Conversation No. 457-1

Date: February 24, 1971
Time: 10:19 am - 11:35 am
Location: Oval Office

The President met with H. R. ("Bob") Haldeman
[Recording begins while the conversation is in progress]

Personnel
  - Speech writers
    - John K. Andrews, Jr.
    - Lee W. Huebner
    - Abilities
    - John D. Ehrlichman
    - Ronald L. Ziegler

Economy
  - Publicity
  - Prices

[Recording was cut off at an unknown time for an unknown duration; this section appears on the original tape as a blank portion of 2m 41s duration]

Department of State
  - Leaks
    - U. Alexis Johnson
      - William P. Rogers
      - Ellsworth F. Bunker
    - Personnel

Henry A. Kissinger entered at 10:24 am

Consumer legislation

Laos
  - James L. Buckley’s reception
    - Kissinger’s talk with Paul C. Warnke

Ziegler, Virginia H. Knauer, Lewis A. Engman, and Elizabeth Hanford entered at 10:25 am; the White House photographer was present during this portion of the meeting
Greetings
- Presentation of gifts

Consumer affairs

Knauer, Engman, and Hanford left at 10:30 am

Vietnam

- Media coverage
  - Ziegler’s briefing
  - Michael J. (“Mike”) Mansfield’s television appearance
  - Melvin R. Laird
  - General Creighton W. Abrams, Jr.
  - Henry Kahn of New York Times
    - Columbia Broadcasting System [CBS]
  - Ziegler’s statements
    - Day to day operations
    - Laird’s view
  - John W. Chancellor’s report
    - Plan of South Vietnam in Laos
      - Tchepone
      - Supply lines
  - Cambodia
  - President’s previous comments
    - Justification for operation
      - North Vietnam
      - General Nguyen Van Thieu
  - Accuracy of press accounts
    - Briefings
  - Kissinger’s briefing
    - Casualties regarding Cambodia
  - Attitudes
  - Associated Press coverage of Laos
  - Administration briefings
    - Laird
    - Claire Crawford
    - Crosby S. Noyes
    - Dennis Leonard
    - Herbert G. Klein
    - Mailing to editors and publishers
      - Source
      - William F. Knowland
- Cynicism of press
  - Crawford
  - [Forename unknown] Wiggins
- W[illiam] Averell Harriman
  - Yale speech
  - Withdrawal
- Instructions for Ziegler’s press briefing
  - President’s comments
  - Democratic Senators’ resolution

Ziegler left at 10:37 am

- Warnke’s assistant
  - Edmund S. Muskie
  - Invitation to Kissinger
- Briefings for Democrats
  - Kissinger
  - Mansfield
  - Withdrawal

Laos military operation (Lam Son)
  - Abrams
  - Military reports
  - General Alexander M. Haig, Jr.
    - Possible report
  - Laird
  - Military plans
    - Tchepone
      - North Vietnamese Army
      - Roads
      - Kissinger’s concern
    - Problems
    - Briefing for Kissinger
      - Roads
      - Supplies and trucks
  - Compared to Cambodian operation
    - Objectives
  - Tchepone
  - Haig
    - Report
      - Military assessment
      - Compared to Inchon
-Status
  -Briefing for Kissinger
  -Kissinger’s concerns
    -Problems
      -Army of the Republic of Vietnam [ARVN]
        -Strategy
        -Schedule delays
        -Quality of ARVN troops
  -Appearance versus substance

-Tchepone
  -Roads and supplies
  -ARVN troops
    -Air support
    -Potential problem

-Haig
  -Possible trip to Vietnam
    -Assessment
      -ARVN troops

-ARVN troops
  -Compared to Cambodia
  -Supplies
  -Objectives

-Air strikes
  -B-26's
  -Statistics
  -Damage reports
  -Firebase attacks
    -Effects
    -Moorer
  -Air support coordination in South Vietnam

-Forthcoming briefing
  -Haig trip
  -Moorer
  -Laird

-Plan to send Haig to Southeast Asia
-Conflict reports

Military psychology
  -Focus on objectives
  -German army
- Verdun
- Stalingrad
- British army
- Somme
- Difference from conventional warfare
- Need for accurate reporting

The President’s schedule
- Briefings
  - Middle East
  - Haig
  - Richard M. Helms

