

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

Transcript #1: Part of a conversation among President Nixon, John D. Ehrlichman, and George P. Shultz in the Oval Office between 3:07 pm and 3:17 pm on May 4, 1971.

Conversation No. 490-24#1

Ehrlichman: I talked to Pat Gray a few minutes ago, and he says they're surrounded by animals over there, the Justice Department.

President: Uh, I cancelled my appointment with Mitchell. I didn't think that he should come over here today. [Unintelligible] is a very high-minded sort of police chief.

Ehrlichman: What would you think about, uh, Mrs. Jean Palant's suggestion? What would you think about a Presidential unit citation, police department --

President: Damn right.

Ehrlichman: -- and have them come over on the South Lawn for a parade, kind of like a state-arrival parade, and, uh --

President: Just stand up for the police.

Ehrlichman: [Unintelligible]?

President: [Unintelligible].

Ehrlichman: Congratulate them on this conduct and congratulate them on their being the only police outfit in the nation that's dropped the crime rate and, uh --.

President: Get them to go on next week.

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Ehrlichman: Well, [unintelligible].

President: Yeah.

Ehrlichman: [Unintelligible].

President: What about the, what about the fact they, your point, though, that the, that the [unintelligible] Guard's [unintelligible] --.

Ehrlichman: Then the other one I would do is the National Guard, on another occasion, with a Presidential unit citation. Now they have drills, and you could go there. You wouldn't have to have them all here. [Unintelligible].

President: I wouldn't wanna, uh, [unintelligible] --.

Ehrlichman: [Unintelligible] to have the police departments [unintelligible].

President: Now that would not be at the same level that you'd give, say, the Marine Corps.

Ehrlichman: Oh, no. No, this [unintelligible] --

President: [Unintelligible] don't want [unintelligible].

Ehrlichman: -- particularly worked up. And there isn't any such --.

President: [Unintelligible].

Ehrlichman: Yeah --

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President: Yeah.

Ehrlichman: -- we'd have to work something up.

President: Yeah, whether it be certificate, certificate of merit, or something like that?

Ehrlichman: Yeah.

President: Certificate of, uh --.

Ehrlichman: Citation of merit or something like that.

President: Citation of merit --

Ehrlichman: Yeah.

President: -- or something like that, uh, or, and then [unintelligible] you ought to pick a, now and then we ought to pick another police or civilian outfit someplace else, you know.

Ehrlichman: We can do that.

President: But here in Washington.

Unknown: It's a very good idea.

Ehrlichman: Have the wives and children come here and get the [unintelligible].

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President: Get them here, and, uh --

Ehrlichman: Yeah.

President: -- there's a lot, also there are a hell of a lot of blacks, haven't they?

Ehrlichman: That's the point. Yeah.

Shultz: At least half.

President: [Unintelligible].

Ehrlichman: [Unintelligible].

President: They handled themselves awfully well.

Ehrlichman: Yeah, yeah, they sure did.

President: When you stop to think those people [unintelligible] high school [unintelligible].  
And a lot of those schools --.

Ehrlichman: Oh, yeah. That's right. Well, most of 'em are, you know --.

President: Army graduates?

Ehrlichman: Yeah, they recruited 'em out of the service, an awful lot of 'em.

President: Good.

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Ehrlichman: They've all had military service, and then they caught 'em just before they were discharged --

President: Good.

Ehrlichman: -- 'n' signed 'em up to be in the police department --

President: Great.

Ehrlichman: -- so that they've got a lot --

President: 'S a good lesson to a lot of other people.

Ehrlichman: -- lot o' veterans, and, uh, they're pretty well paid. The morale is pretty good, and, uh, by and large --.

President: The way Wilson used that, I just, I called him, I remember, I called the op- --.

Ehrlichman: He called you here?

President: That's right. It was about seven o'clock my time, and he just, and I got him on the phone [unintelligible].

Ehrlichman: No, we were all over in a meeting at Justice.

