



TRANSCRIPT OF A RECORDING OF A MEETING
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT, JOHN EHRLICHMAN, AND
RONALD ZIEGLER, ON APRIL 16, 1973, FROM 3:27
TO 4:02 P.M. AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
BUILDING

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EHRLICHMAN: That's how it stands.

PRESIDENT: Fine.

(Pause)

EHRLICHMAN: Look, if you don't mind, I'd say that...

(Pause)

PRESIDENT: Gray denies to Petersen that he ever got the bundle. Oh, he's a dumb son-of-a-bitch. Well, Petersen tells me that he's told Haldeman I mean Ehrlichman. He was very (unintelligible) Mitchell (unintelligible) this, Petersen being honest.

(Tape noise)

EHRLICHMAN: Dean informed Liddy that Hunt should leave (unintelligible)

(Tape Noise)

PRESIDENT: (unintelligible) the idea that Dean, (unintelligible). But you warned him, didn't you?

EHRLICHMAN: Sure did. There (unintelligible) I was (unintelligible).

PRESIDENT: You didn't see it?

EHRLICHMAN: No, what was in it? Could have been shredded newspaper, as far as I know. So that, uh,

PRESIDENT: Well, what

HALDEMAN: well it could be...

PRESIDENT: What will (unintelligible) Dean will say, Dean say?

EHRLICHMAN: Dean will say what he put in it, I suppose. See, Dean arrived at my office with a, a, scotch-taped, sealed big envelope and handed it to, to Gray. What

EHRlichman: Some of them were on the leak scandal. So, uh,

PRESIDENT: Good...

EHRlichman: ...he's, he's not seeing me five times a month on Watergate.

PRESIDENT: Fine, well, listen, John, Ron. Let's, let this go tonight. Fair enough? If that's all right with you?

ZIEGLER: Did you want to, uh, to meet Garment for five minutes before you see Rogers?

PRESIDENT: No. I'll have, I'll have to put that off. I've got Rogers, I've got to run. I know Grament's views and uh, and uh, you, you agree?

EHRlichman: I agree totally. (Laughs) I mean, it's therapy for Garment is the reason, you see.

PRESIDENT: No, tell him that I, that I feel, that very personally, but I want to get a little that I've had a long talk with the U.S., with Petersen. There is a reason. You give him a little bull shit and tell him (unintelligible) had a long talk. There are reasons we can't say today, that there will be developments during the day. Going to be public. Some things that I have in mind (unintelligible) piece of paper on that, and I'll see, I'll see him before (unintelligible). Well, is it going to be that much of a problem? You think I should see him? Maybe he's ready to blow it, you know, I don't. Wait 'till I see Rogers. Tell him to stick around.

ZIEGLER: All right.

PRESIDENT: Tie it in with Rogers. Why don't you do that? How's that?

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(Unintelligible)

PRESIDENT: There's the contents of Gray's safe?

EHRlichman: No. Dean had told me that before Gray got there, I think I, I can't be sure of this but in any event, I, I knew what it purported to be.

PRESIDENT: But what, where and when was Gray told that it was not really the Watergate?

EHRlichman: I don't know. I don't know. It may have been told him in my presence or not, I just'.

PRESIDENT: But, you think he was told?

EHRlichman: I, I, he says he was, and I don't have any reason to doubt it, but I, I can't swear that I heard that said. Ah and uh again, I can't (unintelligible).

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible with tape noise)

EHRlichman: Could say, you know, it may be that his story is I opened it and it was full of paper napkins or, or, uh, you know, some damn thing. (Tape noise) But if he says I was not in Ehrlichman's office and I did not receive a big manila envelope from Dean, then I'm gonna have to, I'm gonna have to dispute that. (Tape noise) Saw em do it. (Tape noise) If their men do that

PRESIDENT: They apprehended him?

EHRlichman: Yeah.

(Tape noise)

PRESIDENT: Has he testified to that, John, or do you think-

EHRlichman: He told the U.S. Attorney that.

PRESIDENT: That what?

EHRlichman: That he gave him an envelope there that was the contents of the Hunt safe.

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible) (Tape noise)

EHRlichman: Yeah-uh, Dick Howard just got a subpoena from the Grand Jury.

