Conversation No. 450-26

Date: February 16, 1971
Time: Unknown between 6:56 am and 8:58 am
Location: Unknown

Unknown people met
[It appears that a meeting already in progress in a room near the Oval Office was recorded by the Oval Office recording system]

Corporation for Public Broadcasting
- Cost of living increase
- Congressional committees

Recording was cut off at an unknown time before 8:58 am

Conversation No. 450-1

Date: February 16, 1971
Time: Unknown between 7:56 am and 8:58 am
Location: Oval Office

The President met with Alexander P. Butterfield

White House taping system
- Operation
- Purpose
- Cabinet Room
- Butterfield
- Operation
- Monitoring
- Knowledge of system
- H. R. (“Bob”) Haldeman
- The President
- Secret Service

Butterfield left at an unknown time before 8:58 am
Conversation No. 450-2

Date: February 16, 1971
Time: Unknown between 7:56 am and 8:58 am
Location: Oval Office

The President met with an unknown man

Schedule
   -Melvin R. Laird
   -Cabinet meeting

The unknown man left at an unknown time before 8:58 am

Conversation No. 450-3

Date: February 16, 1971
Time: 8:58 am
Location: Oval Office

The President talked with the White House operator

   Call to Mrs. B. Everett Jordan

Conversation No. 450-4

Date: February 16, 1971
Time: Unknown between 8:58 am and 9:17 am
Location: Oval Office

The President met with an unknown man

Schedule

The unknown man left at an unknown time before 9:17 am
Date: February 16, 1971
Time: 9:17 am - 9:19 am
Location: Oval Office

The President talked with Mrs. B. Everett Jordan

B. Everett Jordan
-Health

Date: February 16, 1971
Time: Unknown between 9:19 am and 9:35 am
Location: Oval Office

The President met with an unknown man [Stephen B. Bull?]

Schedule
- Lieutenant General Vernon A. Walters
- William P. Rogers
- George W. Wilson

The unknown man [Bull?] left at an unknown time before 9:35 am

Date: February 16, 1971
Time: Unknown between 9:19 am and 9:35 am
Location: Oval Office

The President met with an unknown man [Stephen B. Bull?]

Schedule
The unknown man [Bull?] left at an unknown time before 9:35 am

Conversation No. 450-8

Date: February 16, 1971
Time: 9:35 am - 10:10 am
Location: Oval Office

The President met with Lieutenant General Vernon A. Walters

Greetings

BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1

[National Security]
[Duration: 29m 30s ]

SPAIN

Marjorie P. Acker entered at 9:45 am

Acker left at 10:00 am

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1

Lam Son
- Walters’ view
- Ho Chi Minh Trail
- South Vietnamese Army
- Background
- Bombing

Walters’ future
- Possible assignments
Date: February 16, 1971
Time: Unknown between 10:10 am and 10:28 am
Location: Oval Office

The President met with an unknown woman

Schedule

The unknown woman left at an unknown time before 10:28 am

Date: February 16, 1971
Time: 10:28 am - 10:49 am
Location: Oval Office

The President met with H. R. ("Bob") Haldeman; an unknown man [Alexander P. Butterfield?] was present at the beginning of the meeting

Previous Cabinet meeting
   -Melvin R. Laird
   -Briefing
      -Duration
   -Compared to Henry A. Kissinger
-William P. Rogers
-Butterfield
  -Role
  -Instructions for future
-Length of meeting
  -Carl Wallace
-John B. Connally
-Length of meeting
  -Problems
-Number of people at meeting
  -Reduction
  -William L. Safire
  -Raymond K. Price, Jr.
  -Rank of attendees
  -Elliot L. Richardson
    -Attendance of subordinate
  -Robert J. Brown
  -Kenneth R. Cole, Jr.
    -Role in future scheduling
-Impact
-George P. Shultz
  -Caspar W. (“Cap”) Weinberger
-George H. W. Bush
-John D. Ehrlichman
  -Cole
-Need for reduction
  -Problems
  -Key staff participation
    -Future meetings
  -Compared to other staff meetings
    -National Security Council [NSC] meetings
-Vice President Spiro T. Agnew
-Price
-Safire
-Ronald L. Ziegler
-Speech writers
-John K. Andrews, Jr. [?] 
-Dr. Edward E. David, Jr.
-Peter G. Peterson
-Richard M. Helms
-Robert J. Dole
-Paul W. McCracken
-Clark MacGregor
  -William E. Timmons
-Herbert G. Klein
  -Safire
-Weinberger
  -Budget
-Key White House staff
  -Instructions for future meetings
  -Attendance
-Agnew
-Limitations
-Bush

