Conversation No. 423-14

Date: March 27, 1973
Time: Unknown between 10:58 am and 11:07 am
Location: Executive Office Building

The President [?] met with unknown people.

Inquiry
- Gratitude

The unknown people left at an unknown time before 11:07 am.

Conversation No. 423-1

Date: March 27, 1973
Time: Unknown between 10:58 am and 11:07 am
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with an unknown person.

Request for call from John D. Ehrlichman [?]

Conversation No. 423-2

Date: March 27, 1973
Time: 11:07 am - 11:08 am
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with John D. Ehrlichman.

[See Conversation No. 44-18]
Date: March 27, 1973
Time: 11:00 am - 1:30 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President met with John D. Ehrlichman.

Wounded Knee
- Incident status
- Plan for resolution
  - Kenneth R. Cole Jr.'s working group
    - Justice Department
    - Interior Department
- US Marshall
- Wounds
  - Chances of survival
- Deterioration of situation
  - Indians, Blacks
    - Massive show of force
- Military action
  - Use of army
    - Fears
  - Estimate of losses
  - Public relations [PR] problems
    - Government explanation
- Preparations
  - US Marshall
    - Wounding
    - Publicity
- Sniping
  - Dale K. ("Kent") Frizzell
    - Assistant Attorney General
    - Interior Department
  - US Marshall
  - Viciousness
- Meeting with Indians
  - Frizzell
- Handling of situation
  - White House staff involvement
    - Handling of PR
Conversation No. 423-3 (cont’d)

- Advantages
- Long-run disadvantages
- Display of action
  - Ehrlichman’s role
  - Leonard Garment
- Talks with Indians
  - Ultimatum to Indians
  - PR foundation
  - Comparison with action on food prices
- Need for action
  - Risk of deaths
  - Indians, soldiers
  - Possible future armed occupations
    - Blacks, Chicanos

Price controls
  - George P. Shultz's support
    - Talks with Labor Management Advisory Board
  - Merits
    - Labor demands
    - Shultz
  - Plan
    - Formulation
    - Guidelines
      - 90-day price freeze
      - Food
- President's statement
  - Press coverage
    - Vietnam report
  - International monetary situation
  - Phase III

President’s accomplishments
  - Perception of failure
  - Budget
    - Congress
  - Vietnam
    - November 3, 1969 speech
    - Laos
    - India-Pakistan War
Press relations

-Vietnam
  -President’s conversation with H. R. (“Bob”) Haldeman
  -Ronald L. Ziegler
    -Press briefings
  -Prisoners of war [POWs]
    -Release
      -People’s Republic of China [PRC]
  -President’s actions
  -Television [TV] news commentary
    -Walter L. Cronkite, Jr.
      -Laos
      -Release of POWs
      -Troop withdrawal

Domestic issues

-President's vetoes
  -Sustaining in Congress
    -Vote count
      -House of Representatives
  -Republican votes
    -Democrats
      -Cal B. Albert
  -Senate action
  -House of Representatives
  -President’s speech

- Shultz

-Budget issues
  -Need for restraint
    -Support for Congress by public
  -Taxes
  -Prices

-Energy message from President
  -Arrangements
    -California
-Fanfare
  -Briefings
    -Congress
    -Press
  -Trade message
  -Tax message
  -TV coverage
  -Charles J. DiBona
    -Work quality

-Tax issue
  -Shultz's testimony
  -Alternative minimum tax

-Trade bill
  -Jobs
  -Congress
  -Publicity
    -Statements

-Tax issue
  -President’s announcement
    -Congress
    -Press coverage
  -Shultz’s testimony

-Trade bill
  -Congress
  -White House domination of news

-Past tough battles

[A transcript of this conversation appears in RG 460, Box 175, p. 1-84.]

Ronald L. Ziegler entered at 11:30 am.

Sally Inge Buikema entered at an unknown time after 11:30 am.

Sally Buikema’s marriage
  -Manolo Sanchez’s comment
    -Fina Sanchez
  -Husband
    -David Buikema
      -Sharp Electronics
  -Residence
Mrs. Buikema left at an unknown time before 11:35 am.