PRESIDENT: Yeah. (Tape noise)

EHRlichman: The FBI agent who called said, Uh "I'm coming over to serve you with a subpoena from the Grand Jury, Mr. Howard. You may want to go and talk with NO. Dean, uh, in case you want to get any advice."

PRESIDENT: Did he talk to Dean? (Tape noise),

EHRlichman: No, fortunately, he talked to Colson. Colson, uh, had told him that Dean was over the hill, (unintelligible, tape noise) cautioned him, and then he told me and said, "Boy, you got, you got an outpost over there. Well, (tape noise) U.S. Attorney's having the FBI agents send everybody a subpoena to go talk to Dean."

PRESIDENT: Because he was (unintelligible) the practice.

EHRlichman: Well, I hope that's what they thought, but prob-
-more probably they'd like Dean to, to sit there and listen to the guy's story and then, uh, uh call over and let them know, uh, what's going on.

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible, tape noise) Dean
(unintelligible) apparently he's-
(Tape noise)

EHRlichman: I must caution you about that because it's certainly improper for him to be counselling any of our people.

PRESIDENT: I've got to talk to him. He's got to quit counselling anybody right now.

EHRlichman: Let me, let me finish this, uh...

PRESIDENT: Oh, sure, John. Did (tape noise) want to tell you about the other because that he'll be coming to ask you about it. I'm not asking you to make up any story, but I'm just simply saying, for God's sakes. I just can't (tape noise, unintelligible) goddamned dumb Gray, the Director of the FBI, in the position of having two White House people say he got an envelope and he doesn't remember it. I heard you talked to him. What did he say to you last night?

EHRLICHMAN: He said he can't say that.

PRESIDENT: What did he say to you though?

EHRLICHMAN: (unintelligible) he said, I said uh, um...

PRESIDENT: After (unintelligible).

EHRLICHMAN: Dean, Dean, was saying so and so, and he said "He can't say that." And I said, he already has. But he said, "I destroyed it." Well, (tape noise) that's it. Uh, you know, that's uh, pretty (tape noise) tough he's (unintelligible) if he does and (tape noise) damned if he doesn't not. (Unintelligible) sure putting the best face on what they did to Strachan over there. Questioned by the prosecutors. Despite considerable fencing, he refused to discuss the matter and was excused by the prosecutor. According to Strachan, uh, then they, you mustn't say anything to anybody about this because I suppose he wasn't supposed to call over here.

PRESIDENT: Uh-I-I...

EHRLICHMAN: He called, he called to get advice. He said they really worked him over, said stuff as, "Listen, Strachan, you're going to jail; think about your wife, think about your baby and how would you like to be disbarred, and..."

PRESIDENT: I know. I know.

EHRLICHMAN: You know, that kind of stuff.

PRESIDENT: I knew they were going to work him over. (Tape noise) He asked for a lawyer?

EHRLICHMAN: Yeah, no, they asked him to get a lawyer. They kept stressing it. They wanted him to get a lawyer and I think what they're doing is setting him up for immunity.

PRESIDENT: Well. That safe, John, something about the goddamned notebooks (unintelligible, tape noise) he said, notebook.

EHRLICHMAN: Yeah, I know. He's said that right along.

PRESIDENT: And there were?

EHRLICHMAN: Oh, I don't know. I honestly don't. Now, Kehrli and the Secret Service agents were there when that safe was opened and, uh,

(Tape noise) (Unintelligible)

EHRLICHMAN: I never tried to appoint myself for that.
(Tape Noise) So they're still on this, uh...

PRESIDENT: That's your only vulnerability, John.

EHRLICHMAN: ...deep six and, uh, (unintelligible) FBI business and, uh, Liddy. Well, that's interesting that, that Dean would take that remark and go out and act on it.

(Tape noise)

PRESIDENT: Deep sixing?

EHRLICHMAN: No, the Liddy deal.

(Tape noise)

PRESIDENT: Told (unintelligible).

EHRLICHMAN: (unintelligible) Yeah, yeah, that it came through Dean.

(Tape Noise)

PRESIDENT: But, but apparently they didn't leave in other words you were...

EHRLICHMAN: Oh, no. No, no.