Files
  -President
  -Haldeman
  -Content
    -Tape records
      -Use

White House taping system
  -Knowledge of

The unknown man [Butterfield?] left at an unknown time before 10:49 am; Stephen B. Bull entered at an unknown time after 10:28 am

Schedule

Bull left at an unknown time before 10:49 am

Medal of Honor ceremony

Press conferences
  -Preparation
    -Staff responsibilities
  -Frequency
    -Television press conferences
      -Advantages and disadvantages
  -Questions

European trip
  -Robert H. Finch and Donald H. Rumsfeld
- Wives
- List of attendees
- Travel arrangements
  - Air Force planes
    - Use by Ehrlichman and Shultz
    - Agnew
    - Use
  - Wives of party
- President’s policy
  - Haldeman

Schedule
- Patrick J. Buchanan
- Haldeman
- Leonard Garment [?]
- Content of State of World message [?]
  - Congress
    - Timmons
- Walter Scheel
- Staff meeting tomorrow
  - Ehrlichman
  - Shultz
- State of World message
  - Arrangements
  - Timing
- Weekly schedule
  - Events
  - Quadriad meeting
- News summaries
  - Delivery to President
    - Weekends
- Newport, Rhode Island event

Haldeman left at 10:49 am

Conversation No. 450-11

Date: February 16, 1971
Time: 10:49 am - 11:03 am
Location: Oval Office

The President met with Henry A. Kissinger

Dinner for Jean Monnet
   - Telegram from the President
   - Impact
   - Kissinger’s schedule

******************************************************************************
BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1
[National Security]
[Duration: 3m 49s]

CIENFUEGOS

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1
******************************************************************************

The President’s meeting with Lieutenant General Vernon A. Walters
   - Kissinger follow-up
   - President’s instructions
      - Robert C. Hill
   - Message from the President to General Francisco Franco
   - Walters’ report back to the President

President’s press conference on February 17, 1971
   - Vietnam
      - North Vietnamese troops
         - Location and number
      - Cienfuegos
      - Anti-ballistic missiles
         - Safeguard
      - Melvin R. Laird announcement
      - President’s decision
Strategic Arms Limitation Talks [SALT]
- Multiple Independently-Targeted Reentry Vehicle [MIRV]
  - SS-9
    - Intelligence estimates
- Technology
  - Effect on United States-Soviet negotiations
  - New Soviet efforts
- SS-9 slowdown
  - Kissinger’s belief
  - Public comments by the President
- United States’ arms control position
  - Public comments by the President
  - Anti-ballistic Missile [ABM]
  - Arms limitation
  - Offensive/defensive weapons link
  - Future SALT negotiations
    - Vienna
  - Kissinger’s recommendation

Schedule
- Press conference
- Foreign policy report to Congress
  - Kissinger

Vietnam
- Troop activities
  - Lam Son operation
    - South Vietnamese Army
    - Enemy resistance
    - Artillery
    - Press accounts

Kissinger left at 11:03 am
Conversation No. 450-12

Date: February 16, 1971
Time: Unknown between 11:03 am and 11:04 am
Location: Oval Office

The President met with an unknown man [Stephen B. Bull?]

Schedule
- Barber shop
- George P. Shultz

The President and the unknown man [Bull?] left at 11:04 am

Conversation No. 450-13

Date: February 16, 1971
Time: Unknown between 11:04 am and 11:24 am
Location: Oval Office

Unknown people [Secret Service] met

The President’s location

The unknown people [Secret Service] left at an unknown time before 11:24 am

Conversation No. 450-14

Date: February 16, 1971
Time: Unknown after 11:24 am until 12:12 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President met with John D. Ehrlichman and George P. Shultz
[Recording begins while the conversation is in progress]
Monetary policy
- Balance of payments problems
  - American Enterprise Institute statement
- Past crises
  - News summaries
  - Henry A. Kissinger role
  - Foreign policy
  - International monetary system
    - President’s view
    - Price of gold
- Need for competent handling
  - Peter G. Peterson
    - Role
    - International monetary policy
    - White House position
    - Quotas
  - Peterson
    - Committees
  - William P. Rogers
  - Shultz
  - Peter M. Flanigan’s role
  - Lockheed
  - Rolls Royce
  - John B. Connally
    - Role
  - David Packard
    - Laotian Special Action group
    - Kissinger
- Council of Economic Advisors
  - Peterson’s role
    - Connally
    - Shultz
    - Troika
    - Access to the President
- Quadriad
  - [Forename unknown] Parker
    - Peterson
  - Paul A. Volcker

Budget preparations
- 1972 State of the Union message
  - Preparation
- Departments and agencies
  - Ehrlichman
- Timing
- Tax reform
  - Connally
- Schultz’s efforts
- Defense budget
  - Possible problem
  - Additional funding
  - United States-Soviet Union relations
- Timing
  - Effect on Vietnam withdrawal

Public Works projects
  - Public relations
  - Administration efforts
    - Editorials
    - Letters
  - Budgetary problems
  - Funding
    - John C. Whitaker study
    - Allocation of resources

[General conversation]

Ehrlichman and Shultz left at 12:12 pm

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Conv. No. 450-14 (cont.)