President: Oh, I thought you were meeting here.

Ehrlichman: You caught me there.

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President: Then he came in.

Ehrlichman: Then I got him from the other room to come in and, uh, pick up the phone.

President: I talked to him for two minutes. He put it on the police radio. Build up the boys.

Ehrlichman: Yeah.

President: It oughta be done, you know, for people to do. I also had uh, Ziegler say another thing today, which shows ya, you'll appreciate it. I told him to say to the press, uh, "The President particularly wanted to express his appreciation for 'n' his commendation of the thousands of Government workers who came to work on Monday and were not intimidated, who did their job, uh, despite the, the difficulty," and this shows that they're, they're great, uh, a higher rate of understanding, [unintelligible] --

Ehrlichman: Yeah.

President: -- [unintelligible] Mondays --

Ehrlichman: Yeah.

President: -- to let them know the truth that you could, you know, that most of the Government workers are against the war. Christ's sakes, they can't be anything else in this town.

Ehrlichman: They're tryin'

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President: [Unintelligible].

Ehrlichman: -- they're tryin' to dampen it off, ya know, with this demonstration tomorrow across the street --

President: Oh, they [unintelligible] --

Ehrlichman: -- Government Employees for Peace.

President: -- tomorrow? I thought it was supposed to be today.

Ehrlichman: No. Tomorrow,

President: Yeah.

Ehrlichman: And, uh, so --

President: [Unintelligible].

Ehrlichman: -- uh, Pat Gray agrees that, uh, it ought to be denied. So we denied 'em a permit, and they may go to court, and the court may force us to let 'em over there. But we think we got a good argument for denial on the ground that it could become a focal point for these animals to come around and, and, uh --.

President: These are really animals, aren't they?

Ehrlichman: Pretty gross. [Laughs] So, uh, we're, we're not gonna encourage this, and it just seems, i-it just seems wise not to let it appear that public employees sided with

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these demonstrators.

President: No, sir. [Unintelligible].

Ehrlichman: Now, there's another outfit: this Carl McIntyre wanted to come down and --.

President: Oh, that crazy nut.

Ehrlichman: Yeah.

President: Same thing.

Ehrlichman: We get, we get all the left wing --.

President: Don't get that son-of-a-bitch here near us. Now he's just as bad on the other side.

Ehrlichman: We denied him too.

President: He's bad news, bad news. A crazy creature.

Ehrlichman: Yeah. Now he probably won't as a Ku Kluxer. He won't sue, but, uh, the others may. And, uh --.

President: What was he gonna do? Who was he gonna bring?

Ehrlichman: He was gonna protest his [unintelligible] win the war and, uh, were gonna have a "win the war" rally, 'n' that probably would a' been one big fist fight between the two groups.



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President: What about encouraging it?

Ehrlichman: [Laughs] That's [unintelligible] --.

President: [Unintelligible]. When will it, uh? [Unintelligible] get a good [unintelligible] view of this [unintelligible].

Ehrlichman: Okay.

President: Don't you think it's a good idea?

Shultz: I think it's a good idea

President: Demand that he --

Shultz: -- very, uh --

President: -- demand that he give us --.

Shultz: -- commendable, and it's, uh --.

President: See it. By golly, they all came in, ya know, um, ya know the thing is that -- Ziegler, come back in please -- the thing is, George, put yourself in the position of the average little guy, the clerks and the stenos and the rest. Ya know, they, they live out in their little old houses and apartments and the rest. They listen to their radio and the television, read the *Washington Post*. They get scared.

Shultz: Yeah.

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President: They really get scared.

Shultz: I think, literally, that they can get scared by something like this.

President: Huh? They really can be, ya know what I mean? Hell, other people get scared. [Unintelligible]. So these people proceeded to get in their cars and come [unintelligible] a very, very good excuse to sitt an', to sit at home and be intimidated because, well, it's a good cause and many of them believe in it, uh, I'm sure believe in it. [Unintelligible] against the war.