Henry A. Kissinger entered at 11:35 am.

President’s meeting with Corinne Boggs
- Photograph

Ziegler left at 11:40 am.

Pierre E. Trudeau
- Call to President
  - Canada’s withdrawal from International Commission on Control and Security [ICCS]
  - Announcement of postponement

Stephen B. Bull left.

Prime Minister Pierre E. Trudeau talked with the President between 12:05 pm and 12:10 pm.

[See Conversation No. 44-19]
BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 2
[National security]
[Duration: 4m 49 s]

CANADA

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 2

[This portion of the conversation was transcribed and entered as part of government exhibit 17 in U.S. v. Mitchell, el al., pp. 00313-00317].

[End transcribed portion.]

President’s speech
-Draft
-Release
-Veto
-Wage and price controls
-George P. Shultz
-Meeting with President
-Trade
-Budget
-Amount of discussion
-Poor
-Cost of living
-President’s schedule
-Preparation

Rogers C. B. Morton
-Meeting with Ehrlichman

[Transcribed portion continues.]

[Transcribed portion ends.]
Stephen B. Bull entered at 1:16 pm.

Vocational Rehabilitation Bill
    -President's statement

Bull left at 1:17 pm.

Budget issue
    -President's action
    -Credit with public
        -President’s speech
    -Bureaucrats
    -Congressional relations
        -Conflict over priorities
            -Defense spending

[Transcribed portion continues.]

[Transcribed portion ends.]

Watergate
    -Medals
        -Purple heart
    -Rogers
        -Consultation with Henry A. Kissinger

Ehrlichman and Haldeman left at 1:30 pm.

Date: March 27, 1973
Time: 1:31 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with the White House operator.

[See also Conversation 44-24]
Date: March 27, 1973
Time: 1:31 pm - 1:32 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with Tricia Nixon Cox.

[See also Conversation No. 44-25]

Date: March 27, 1973
Time: Unknown between 1:32 pm and 2:57 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President met with Manolo Sanchez.

*************************************************************************
[Begin segment reviewed under deed of gift]

Refreshment

[End segment reviewed under deed of gift]

*************************************************************************

Sanchez left at an unknown time before 2:57 pm.
Date: March 27, 1973
Time: Unknown between 1:32 pm and 2:57 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President dictated a memorandum for the file.

*****************************************************************
[Begin segment reviewed under deed of gift]
Dictation
-Executive Office Building [EOB]
-Time of day

[End segment reviewed under deed of gift]

*****************************************************************

Date: March 27, 1973
Time: Unknown between 1:32 pm and 2:57 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President met with Manolo Sanchez.

*****************************************************************
[Begin segment reviewed under deed of gift]
Items for private file

[End segment reviewed under deed of gift]

*****************************************************************
Sanchez left at an unknown time before 2:57 pm.

Date: March 27, 1973
Time: Unknown between 3:18 pm and 3:27 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with an unknown person.

President's schedule

Haldeman left at an unknown time before 3:27 pm.

Date: March 27, 1973
Time: Unknown between 3:27 pm and 4:16 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President met with William P. Rogers.

Weather
Work preferences
  - Writing
  - Seating
  - Speech writing
    - Preliminary drafts

President's public statement
  - Food prices

National defense
  - Rogers's speech draft
    - Press conference
  - Post-Vietnam era
    - Resistance
    - Sabotage
    - Dealings with Union of Soviet Socialist Republics [USSR]
  - Rogers’s speech
    - Reduction of forces
    - President’s accomplishments
  - Reduction of arms
    - Danger of war