PRESIDENT: ...you were discussing it. I told you that. I tried to tell well, Petersen, "Well, look it, I can imagine it, they were discussing it," he said "Jesus Christ, you ought to leave the country, I, uh maybe we ought to deep six it."

EHRLICHMAN: Mmhuh.

PRESIDENT: And you didn't do any of those things.

(Pause, tape noise)

At least I think that's based on... Got any thoughts on this point?

or...(unintelligible)

(ZIEGLER ENTERS)

PRESIDENT: Who have you talked to?

ZIEGLER: Yes, sir. I talked to, uh, Moore...

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

ZIEGLER: Chappie Rose. Both of them are against it.

PRESIDENT: They're against it? All right.

ZIEGLER: ...from the stan...

PRESIDENT: What because of the reasons you mentioned?

ZIEGLER: Some of those. But Rose their best lawyer is working on that and and...

PRESIDENT: Okay.

ZIEGLER: His concern...

PRESIDENT: We just won't try to get out in front. We got anything else you can say? Don't say, don't we - we seem to, we've gotten into enough trouble by saying nothing so we'll say nothing today. You know, actually, thank God we haven't, thank God we haven't had a Haldeman statement. Believe me. (Unintelligible) thank God we didn't get a Dean report. Right? Thank God. So, we've done a few things right. Don't say anything.

ZIEGLER: Rose made the point, looking at the statement, (tape noise) about comments and so forth that stampede...(tape noise)

PRESIDENT: Well, I (unintelligible). I've got an understanding, John, that uh, that uh, with Petersen, and he wants us to move first and uh (tape noise) but I said, "Well not before Magruder pleads." We've got to go out and what I had in mind of having you say quickly that (unintelligible) false statement. But in any event, I think we're going to have to wait for the Magruder thing. The point is you've got the whole record. Uh, I just don't want...

EHRlichman: He wants to wait until Magruder talks? Is that it?

PRESIDENT: Petersen?

EHRlichman: No, I mean uh, the others who...

ZIEGLER: Well, he didn't get into any, involved in any discussions about Magruder talking. No.

EHRlichman: What was his objection?

ZIEGLER: His point is that, what Rose's point is, in the position of stampeding on the Magruder thing how this has been (unintelligible) this. But this point, the President is too closely tied in as an investigator and too closely tied in to the Grand Jury proceeding itself. In other words the most expensive dream (tape noise, Unintelligible) His feeling is that you have the first twist and suggest that the President is becoming...

PRESIDENT: Affecting that? I don't know.

ZIEGLER: No, not affect. But the President is becoming as an investigator involved in knowledge and awareness of the Grand Jury proceedings.

PRESIDENT: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

ZIEGLER: Which well could affect direction of those proceedings.

EHRLICHMAN: He has contacted Petersen?

PRESIDENT: Well, all the facts are going to show just otherwise though when it comes out, but go ahead. But this (unintelligible)...(tape noise)

ZIEGLER: I think so.
(Tape noise, unintelligible conversation)

PRESIDENT: He didn't. John, I asked about Magruder today and they haven't got the deal with him yet because Magruder's attorneys insist on something with Ervin and something with Sirica. Magruder doesn't want to go to the D.C. Jail. The black guys in there. They haven't worked that out yet. I asked about the timing on Dean. They haven't got a deal on him because uh, (unintelligible), in fact (tape noise) his lawyers made an interesting comment. He said, "Dean didn't do anything to upset the unmaking of Haldeman and Ehrlichman and Mitchell, and if they don't get immunity, they're going to try this Administration and the President." (Unintelligible) his lawyer, (tape noise) Schaffer. Petersen says that's quite common. Everybody shouts at everybody. I'm getting (unintelligible) difficult (unintelligible) difficult (unintelligible). (Tape noise) The fact that all the business, the crap about the Dean report, why end it that way? Dean will stick to the position,

PRESIDENT (cont.) John, you can see how he's going to (unintelligible) Ehrlichman. You know, he did make some movement on his own in this thing. (Unintelligible) is that I've asked Dean a specific question. "Haldeman/ Ehrlichman, did they know in advance?" He said, "No." I said, "I've asked you again, I've asked you." He told me that (unintelligible) this shit. Have you got that? Well, Dean said after a second meeting over there he went over and saw Haldeman and uh said, uh "We oughtn't to be in this shit, and Haldeman said, "I agree." I said, "Oh, what's wrong with that?" He said, "Well, Haldeman, uh, by failing to act-"...