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Date: February 16, 1971
Time: Unknown between 12:12 pm and 12:13 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President met with Stephen B. Bull

Schedule

Bull left at an unknown time before 12:13 pm
Conversation No. 450-16

Date: February 16, 1971 [?]
Time: Unknown between 12:12 pm and 12:13 pm [?]
Location: Oval Office

The President met with an unknown woman

Gift list
- Kenneth M. Crosby
- Robert H. Abplanalp

The unknown woman left at an unknown time before 12:13 pm

Conversation No. 450-17

Date: February 16, 1971 [?]
Time: 12:13 pm - 12:16 pm [?]
Location: Oval Office

The President met with H. R. (“Bob”) Haldeman

Unknown person from California
- John D. Ehrlichman
- Schedule

The President and Haldeman left at 12:16 pm

Conversation No. 450-18

Date: February 16, 1971 [?]
Time: Unknown between 12:16 pm and 11:59 pm [?]
Location: Oval Office
Unknown people [Secret Service] met

The President’s location

The unknown people [Secret Service] left at an unknown time before 11:59 pm

Conv. No. 450-16 (cont.)

Date: February 17, 1971
Time: Unknown between 12:00 am and 4:04 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President met with Ronald L. Ziegler

Forthcoming press conference
- Timing

Ziegler left at an unknown time before 4:04 pm

Conversation No. 450-19

Date: February 17, 1971
Time: 4:04 pm - 4:51 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President met with unknown members of the press

[General conversation]
- Set-up

[A transcript of the following portion of this conversation appears in Public Papers of the Presidents, Richard M. Nixon, 1971, pp. 158-169]

[End of transcribed portion]
Format of press conference
  - Suggestions
  - Future press conferences
    - Ronald L. Ziegler
    - Location
    - Networks

Anecdote

[General conversation/Unintelligible]

White House intern
  - Educational background

The unknown members of the press left at 4:51 pm

Date: February 17, 1971
Time: 4:52 pm - 5:24 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President met with Walter Scheel, William P. Rogers, and Henry A. Kissinger; the White House photographer was present at the beginning of the meeting

Introductions

Refreshments

Europe
  - President’s position
  - Questions regarding Europe
    - President’s previous press conference
  - Foreign policy report to Congress
    - Rogers role
    - Melvin R. Laird’s role
  - Rogers negotiations
    - East/West relations
    - Middle East
-Other areas of concern
  - Compared to Europe
    - President’s press conference
    - Southeast Asia

Germany
  - US-German relations
    - Germany-Eastern Europe relations
    - US position
  - National Security Council [NSC] meetings
    - Content
  - Berlin negotiations
    - Bonn/Moscow negotiations
    - Forthcoming German elections
    - Berlin problem
    - Status
    - German position
    - Western allies
    - Soviet Union
      - Position on Berlin
    - Status
    - German position
    - Goals
      - Concessions
      - Berlin’s situation
        - Isolation
      - President’s view
    - Efforts
    - German position
      - Western allies
      - Warsaw Pact

Gifts

Scheel left at 5:19 pm

Scheel’s comments
  - Follow-up discussion
    - German policies
      - German political situation

Rogers left at 5:22 pm
- Berlin negotiations
  - Soviet tactics
  - President’s view

BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 2
[Privacy]
[Duration: 6s]

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 2

President’s press conference
  - The President’s handling
  - Vietnam
    - President’s comments
  - Cuban question
    - Kissinger’s view

BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1
[National Security]
[Duration: 8s]

CUBA

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1

- Television use
  - Effect on positions
    - Paris negotiations
- Vietnam
  - Prisoners of War [POWs]
- Laos
- American press

Kissinger left at 5:24 pm

Date: February 17, 1971
Time: 5:25 pm - 5:26 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President met with Ronald L. Ziegler

Previous press conference
  - Laos
  - Integration
  - North Vietnam

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BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1
[Privacy]
[Duration: 28s]

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1

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Ziegler left at 5:26 pm

Date: February 17, 1971
Time: 5:26 pm - 5:53 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President met with John D. Ehrlichman and Daniel J. Evans; the White House photographer was present at the beginning of the meeting