Shultz: Yeah.

President: But they came. Pretty damn good.

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Transcript #2: Part of a conversation among President Nixon, John D. Ehrlichman, George P. Shultz and Ronald L. Ziegler in the Oval Office between 3:17 pm and 3:19 pm on May 4, 1971.

Conversation No. 490-24#2

President: I just wanted to be sure, Ron, that you, uh, I just talked to G-George Shultz and John. Really build up the start o' your news thing with the building up of the [unintelligible] thing. That is, a commen-, special commendation, I mean, that the President wishes to [unintelligible] and that he just looked over the number that they, they, they were [unintelligible].

Ehrlichman: The average absentee rate was, uh --

President: The absentee rate was, uh --

Ehrlichman: -- improved on by one or two percent.

President: -- was, was less than, than the usual --

Ehrlichman: Yes.

President: -- [unintelligible] Monday, which indicated that, that whatever their views may be about the, uh, administration or its foreign p-policies, that their first, uh, dedication is to do their jobs. And they're not gonna be intimidated by, uh, uh --

Ehrlichman: Unlawful.

President: -- illegal and, uh, uh, violent conduct. [Unintelligible].

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Conv. No. 490-24#2 (cont.)

Ehrlichman: [Unintelligible] put a statement out yesterday on this, and, uh --.

President: We'll back it up. [Unintelligible] we, we've praised the police; now, let's praise the Government workers.

Ehrlichman: We're denying a permit to Federal Employees for Peace across the street tomorrow --

Ziegler: [Unintelligible].

Ehrlichman: -- for a rally [unintelligible].

Ziegler: Oh, good. [Unintelligible].

Ehrlichman: Four hundred people.

Ziegler: [Unintelligible].

President: Any reason that we don't use fire hoses on these people --

Unknown: Nothing better.

President: -- rather than that darned, uh, tear gas?

Ehrlichman: No, uh, slippery streets slow traffic --

President: Yeah.

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Conv. No. 490-24#2 (cont.)

Ehrlichman: -- and, uh, that's one of the, one of the major considerations on Monday, but, I, I, that was my initial reaction was, we ought to soak 'em down. Chief says, "Please don't make the streets wet." He says that slows the traffic by fifty percent.

President: Oh.

Ehrlichman: He says the name of the game is to keep the traffic moving, so, uh --

Ziegler: Of course, fire hoses turned on the crowds; that makes a worse picture than tear gas.

President: Does it?

Ehrlichman: Yeah, there isn't much of a picture with tear gas --.

Ziegler: [Clears throat] Just people running and a little smoke. You get, you know, those big fire hoses goin' on a crowd --

President: I see.

Ziegler: -- of people like that, you could probably --.

President: It's awfully effective.

Ehrlichman: Yes, sir, it's very --

President: And maybe --

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Conv. No. 490-24#2 (cont.)

Ehrlichman: -- effective, and the Europeans use 'em, you know, frequently.

President: The Germans.

Ehrlichman: Yeah.

President: They, when we were in Berlin, they took those fire hoses out, and they cleaned those streets fast.

Ehrlichman: Those trucks, they have trucks with water guns

President: [Unintelligible].

Ehrlichman: -- and --.

Ziegler: Those things really pour out the power too.

Ehrlichman: Yeah, they can knock a guy quite a ways. The, uh, uh, we were hoping there would be no rain Monday for the same reason.

President: Yeah --

Ehrlichman: [Unintelligible].

President: -- there wasn't any.

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Ehrlichman: There was none, and it was, it was a good thing. The damn hippies opened fire hydrants a number of places, and, uh, that caused a slow-down. They just, they just ran from one to the other and they [unintelligible].

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Transcript #3: Part of a conversation among President Nixon, John D. Ehrlichman, George P. Shultz, and H. R. Haldeman in the Oval Office between 3:19 pm and 4:10 pm on May 4, 1971.