EHRlichman: Yeah, that is (unintelligible)

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: Dean states Haldeman agreed, but apparently no initiating of any instructions.

PRESIDENT: Right. By failing to act. And then, then I said, uh, I said, "Well, how, how could he act? He wasn't in charge of the campaign and, uh (tape noise) didn't he have budget approval?" "Why," I said, "No. He had no responsibility at all. The campaign was totally out of the White House." But I suppose what he meant by that, Haldeman should have called Mitchell and said, "Knock it off." Is that what they're spying, John? Well, what, what, what does Haldeman say to that sort of thing?

EHRlichman: That's, that's hard to get around, I mean, it's hard to understand, because Dean's story, consistently, has been that at every one of those meetings, the plan was disapproved by Mitchell.

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: (Tape noise) What's there to get out of?

PRESIDENT: By going to Haldeman...

EHRlichman: Dean came back and said, "Well there was a proposal, and Mitchell disapproved it."

PRESIDENT: You think he's making that up?

EHRlichman: I don't know. I, I uh, uh it doesn't make sense, in the context of those meetings, that everybody agrees on, that at all those meetings Dean attended it ended in disapproval.

PRESIDENT: Yeah. (tape noise) "Well, why did he go to Haldeman?"

EHRlichman: So why? Yeah. Why, why is there a failure to act, when...

PRESIDENT: Oh, he might...

EHRlichman: Everything is disapproved?

PRESIDENT: Yes, but that is Dean's problem, but...

EHRlichman: Well, the suspenders.

PRESIDENT: Huh?

EHRlichman: A guy says, I was thinking about going out...

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: and plugging a hole in your tire, but I decided not to.

PRESIDENT: Yeah the point is, I think you've got a very good point here. You say, "Well, look, what in the world is this? If; if the damn thing was disapproved why does Haldeman get blamed for not disapproving it?"

EHRlichman: Yeah. They need two disapprovals in order to make it stick?

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible)

EHRlichman: Well, I don't know, uh, enough about it I guess. Uh, I'd sure like to see us came out sometime, and, uh, I suppose it has to be at a time that Magruder makes his deal.

PRESIDENT: Well, let me say, I'll uh I've got Petersen on a short leash.

EHRlichman: Okay.

PRESIDENT: Petersen or Dean. Keep that statement, about -and get this factual thing that John has worked up for you. You get that.

ZIEGLER: I've had, I had that typed.

PRESIDENT: Fine. Because we've got to be ready to go on that instantly. (Unintelligible) today. We (tape noise) will survive it. I don't think it's very...

EHRLICHMAN: Not very appropriate news this morning.

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible). They will get back to it Monday night (unintelligible). I just think (unintelligible) their staff.

ZIEGLER: (Unintelligible)

PRESIDENT: It's obvious they will question him on this.

EHRLICHMAN: That's what matters though. (Tape noise)

PRESIDENT: The thing with the Ervin Committee (tape noise)

EHRLICHMAN: I don't know. A statement of rules, and the negotiations...

PRESIDENT: Right.

EHRLICHMAN: Uh--they adopted an awful lot of my stuff. Their rule on television is a very odd one. And it says "All still and motion picture photography must be discontinued before the witness commences his testimony. Television, however, may continue under the standing rules of the committee during the testimony of the witness."

PRESIDENT: So it must that means what? It's live?

EHRLICHMAN: That's my, that's my interpretation. Well, no. Tape would be motion picture.

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRLICHMAN: Why not?

ZIEGLER: That's electronic. See, the terminology is stills, motion picture or electronic.

EHRLICHMAN: That isn't the way they used it, and so I've got a call in for Baker to try and get a clarification.

PRESIDENT: Right.

EHRLICHMAN: Because it may be their intent that if the networks will go live, then let em go, but if they tape, then they can't tape the testimony.

(Unintelligible)

EHRlichman: And, if that's the interpretation, I think we ought to go for it.

PRESIDENT: Right.

EHRlichman: Don't you?

