

Colson: -- kids --

President: All right.

Colson: -- could --.

President: Get the hardhats, uh, or somebody, uh --.

Colson: Well, the hardhats turned out up on Pennsylvania Avenue en masse yesterday.

President: Yeah, anyone who would just up 'n' bust the bastards.

Haldeman: Yeah, I heard they made it, moved in on one --.

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

Conv. No. 490-16#3 (cont.)

Colson: [Unintelligible] the cops had cleared out an intersection, and it filled up again, so the four construction workers came out and took the one kid [unintelligible].

Haldeman: Did the hardhats take him and [unintelligible]? Was it [unintelligible]?

Colson: [Unintelligible].

President: That sorta pops 'em --

Haldeman: Rather than --

President: -- right up.

Haldeman: -- us, giving 'em the business then, too.

President: That's right. What's that? The what?

Haldeman: Well, they've been tryin' to move this, the hardhats to join with 'em, and --

President: I know, I know, I know.

Haldeman: -- and this, uh, is good for them to take 'em on.

## NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

**Tape Subject Log**  
(rev. 9/08)

Conv. No. 490-16#3 (cont.)

Transcript #4: Part of a conversation between President Nixon and Rose Mary Woods in the Oval Office between 12:29 pm and 12:35 pm on May 4, 1971.

Conversation No. 490-16#4

President: What do you think of these people that have been raising hell? Did ya see any of that?

Woods: [Unintelligible]. Yeah. I was, comin' to work yesterday morning, a lot of 'em [unintelligible] the papers 'n' everything [unintelligible] in front o' the car. I saw them push one Volkswagen bus about -- oh, eight or ten of them -- push it right into the side of a woman's car while we were sitting there [clears throat] held up in traffic. It was back in her lot, and they just pushed it right into the side of her, just rammed into the side of her car.

President: I think they hurt themselves with this.

Woods: Oh, they did, they did, because I think it was great when you saw citizens out pushing 'em around and --.

President: We got on the right side o' this. I called the Chief, 'n' they all reported, he reported to everybody that I called him and backed the Chief all the way. Got arres-arrested eight thousand of the damn people 'n' that's good, too. We wanna play a tough line with these people now [unintelligible].

Woods: The next thing this morning now they have a rally that they're gonna be telling all of them to, to no violence at all, you know.

President: Yeah.



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

Conv. No. 490-16#4 (cont.)

Woods: They're, they're sending a march up, Justice to march out in the street if they can.

President: No violence, huh?

Woods: "No violence," he says, "The wave of the future is [unintelligible]." You know, they get somebody big [unintelligible].

President: Yeah.

Woods: They're awful-lookin' people.

President: Yeah.

Woods: Umh!

President: Are they? They got the long, the long hair 'n' beards?

Woods: Oh, long hair and dirty and just, uh, crummy-looking people. Just the lowest of low.

President: The American people sitting there, now when they were veterans, people'd react differently. But if these people are loose, they don't have to say they're a bunch o' damn kids --

Woods: No.

President: -- out there stinkin' 'n' raisin' hell 'n' all on dope, ya know, too.

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

Conv. No. 490-16#4 (cont.)

Woods: Oh, yeah, yeah. This was, this was so, uh, it really, they, they, they, if you gave, to think of them was be-, I was; uh --.

President: I'm glad that Humphrey 'n' all the rest are tied right in with 'em. They had to, they're tryin' to repudiate it.

Woods: They're tryin' to repudiate it, but --

President: Too late.

Woods: -- it's too late. It is. They've been with them all this time.

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

Transcript #5: Part of a conversation between President Nixon and Rose Mary Woods in the Oval Office between 12:29 pm and 12:35 pm on May 4, 1971.

Conversation No. 490-16#5

President: But you know, the, the, I really feel we gotta railroad this. This finally turned out a good break. Took a little time, but they finally got on television. The networks were trying desperately to make these people look peaceful 'n' decent 'n', you know, everything. Finally, the networks had to report --

Woods: They had to cover --.

President: -- what a lousy bunch of bastards they were.

Woods: Yeah.

President: Don't you think so? And I think it is just great.

Woods: I do, too.