Laos military operation (Lam Son)
- Briefing
  - Status
  - Conflicting reports
  - ARVN
- ARVN
  - Supplies
  - Troops
    - Tchepone
- American commanders
  - General William C. Westmoreland
  - William H. Sullivan
- Military strategy and tactics
  - Cambodia
  - Laird
  - Haig
  - Air support
    - Tchepone
    - Problems
- Laos versus Cambodia
- ARVN forces
  - Abrams’ plan
- Forthcoming briefing
  - Moorer
  - General John W. Vogt, Jr.
- Laos battle plans
  - Tchepone
  - ARVN
  - Options
Kissinger left at 11:04 am

Rogers
- Muskie
  - Request for meeting with Kissinger
  - Request for meeting with Rogers
    - President’s instructions

BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 3
[Personal Returnable]
[Duration: 1m 25s]

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 3

Physical demands of office
- Connally
  - Health
- Health of personnel
- Connally
  - President’s previous telephone conversation with Connally
    - Camp David visit
- Camp David
  - Haldeman’s conversation with Connally
  - Amenities
-Cabinet Secretaries
  -Connally
-Renovations
  -Laurel Lodge
-Administration
  -Commander
-Plans
  -Julie Nixon Eisenhower
  -[Dwight] David Eisenhower, II
  -Connally

The President’s schedule
- Meeting with Governors
  -Black leadership meeting
    -President’s participation
    -Leonard Garment
    -Robert H. Finch
    -Ehrlichman
    -George W. Romney
    -Robert J. Brown
    -Edward L. Morgan
  -Agenda
    -Revenue sharing
      -Finch
      -George P. Shultz
  -Possible Presidential appearance
    -Haldeman’s position
    -Meeting with college editors
    -Peter M. Flanigan
    -Meetings with lobby groups
    -Mechanics of “Drop by”
  -Meeting with Governors
    -Nelson A. Rockefeller’s reaction
  -Possible Republican governors’ meeting
    -Pep talk
    -Richard B. Ogilvie
      -Revenue sharing
      -View of welfare reform
    -Connally, Shultz, and Ehrlichman

Governors’ meeting and dinner
  -The Vice President
-Revenue sharing
-Milton J. Shapp
-The President’s attendance
-Toast
-Golf balls
-Leslie T. (“Bob”) Hope
-Attendance
-Entertainment
-Vice President Spiro T. Agnew
-Revenue sharing

BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 5
[Privacy]
[Duration:  52s ]

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 5

-Rockefeller
-Margaretta (“Happy”) Rockefeller
-George C. Wallace
-Idanell (Brill) (“Nellie”) Connally
-Haldeman’s conversation with Wallace
-The President’s plans for next year
-Governors’ dinner
-Republicans
-Warren E. Hearnes

The President’s schedule

Alexander P. Butterfield entered at 11:34 am

-Meeting with black leaders
-Length of the President’s visit
-Press coverage
-Ziegler
Conv. No. 457-1 (cont.)

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

Tape Subject Log
(rev. 9/08)

-Donald H. Rumsfeld
-Shultz
-Ehrlichman

Haldeman left at 11:34 am

Butterfield left at 11:35 am

Date: February 24, 1971
Time: Unknown between 11:35 am and 11:38 am
Location: Oval Office

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

The President’s schedule
- Meeting with black leaders
- Tenure of meeting
- Berkeley G. Burrell
- Cenoria Johnson
- Suggested remarks
- Possible White House tour

Haldeman left at an unknown time before 11:38 am

Conversation No. 457-2

Date: February 24, 1971
Time: Unknown between 11:35 am and 11:38 am
Location: Oval Office

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

The President’s schedule
- Meeting with black leaders

Alexander P. Butterfield entered at an unknown time after 11:35 am
The President, et al. left at 11:38 am

Date: February 24, 1971
Time: 11:55 am - unknown before 12:19 pm
Location: Oval Office

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

Meeting with black leaders

[The President talked with Clifford M. Hardin between 11:55 am and 12:01 pm]

[Conversation No. 457-4A]

Report to the President
- John B. Williams
- Hardin’s press conference

Mississippi
- Farmers
- Hardin’s visit
- Integration of schools
  - Compared to northern schools