ZIEGLER: At ten o'clock in the morning? Well, you know, just...(tape noise)

EHRlichman: If they run it at ten in the morning. Anyway, I'll get an interpretation and I'll be back to you on it for instructions. Well, the, there isn't much point in me going through the whole thing until...

(tape noise)

PRESIDENT: I think the Ervin Committee, who (unintelligible) a break in this (unintelligible). Do you believe it would be at all helpful to be forthcoming with Ervin then?

ZIEGLER: Well as we mentioned before, I think you have, caution the Ervin Committee (unintelligible). Depends upon decisions. Whatever it is decided to check with (unintelligible) or it may be to our advantage to analyze...

EHRlichman: Well, my problem's Howard Baker goes to Russia tomorrow, so there's got to be action or he goes Wednesday, see. There's got to be action tomorrow. The Ervin Committee's meeting up there now. Timmons thinks the thing they are meeting about is that somebody has pulled the plug on Dash, that he was nearly disbarred in Philadelphia and he's come up with some unfortunate scandal something about He's been taken by surprise again and he's very unhappy and he's convened the Committee. The thing provides well, well, they're kind of cute about this too. You can have a hearing in Executive Session. Yeah, the Committee rules at the witnesses' request for the purpose of determining scope, and in effect, as well that where, where the witness should and should not testify.

PRESIDENT: Oh, that's good.

EHRlichman: And that's good, I think. Then there's a lot of stuff in there about, uh, that, they do prevail in closing statements. Uh they, they will, uh...

PRESIDENT: What's your advice, John?

EHRlichman: Uh there's very little left to argue about except the television, and, uh, we could say we interpret this to mean that unless the television is live, there won't be any and that's satisfactory to us.

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: Now we might get the jump on them that way.

PRESIDENT: All right. Fine.

EHRlichman: And then, let them come back and say, "No, that isn't what we mean. We mean, uh, it can be taped." And then we'll come back and say, "Well, that isn't satisfactory." By that time they're in recess.

PRESIDENT: Right.

EHRlichman: And the thing would be hung up until they get back.

PRESIDENT: Yeah. And the other thing we had to, you know, before it comes from the Ervin Committee. But I don't think before it comes to the Ervin Committee it's going to amount to a goddamned thing. (unintelligible)

ZIEGLER: The overall...

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

ZIEGLER: ...decision, but...

PRESIDENT: Don't you think at the present time we ought to be forthcoming here?

ZIEGLER: (Unintelligible)

EHRlichman: What you say, Ron, is that we intend to avail ourselves fully of the ground rule that permits the use of executive session and that undoubtedly the majority of the White House witnesses will be the subject of a request to the Ervin Committee for an executive session.

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PRESIDENT: That's right. Agree with that.

EHRlichman: Then, what we've done is gone to our high ground.

PRESIDENT: Right.

EHRlichman: And let them pull us off.

ZIEGLER: of course, what really, what really is the Ervin Committee investigating?

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible) (Tape noise)

EHRlichman: They it's probably moot. It's probably moot, but what well, we can say is we feel we can live with these ground rules.

ZIEGLER: Yeah.

EHRlichman: You know it's very well, it is obvious that the negotiations were very worthwhile. Uh, we think the Committee has come up with a fine set of ground rules that we can live with. Uh, we are going to fully cooperate and then, on the side, you can say, "See this executive session provision."

PRESIDENT: Why don't we frankly, (coughs) (unintelligible) executive (unintelligible).

EHRlichman: Maybe I ought to get them and have them for you, so that you can talk to Rogers about them.

PRESIDENT: Yeah. Later today you just might make your decision and go on that. We can settle the Ervin Committee.

EHRlichman: Well, then, I'll have to get Baker's okay.

PRESIDENT: Well, why?

EHRlichman: To, uh, make our announcement, because the way I have it set up with him, they get a meeting tomorrow before we make any announcement.

PRESIDENT: Do you want to make an announcement tonight?

EHRlichman: No, I thought that's what you meant if, if you were gonna go with the, with the Ervin thing today.

PRESIDENT: Oh. We'll make it tomorrow then.

EHRlichman: Okay, well then I'll have a chance to talk to Baker tonight.

PRESIDENT: Baker, Baker will be left. He won't be at the meeting tomorrow.

EHRlichman: Yes, he will. He won't go. He doesn't go until the next day. I misspoke.