Watergate
  - Handling
    - Pressures
    - Ramifications
    - Charges of cover-up
  - White House staff
    - Haldeman, Ehrlichman, John W. Dean, III
    - Need to clear up charges
      - Possible damage
  - Resolution of problem
  - Campaign intelligence
    - Legitimate activities
    - Illegal activities
      - Adverse publicity
      - Donald H. Segretti case
        - Haldeman, Dwight L. Chapin
  - Public perceptions
-Protection of President
- Liability
  - Obstruction of justice
  - Criminal acts
    - Scope
    - Cover-up
- Resolution
  - Independent commission
    - Courts
    - Deficiencies
      - Delays
      - Uniqueness
    - Structure and establishment
  - Rogers’s role
  - Ehrlichman
  - Dean
  - Haldeman
  - Richard G. Kleindienst
  - J. Edgar Hoover [?]
- Strategy
  - John J. Sirica
  - Full disclosure of evidence and testimony
  - Special Grand Jury
  - Special prosecutor
  - Waiver of executive prosecutor
- Dean
  - Testimony
    - Guidelines
  - Investigation
    - Release
    - Scope
  - Confidentiality
  - Knowledge of Watergate
- Ervin Committee
  - Attacks on character
  - Availability of raw files from Justice Department
  - Congressional committees
    - Alger Hiss case
    - "5-percenter" case
    - Gen. [first name unknown] Myers
Conversation No. 423-11 (cont’d)

-Hiss case
-Obstacles
-Editorials
-Statute of limitations
-Perjury charges
-Justice Department’s reluctance to prosecute
-Criminal complaints
-Court hearings
-Congressional committees
-Ervin Committee
-Motives of Ervin
-Cooperation of White House
-Delays in hearings
-Grand jury
-Informal hearings
-Negotiations
-Public perceptions
-Presidential cover-up
-Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI]
-Attorney General
-Respect of Grand Jury
-Ervin Committee
-Secret testimony
-White House staff
-John N. Mitchell
-President's talks with Haldeman, Ehrlichman and Charles W. Colson during election
-Mention of Watergate
-Surprise at break-in
-Haldeman
-Ehrlichman
-Break-in
-Reasons
-Mitchell
-G. Gordon Liddy
-Intelligence
-Discussion
-Dean's opposition
-Implementation
Conversation No. 423-11 (cont’d)

-Instigator
  -Jeb Stuart Magruder
    -Pressure from White House
- Mitchell
-Democratic National Committee [DNC]
-Mitchell
  -Role in break-in
  -Perjury
-Aftermath
  -Clemency promises
    -Colson
  -Financial help for burglars
  -Cover-up
    -Avoidance
-Grand jury
-Sirica
-Special panel
-Executive session
-Strategy
  -Full disclosure
    -James W. McCord Jr.'s statement
      -Charges
      -Delay
-McCord
  -Charges
-Executive privilege use
  -Criminal charges
-Kleindienst
  -Knowledge of Watergate
-Sirica
  -Harshness of sentences
    - Liddy
    -Purpose
  -Party affiliation
  -Contact with Rogers
-Ehrlichman
-Vietnam
-Charges
-McCord's statement
-Special prosecutor
Conversation No. 423-11 (cont’d)

-Kleindienst's view
-Kleindienst's cooperation
-Cooperation of White House

Public relations
-Ehrlichman's advice
-Wounded Knee
-Use of troops
-President on television [TV]
-Vietnam settlement
-Distractions
-Underestimation of President
-Vietnam in November 1969
-1970 Cambodia
-India-Pakistan War of 1971
-May 8, 1972 decision in Vietnam

Economy
-Food prices
-George P. Shultz
-Inflation rates
-Great Britain
-France
-Germany
-Japan
-Vietnam settlement
-President’s conversation with Pierre E. Trudeau

BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 2
[National security]
[Duration: __57s__]

CANADA

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 2
Vietnam War
  -Press coverage
    -President’s troubles
    -President’s unreasonableness

Public relations [PR]
  -Economy
  -Foreign policy
  -Budget
  -President's vetoes
  -Support in Congress
  -Ehrlichman
  -President's public appearances
    -Use of TV

Watergate
  -Obsession of Washington, DC
  -Attitude of rest of nation
  -Administration’s stance
    -Full disclosure
    -Ronald L. Ziegler
  -Grand jury
    -Judge
  -Administration's stance
    -Full disclosure
      -Sirica
      -Kleindienst
      -FBI
      -White House staff
    -Use of special prosecutor
      -Sirica
        -Harshness of sentences
      -Grand jury
        -Ervin Committee hearings
          -Sherman Adams
          -Dean
          -Criminal charges
- Compared with Lyndon B. Johnson

Robert D. ("Bobby") Baker
- Sherman Adams
  - Impact on Dwight D. Eisenhower's health
  - President's role in resignation
    - Spiro T. Agnew
    - Adams' behavior
    - Eisenhower's reaction
- Role in White House
  - Ehrlichman
  - Haldeman
  - Henry A. Kissinger [?]
  - Dwight L. Chapin
  - Dean
- Special panel
  - President's opposition
  - Ehrlichman's support
  - Republicans

Rogers left at 4:16 pm.

