



Conversation No. 347-4

TRANSCRIPT OF EXCERPTS FROM THE RECORDING OF A MEETING
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND MESSRS. HALDEMAN AND MITCHELL ON
JUNE 30, 1972 IN THE OVAL OFFICE FROM 12:55 TO 2:10 P.M.

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FIRST EXCERPT

HALDEMAN: Well, there's another factor. The longer you wait the more risk each hour. Really, you run the risk of more stuff, valid or invalid surfacing on the Watergate caper type of thing.

PRESIDENT: You couldn't possibly do it if you got (unintelligible)

(both speak at once)

HALDEMAN: (Unintelligible) positive then you're stuck...

PRESIDENT: That's the other thing, if there is something that does come out, we hope nothing will, it may not, but there's always the risk.

HALDEMAN: As of now there's no problem there, 'cause as of any moment in the future there is every single potential problem.

PRESIDENT: Nope, I'd cut the loss fast. I'd cut it fast. If we're going to do it, I'd cut it fast. That's my view, generally speaking. And I wouldn't -- and I don't think though, as a matter of fact, I don't think the story, if we -- if you put in in human terms, I think the story is positive rather than negative, because as I said I was preparing the answer for that press conference -- I just wrote it out, as I usually do, the ones that I think are terribly sensitive. And I know but by golly (unintelligible) a hell of a lot of people'll like that answer. They will. And if it made anybody else that asked any other question on it look like a savage son-of-a-bitch, which I thoroughly intended them to look like.

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SECOND EXCERPT

PRESIDENT: **RESTRICTED-"D"**

MITCHELL: (unintelligible) except to resolve the Westchester County problem with all the sympathy in the world.

PRESIDENT: That's great.

MITCHELL: (unintelligible)

HALDEMAN: With you taking this move, which people won't expect you to do, will be a surprise.

PRESIDENT: No, if it is a surprise (pause) Otherwise, you're right, it will be tied to Watergate. It won't lighten me. If you wait to long. If it simmers down.

HALDEMAN: And if other stuff develops on Watergate. The problem is, it's always the potential of something.

MITCHELL: Other than that (unintelligible) not much harder

HALDEMAN: Nuts! That's right, it would be hard to hard line Mitchell's departure under

UNIDENTIFIED: Ridiculous. (Pause) (Door closes) (Pause) (Background noise)

PRESIDENT: I just want him to be happy...

UNIDENTIFIED: later...

PRESIDENT: that Martha's not hurt.

HALDEMAN: Yeah.