PRESIDENT: Fine. You'll make the announcement tomorrow.

UNIDENTIFIED: That's good.

PRESIDENT: Okay, Ron?

ZIEGLER: Yeah, but...

PRESIDENT: Gives me time to think about it, that's the point. Go ahead. What is it?

ZIEGLER: Well, I think if we make the announcement tomorrow, we could tie it into something.

PRESIDENT: Yeah. We have a general announcement. We want to (unintelligible) and with Chappie Rose and those guys. Do they realize that I've got to make this general announcement before the Magruder thing comes up?

EHRlichman: Well, is he afraid the President will look like he's interfering with the Grand Jury?

ZIEGLER: No, it's a quote. He said he doubts there has been not much contact with the Attorney General, the Assistant Attorney General he said the President (cough) being an investigator.

(Tape noise)

EHRlichman: Well, bless his heart, those contacts are a matter of record.

PRESIDENT: That's right. But, I don't agree with him on that point.

EHRlichman: That point's moot, you know. That was the President's only recourse.

PRESIDENT: That was it. I wouldn't, I wouldn't worry about that (unintelligible) public life. See, he's thinking as a lawyer. The public likes to see the President, uh, gettin' at this goddamned thing.

ZIEGLER: No, I agree with that.

EHRlichman: Chappie Rose doesn't like it when he said Manson was guilty here, but it doesn't convict him.

ZIEGLER: Well, I'm not arguing. You see, I can't argue that point.

EHRlichman: I understand I'm just passing that point to you. (Unintelligible)

PRESIDENT: What would your, be your view about this kind of a statement? You don't want it tonight do you?

EHRlichman: I don't want it tonight, but I'd sure like to see you go full dress on it tomorrow. You see, Wednesday is the energy message.

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: And, uh, we're going to be sort of saturating the press Wednesday with that.

PRESIDENT: Will they write and use it?

EHRlichman: I don't know. I mean we're having briefings and all that baloney. And so, uh, possibly, uh, it would be best to go either tomorrow or Thursday with this and I prefer tomorrow.

PRESIDENT: We'll see how they get along with their negotiations. I suppose they're...
(Tape noise)

EHRlichman: (Unintelligible) they're hard-nosing these negotiations. Dean doesn't really give them all that much. Let me look at that piece of paper you've got there and then he said, "Well, gee, did Hunt go out of the country? No. Well, what else is there?" "Well, he says, (unintelligible)."

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PRESIDENT: Dean isn't corroborating with Magruder in any way?

EHRlichman: Yes.

PRESIDENT: That's what it looks like.

EHRlichman: But can't they get that out of the way? You know?

PRESIDENT: That area doesn't concern me.

EHRlichman: Well, let's think about that. If you were the prosecutors, what the hell do you care? You know, if you were Glanzer or somebody sitting over there, Glazer or whatever it is

PRESIDENT: And White House threatened, the President...

EHRlichman: What, what, what, what is, is it that he can say? You stop and figure.

PRESIDENT: That he's informed the President and the President didn't act? He can't say that, can he? I don't think, I've been asking for his goddamned report, you know.

EHRlichman: The fact that he put the chronology all together he comes up with a hell of a lot of egg on his face, I think.

PRESIDENT: I think he blames he would blame you and Haldeman.

EHRlichman: Well, he's going to have a little trouble with that.

PRESIDENT: Is he? Good -

EHRlichman: I, I put together my log today. And I have seen him on the average of five times a month since the Watergate break-in. See, (tape noise) Bruce Kehrli finds that (unintelligible). I've seen none of his memos routinely. I don't supervise any of his work, so I think he's going to have a tough time making that stick. And some of those were on your estate plan.

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: Some of them were on the library.

PRESIDENT: Good.

EHRlichman: Some of them were on the leak scandal. So, uh,

PRESIDENT: ...Good

EHRlichman: ...he's, he's not seeing me five times a month on Watergate.

PRESIDENT: Fine, well, listen, John, Ron. Let's, let this go tonight. Fair enough? If that's all right with you?

ZIEGLER: Did you want to, uh, to meet Garment for five minutes before you see Rogers?

PRESIDENT: No. I'll have, I'll have to put that off. I've got Rogers, I've got to run. I know Grament's views and uh, and uh, you, you agree?