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Date: March 27, 1973
Time: Unknown between 4:16 pm and 4:20 pm
Location: Executive Office Building

The President talked with unknown person.

Instruction [?]
The President met with H. R. (“Bob”) Haldeman.

Weather

Watergate
- Richard G. Kleindienst
- Meeting with John D. Ehrlichman
- Postponement
- John W. Dean, III
- John N. Mitchell
- Talk with Haldeman
- Lawrence F. O'Brien
  - Jeb Stuart Magruder's testimony
- Talked with Dean
  - Dean's testimony before grand jury
- Appearance before grand jury
- John J. Sirica
- Call
- William P. Rogers
- Dean
- Independent commission
  - Advantages
  - Problem
    - Exaggeration of case
  - President's discussion with Rogers
    - Ehrlichman
- Importance of case
- Other stories
  - Ronald L. Ziegler
  - Prisoners of war [POWs] release
    - News reports

POWs
- Patriotism

Watergate
- Rogers's advice
  - Ehrlichman
Haldeman talked with Dean at an unknown time between 4:20 pm and 4:57 pm.

[Conversation No. 423-13A.]
-Bernard Fensterwald
  - Meeting with McCord and Sirica
  - Gerald Alch
  - President as target of case
-Fensterwald
  - Edward M. ("Ted") Kennedy
    - Senator Committee
      - Russell B. Long
-McCord
  - Naming of White House staff in Watergate
    - Magruder and Dean
  - Revelations
    - Disclosure
  - Investigation of Kennedy
    - Involvement
-Kennedy
  - Investigation
-Magruder
  - Legitimate intelligence activities
    - Washington Post stories
-Dramatic steps by President
  - Necessity
    - Dean's advice
    - Ehrlichman's advice
-McCord
-Howard H. Baker, Jr.
  - Criticism of Commission counsel's conduct
    - News reports
-Fensterwald
-McCord
  - Source of funds
-Mitchell
  - Magruder
-Independence commission
  - Rogers's opposition
-President's public statement
  - Comments on Mitchell
    - Charles W. Colson's advice
  - Executive privilege
-Executive privilege
The President talked with Julie Nixon Eisenhower between 4:57 pm and 4:58 pm.

[Conversation No. 423-13-B]

[See Conversation No. 44-28]

[End of telephone conversation]

Watergate
- White House staff
  - Cooperation with courts
- Clemency
  - President's opposition
- Dean's investigation
- Ziegler's statement
  - Grand jury appearances
  - Sirica's agreement
- Ervin Committee
  - William P. Rogers
  - Jurisdiction over criminal cases
- Colson
  - Advice on issue
- Ervin Committee
  - Need to neutralize

Haldeman talked with Colson at an unknown time between 4:48 pm and 5:20 pm.

[Conversation No. 423-13C]
[See Conversation No. 44-30]

[End of telephone conversation]

Watergate
  -Special prosecutor
    -Colson's opposition
    -James W. McCord Jr.'s charges
    -Substance
    -Administration overreaction

Haldeman talked with an unknown person at an unknown time between 4:57 pm and 5:20 pm.

[Conversation No. 423-13D]

Haldeman's schedule

[End of telephone conversation]

Watergate
  -White House
    -Cooperation with investigators
      -Compared with Warren Commission
  -Colson
  -Mitchell
  -Dean
    -Role in Watergate
    -Comment about McCord
      -Implication of Mitchell, Magruder
  -Magruder
    -Former White House job
      -Herbert G. Klein
  -Colson
  -Mitchell

The tape ends before the convulsion of the conversation. The conversation is continued in Conversation No. 424-1. A portion of the conversation was not recorded while the tape was being changed.