Conversation No. 490-24#3

President: After this, after this riot, his doesn't look so bad now.

Ehrlichman: He thinks that, uh, we're having another little, little fracas incidentally right now.

President: Who's fightin' now?

Ehrlichman: Well, up at the Justice Department the police at two-forty informed the demonstrators that they must clear the area. They didn't, they're starting to arrest them all. There are between thirty-five hundred and four thousand [unintelligible] were there when they gave them notice. They've arrested six hundred and eighty-five so far and they're continuing. It'll probably take two hours to make individual arrests of all of them. And, uh, we're gonna put the troops back on the bridges tonight just to make sure everybody gets home all right.

President: What's the, uh, they're just determined that a lot sit there and raise hell, is that it?

Ehrlichman: Clog the jails. The fifteen hundred that we've got in the Coliseum won't get out.

President: Well, what can you do to get them out?

Ehrlichman: Oh, hell, starve 'em, if necessary. Just turn off the water and food, ya know.

Haldeman: That's easy.



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Conv. No. 490-24#3 (cont.)

President: Oh, you mean you haven't freed them?

Ehrlichman: Uh, well, no, the, the point is they refuse to be mugged and fingerprinted, ya see -  
-

President: Well --

Ehrlichman: -- and they --.

President: -- they can't be forced to be mugged and fingerprinted.

Ehrlichman: Well, uh, there's a --

President: Why didn't the others find that out?

Ehrlichman: -- there's a way out the door, ya see, and, uh, the way you get out is you get mugged and fingerprinted [unintelligible] --

President: I see.

Ehrlichman: -- and, uh, posts collateral, and you go, and they're all saying, "The hell with that. We'll stay here." I don't know, maybe they've solved that while we've been talking --

President: Oh, hell, [unintelligible].

Ehrlichman: -- but that was the problem.

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Conv. No. 490-24#3 (cont.)

President: Turn off their food.

Ehrlichman: Sure.

President: You didn't [unintelligible] any food. You run out of water.

Ehrlichman: Go home, you know, so, uh, they're just trying to be ornery and, uh --.

President: They're smart. [Unintelligible] every tactic.

Ehrlichman: They got Dr. Spock in there with 'em so, uh --

President: Good. He'll help.

Ehrlichman: You asked me if he was caught last night. I didn't realize if he was.

President: I didn't know [unintelligible].

Ehrlichman: He's been in the pen with the rest of 'em.

President: Didn't he discover some cure for cancer or something?

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Transcript #4: Part of a conversation among President Nixon, John D. Ehrlichman, George P. Shultz, and H. R. Haldeman in the Oval Office between 3:19 pm and 4:10 pm on May 4, 1971.

Conversation No. 490-24#4

Ehrlichman: We got a lot of very talented guys in Justice.

President: [Unintelligible].

Ehrlichman: [Unintelligible] who are worrying about this. Wi-Wil-Wilson is moving these guys along. He's in charge of this process and he's a tough old Texan and he's, he's taking care of this, and they've got Norm Carlson, who's the head of the Bureau of Prisons, looking after this holding operation. He's the top --

President: Yeah.

Ehrlichman: -- penologist in the area.

President: Is he pretty good?

Ehrlichman: Very good, young bushy-tailed guy, an' so, uh, I think we're, we're in very good hands over there. They're handling it very well. [Unintelligible] they, they'll, they outmaneuvered these guys that are returned so far and I think, uh, they'll continue to do so. I sent you a couple of phone-call suggestions, uh, Mayor Washington, uh, for one who damped off some militant blacks who were threatening to make some real problems for us on Monday --

President: Um-hum.

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Conv. No. 490-24#4 (cont.)

Ehrlichman: -- and, uh, ol' Kleindeinst has just been, uh, sittin' at his desk since Saturday over there and, and, uh, doin' a hell of a job.

President: He's done very well.

Ehrlichman: Very well, yeah.

President: I'll call him.