EHRlichman: I agree totally. (Laughs) I mean, it's therapy for Garment is the reason, you see.

PRESIDENT: No, tell him that I, that I feel, that very personally, but I want to get a little that I've had a long talk with the U.S., with Petersen. There is a reason. You give him a little bull shit and tell him (unintelligible) had a long talk. There are reasons we can't say today, that there will be developments during the day. Going to be public. Some things that I have in mind (unintelligible) piece of paper on that, and I'll see, I'll see him before (unintelligible). Well, is it going to be that much of a problem? You think I should see him? Maybe he's ready to blow it, you know, I don't. Wait 'till I see Rogers. Tell him to stick around.

ZIEGLER: All right.

PRESIDENT: Tie it in with Rogers. Why don't you do that? How's that?

ZIEGLER: The, the, uh,...

PRESIDENT: Wait a minute (clears throat)

ZIEGLER: ...the only advantage of (unintelligible) the government position (laughs).

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible) may as well go ahead.

ZIEGLER: Fifteen minute session (unintelligible) and bounce that off of Rogers.

PRESIDENT: I know what he's going to do is I mean the, uh this is a full court press, isn't it?

ZIEGLER: That's right, so you don't need to tell him.

PRESIDENT: I know what the hell a full court press is.

ZIEGLER: I understand that.

PRESIDENT: That thing you told me this morning?

ZIEGLER: Yes, sir.

PRESIDENT: Well, I thought of that already. He wants to go out and what, uh? He wants, uh, he wants Haldeman, Ehrlichman and Dean to resign. Right?

ZIEGLER: Or just submit. You know, submit several variations of memos and letters.

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

ZIEGLER: Suggesting that (unintelligible, tape noise) they would step down.

PRESIDENT: That they would uh they would, I would accept that. However the case breaks.

ZIEGLER: Yes, sir.

PRESIDENT: Do that today?

ZIEGLER: No, not today. You know, after the timing of the decision.

PRESIDENT: I'd prefer to...

ZIEGLER: I think it's you, you have enough of that.

PRESIDENT: I think I want it to be a little clear in my mind with Rogers here.

ZIEGLER: No (unintelligible) I'll put him off.

PRESIDENT: Tell him, look, that I, that I got it and I'm just in the middle of this thing and that I, (unintelligible) I'm thinking along those lines. Just say that, and that I'll (unintelligible) because of the talk, I cannot act today. Just say that. I just finished this long meeting. Didn't want to act today, I cannot act today, because it would frankly jeopardize the uh prosecution.

ZIEGLER: Right. Okay.

PRESIDENT: And the right of the defendants. And that, therefore, that I can't, that I've been told that by the Assistant, the Assistant, Assistant Attorney General. That I cannot do that today. It will jeopardize the prosecution. (Unintelligible) if the president (unintelligible) it will tip a lot of others off that they are working on at the present time, and that I had put the pressure on him to get this so that I can be prepared to act. And I have, I have in mind all of those options (unintelligible). That I've, tell him that I've, met with all three of them today. The President met with all three of them and I discussed this problem.

ZIEGLER: Well, you may not want to see him.
(Pause)

PRESIDENT: Now, be sure...

ZIEGLER: Be thinking about it.

PRESIDENT: Sure. Ask him if...(Pause)

ZIEGLER: Yes, sir.

PRESIDENT: Right (unintelligible). I probably, I think I want to think about it; then, I'd like to talk to him. I want him to get his things in shape. I want a firm recommendation not options.

ZIEGLER: He apparently has done, he has a statement.

PRESIDENT: Well, bring it in and I'd like to have that statement, if I could by, uh, six o'clock tonight. Yeah, you deliver it at six. I'll finish with Rogers by six o'clock and I'd like, I'd like to have that statement.

ZIEGLER: I'll bring it in.

PRESIDENT: Oh, no, no. Should I have it before I see Rogers, that statement? Tell him I'd like to have it, that I've, uh, that I've just gotten tied up here. Tell him I've been meeting with Henry Petersen. I cannot act today, but I'll be ready to, ready to, do something quite soon.

ZIEGLER: Good.

PRESIDENT: Don't tell him about it.

ZIEGLER: No.