**Supersonic Transport [SST]**
- President’s position
- Impact on economy
- Importance
- Administration efforts

**Hanford nuclear reactor**
- Office of Management and Budget [OMB]
  - Funding
  - George P. Shultz
  - Status
    - Evans’ meeting with Donald B. Rice
    - Evans’ concerns
    - Seattle power supply
  - OMB decision
  - Evans’ efforts
  - Funding
  - Effect in Washington state
    - Funding
    - Evans’ view
    - Employment
    - Future developments
- Administration efforts
  - Caspar W. (“Cap”) Weinberger
    - Budget

**Revenue sharing**
- Administration’s position
- Importance to people
- Importance to local and state government
- Problems
- Benefits
- Federal bureaucracy
- Increases in local debt
- Opposition by establishment
- Welfare reform
Evans left at an unknown time before 5:53 pm

Health insurance
   - Health maintenance organizations [HMO]
     - The Vice President’s position
       - Edgar F. Kaiser
       - President’s position
       - Kaiser Permanente Plan
       - Focus

Appointments
   - Law Enforcement Assistance Administration [LEAA]
     - Myles J. Ambrose
       - John N. Mitchell’s view
       - Richard G. Kleindienst
       - John B. Connally
     - Jerris Leonard
   - David Norman
   - Peter M. Flanigan
     - Work effectiveness
     - Efforts
   - Role
     - William P. Rogers
   - Michael Collins
     - Air and Space Museum
   - Judgeship for unknown men
-Wallace H. Johnson
-Thomas J. Dodd
-Kleindienst
-Dr. James R. Schlesinger
-Rogers C. B. Morton’s view
-Ambassadorial positions
-Flanigan
-John W. Rollins
-Frank J. Shakespeare
-Fred J. Russell
-Qualifications

Revenue sharing
-Administration efforts
-Democrats
-Hubert H. Humphrey
-Conversation with Ehrlichman
-Legislation
-Possible conversation with President

Previous press conference
-Domestic policy

Revenue sharing
-Administration’s position
-Clark R. Mollenhoff
-Public support

Stephen B. Bull entered at an unknown time after 5:26 pm

Schedule
-Dr. W. Kenneth Riland
-Instructions
-Henry A. Kissinger
-Rose Mary Woods

Bull left at an unknown time before 5:53 pm

Farm policy
-Robert J. Dole
-Efforts
-White House gala
- Compared to White House Labor dinner
- Possible program
- Public relations
  - Film
- Hyde Park
  - Possible appointment
- Importance of farmers and farm vote
  - Dole
  - Support for President
- Staff assignment
  - John C. Whitaker
  - Dole

Wage and price controls
  - Shultz
  - Cost of Living Council [COLC] action
  - Herbert Stein
  - Administration position
    - Wage controls
      - Construction
  - John T. Dunlop
  - George W. Romney
  - James M. Hutton, III
  - Businessmen

Schedule

Media
  - Los Angeles Times

Ehrlichman left at 5:53 pm
Conversation No. 450-24

Date: February 17, 1971
Time: 5:53 pm - 5:59 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President met with Dwight L. Chapin

Schedule

Signatures

Chapin left at 5:59 pm

Conv. No. 450-23 (cont.)

Conversation No. 450-25

Date: February 17, 1971
Time: 6:20 pm - 6:32 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President met with H. R. (“Bob”) Haldeman

Schedule
- Arrangements for greeting foreign dignitary
  - Locations
  - The President’s comments
- [Thomas] Woodrow Wilson Foundation speech

Robert J. Dole

Access to the President
- Henry A. Kissinger

Press conference
- Value
- Conduct
- Press
  - Clark R. Mollenhoff
  - Friends versus enemies
- Kansas City Star

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BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1
[Privacy]
[Duration: 1m 18s.]

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1
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Ronald L. Ziegler entered at 6:21 pm

White House gifts
  -Type
  -Robert H. Abplanalp
  -Harry L. (“Bing”) Crosby [?]
  -Type
  -Glasses
  -Press
  -Abplanalp
  -List

Press conference
  -Format
  -Preparation
  -Benefit
    -Use of television
  -Reporters’ comments
  -Follow-up
  -Use of film
  -Format
    -Preparation
  -Value

Schedule
  -Woodrow Wilson Foundation
    -Remarks by the President
      -Preparation
Press conference
- Coverage by media
- Thomas E. Jarriel
  - Air time
- Coverage by media
  - Length
  - Use of notes
  - Use of transcript
- Format
- News stories
  - Laos
  - Integration
  - Israel
  - Construction industry

- Format
  - Franklin D. Roosevelt
  - Benefits
  - Lyndon B. Johnson
  - Media perception
  - Peter Lisagor
  - Los Angeles Times intern

Haldeman and Ziegler left at 6:32 pm