The President’s schedule
- Foreign policy
- Forthcoming trip to Des Moines, Iowa
- “Salute to Agriculture” dinner
  - Farm editors
    - Publicity

[End of telephone conversation]

Public relations
-President’s remarks
  -Agriculture

The President’s schedule
- Businessmen’s visit
- Morehouse College in Atlanta
  - Peter M. Flanigan
  - Pros and cons
- White House staff
  - President’s participation in meetings
    - Donald H. Rumsfeld
    - John N. Mitchell
    - ”Drop by”
    - Black leaders’ meeting
  - Advance scheduling
- Accessibility of the President
- Black leaders’ meeting
  - George P. Shultz
  - George W. Romney
  - John D. Ehrlichman
  - Rumsfeld
  - Finch
  - Planning

Camp David
- Invitations
  - White House staff
  - Finch
  - Rumsfeld
  - Elliot L. Richardson
  - William P. Rogers
  - Melvin R. Laird
  - Mitchell
  - Romney
  - John A. Volpe
- Rogers
- Problems

Black leaders’ meeting
- Richard Hatcher

Governors’ dinner
-Impression
- Leslie T. ("Bob") Hope
  - Visit to White House
    - Delores (Reade) Hope
- Arthur G. ("Art") Linkletter
  - John Wayne
    - "True Grit"

Vietnam War
- Civilian versus military control
  - Henry A. Kissinger’s role
  - President’s position
    - General John W. Vogt, Jr.
    - General Alexander M. Haig, Jr.
- William L. Safire
  - Forthcoming meeting with the President
  - Speech draft
  - Rogers/Kissinger relations
  - Middle East
    - Rogers
  - Strategic Arms Limitation Talks [SALT]
    - Gerard C. Smith
  - Kissinger’s meeting with Anatoliy F. Dobrynin
  - Summit meetings

Kissinger

BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 2
[Privacy]
[Duration: 38s]

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 2

- Edmund S. Muskie
Briefings by Administration spokesmen
- Democrats
  - Edward M. (“Ted”) Kennedy
  - President’s position
  - Rogers
  - Muskie
    - Haldeman’s forthcoming conversation
  - President’s position
  - Senators
    - George S. McGovern
    - Eugene J. McCarthy
  - Vietnam peace plan

Stephen B. Bull entered at an unknown time after 12:01 pm

The President’s schedule
- Federal Executive Board

Bull left at an unknown time before 12:19 pm

- Revenue sharing
- Meeting with the President
  - Pros and cons
  - Meeting with the Vice President
- Safire

The President and Haldeman left at an unknown time before 12:19 pm

Date: February 24, 1971
Time: Unknown after 12:01 pm until 12:19 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President met with Manolo Sanchez

BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1
The President and Sanchez left at 12:19 pm

Date: February 24, 1971
Time: Unknown between 12:19 pm and 12:35 pm
Location: Oval Office

Unknown people met

The unknown people left at an unknown time before 12:35 pm

Date: February 24, 1971
Time: Unknown between 12:35 pm and 12:43 pm
Location: Oval Office
The President met with an unknown man

BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1
[Personal Returnable]
[Duration: 11s]

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1

The unknown man left at an unknown time before 12:43 pm

Date: February 24, 1971
Time: 12:43 pm - 1:24 pm
Location: Oval Office

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

Radio statement by the President
- Speech draft
- William L. Safire
- Henry A. Kissinger
- President’s view

Press
- Television coverage
- Laos military operation
- Kissinger
- Bipartisan leadership meeting
- Newspaper editorials
- Chalmers Roberts
- Kissinger
Safire  
-Speech draft  
-Length  

Personnel  
-Kissinger  
-Rose Mary Woods  
-Alexander P. Butterfield  
-William P. Rogers  
-Dwight D. Eisenhower  
-Harry S Truman  
-Allocation of the President’s time  
-Kissinger  
-General Alexander M. Haig, Jr.  
-General John W. Vogt, Jr.  
-Briefing  
-Safire’s speech draft  
-Kissinger  
-Allocation of the President’s time  
-John D. Ehrlichman  
-Edwin L. Harper  

[The President talked with the White House operator at 12:47 pm]  

[Conversation No. 457-5A]  

Call to Haig  

[End of telephone conversation]  

Personnel  
-Ehrlichman  

[The President talked with the White House operator at an unknown time between 12:47 pm and 1:24 pm]  

[Conversation No. 457-5B]  

Haig’s schedule  

[End of telephone conversation]
Personnel
- Haig
- Admiral Thomas H. Moorer

Forthcoming briefing
- Kissinger
- President’s view
  - Kissinger
  - Vogt
- Safire
- Vogt

[Haldeman talked with Kissinger at an unknown time between 12:47 pm and 1:24 pm]

[Conversation No. 457-5C]

Briefing for the President
- Vogt
- Scheduling
  - Speech preparation
    - Safire’s role

[End of telephone conversation]

The President’s schedule
- Kissinger
  - Role in speech
    - Safire
  - Attendance at briefings
    - President’s view
  - Speech preparation
    - Safire’s role
  - National Security Study Memoranda [NSSMs]
    - President’s view

Kissinger entered at an unknown time after 12:47 pm

Vogt
- Present location
  - Press briefing
  - Meeting with the President and Kissinger
- Safire
  - Speech

Kissinger left at an unknown time before 1:24 pm

Rogers
  - Previous trip with the President
    - Walker’s Key
      Conv. No. 457-5 (cont.)

The President’s schedule
  - Kissinger
    - Role in briefings
    - Melvin R. Laird
      - Bureaucratic position

Cabinet officers
  - Communication
    - Laird
      - Ehrlichman
    - President’s position
      - Kissinger
    - John N. Mitchell
  - Staff participation
    - Rogers
      - Middle East views
    - Kissinger
      - Middle East views
    - Paperwork
      - Compared with Ehrlichman
    - National Security Council [NSC] staff
    - State Department
      - Staff work
    - Allocation of President’s time
      - “Paper route”
    - Rogers
    - Allocation of President’s time
      - Meeting with the President
        - Connally
        - Mitchell
        - Laird
        - Rogers
        - Moorer
- Kissinger
  - Safire speech draft
  - Rogers
- Cabinet officers
  - Access to the President
    - Kissinger
    - Rogers
    - Laird
    - Mitchell
  - Staff versus Cabinet
    - Ehrlichman
    - George P. Shultz
  - Kissinger
    - Compared to Ehrlichman
- Cabinet officers

Southeast Asia portion of speech
  - United States’ interests
    - Wording
    - Safire
    - Length

Democratic proposal on Vietnam
  - Possible Administration response
    - Robert J. Dole
    - Patrick J. Buchanan
    - Ronald L. Ziegler
    - President’s position
  - Edmund S. Muskie
  - Dole
  - Hugh Scott
  - Differing proposals within Democratic Party
    - White House strategy
  - Muskie
  - W[illiam] Averell Harriman
    - Withdrawal
    - Compared to Henry M. (“Scoop”) Jackson
      - Support for President
  - Muskie
  - Administration response
    - Kissinger
    - Rogers
- Laird
- Rogers
  - Michael J. ("Mike") Mansfield
- Administration response
  - Democratic caucus
    - Withdrawal proposal
    - Intra-party opposition
  - Dole
  - Buchanan
  - Franklyn C. ("Lyn") Nofziger
- Charles W. Colson
- Safire
- Haldeman’s role
  - Rogers
  - Laird
- Kissinger
- Ziegler
  - Possible press questions
  - Need for Administration response
- Buchanan
- Dole
- White House strategy
  - News summary
    - Dole
  - Rogers and Laird
  - Ziegler
- Withdrawal
  - Prisoners of War [POWs]
  - Effect of Democratic proposal
    - Jackson

Campus activity
  - May Day demonstration
  - Problems
    - Students for a Democratic Society [SDS]

Leslie T. ("Bob") Hope
  - Charlton Heston
    - Foreign pornography
    - Hollywood unemployment
      - President’s position
    - General quality of movies
The President’s schedule
- Eisenhower dinner
- Hope
- Speech preparation
- Meeting
- Attendance
  - Kissinger
  - Vogt
  - Moorer
- Old Executive Office Building

Haldeman left at 1:24 pm

Date: February 24, 1971
Time: 1:24 pm - 1:25 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President met with Manolo Sanchez

BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1
[Personal Returnable]
[Duration: 17s]

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1

The President and Sanchez left at 1:25 pm