Conversation No. 657-1

Date: January 26, 1972
Time: 5:05 pm - 6:17 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President met with Henry A. Kissinger.
[Recording begins while the conversation is in progress]

Vietnam
- Press response to the President’s peace plan proposal speech, January 25, 1972
  - Benjamin C. Bradlee
  - Donald Oberdorfer, Jr.
- North Vietnam’s reaction to publication of terms
- US negotiating
- Strategy
  - Seven points
  - Liberals
  - Kissinger’s press conference, January 26, 1972
    - Public and private positions
  - North Vietnam’s reaction to publication of terms
  - William J. Porter
    - Hardline
  - Ceasefire
    - 1970
  - North Vietnamese goals
    - US surrender
    - Communist government in South Vietnam
      - Self-determination
- Public relations
- Kissinger’s forthcoming message to Porter
- Ellsworth F. Bunker
  - Message
  - Message from the President
  - Support for the President’s Vietnam speech
- Media response to the President’s peace proposal speech
- North Vietnam’s reaction to publication of terms
  - US public relations plans
  - US surrender
- US negotiating strategy
  - William Moyers
  - Washington Post
Page Belcher and the White House photographer entered and Kissinger left at 5:12 pm.

Photograph session

Visit from Dutch Prime Minister [Berand W. Biesheuvel]

[Photograph session]

The White House photographer left at 5:12 pm.

Tulsa Hospital
- Clark MacGregor
- Cost
- Meaning

[The President talked with the White House operator at an unknown time between 5:12 pm and 5:14 pm.]

[Conversation No. 657-1A]

[See Conversation No. 19-122]

[End of telephone conversation]

Tulsa Hospital
- Belcher’s talk with MacGregor
- Signing
- History

[The President talked with MacGregor between 5:14 pm and 5:15 pm.]

[Conversation No. 657-1B]

[See Conversation No. 19-123]
[End of telephone conversation]

Mary C. Higgins
-Call from the President
-Support for the President
-1962 California gubernatorial campaign
  -The President’s comments to the press
  -Belcher’s comment to Thelma C. (“Pat”) Nixon
-Religion
-Beliefs regarding the President’s future in politics
-Death
  -Cancer
-Call from the President
-Performance as Belcher’s assistant
-Rose Mary Woods’s view
-Marital status

Political friendship
-Belcher’s support for the President

Agriculture Department
-Earl L. Butz
-Clifford M. Hardin
-Butz
-Ezra Taft Benson
  -Belcher’s support
-Butz
-Clarence D. Palmby

The President’s 1952 fund
-Belcher’s telegrams
  -Dwight D. Eisenhower, Republican National Committee, Robert A. Taft, Sr.
-Belcher’s speech
-The President’s Checkers speech
  -Congressional dealings
    -Scandal
Agriculture
-Butz
  -Farm spending
- Congressional relations
  -George D. Aiken
  -Jack R. Miller
  -Barry M. Goldwater
- Reserve bill
  -Defeat
    -Vote
      -Milton R. Young
      -Carl T. Curtis
      -Hubert H. Humphrey
      -George S. McGovern
- Veto
- Costs
  - Purchase, storage
- House of Representatives
  - Committee
  - Floor
    - Republican votes
    - Belcher’s schedule
      - New York
- Butz
  - Talk with Belcher, January 25, 1972
    - Hyde H. Murray
- Hardin
- Butz
  - Call to Belcher
- Farm bill
  - Costs
    - Belcher’s efforts
    - Farm losses
    - Welfare
- Agricultural support
  - Congressional voting
    - Miller
  - Belcher’s voting record
    - Miller
      - Vietnam
      - Belcher
- Congressional support for administration
  - Senate
  - Henry L. Bellmon
  - House of Representatives
- House leadership
  - Gerald R. Ford, Leslie C. Arends and Barber B. Conable, Jr.
- Support for Belcher
- Butz
- Leadership meetings
  - The President’s Vietnam peace proposal speech
  - Goldwater
  - Belcher’s attendance
- Belcher’s past contacts with Presidents
  - Present administration
  - Compared to Eisenhower Administration
  - Golf

Golf

Belcher’s health
  - Blood pressure
  - Doctors’ advice
  - Golf
  - Golf
  - Partners
    - Arends
    - Ford
    - Lobbyists
  - Age
  - Golf
    - Doctor’s advice
    - Courses
  - Florida, Air Force Academy

Congressional relations
  - Past contacts with White House
  - Voting record
  - Farm bills
  - Political effect on Belcher
    - Ford
    - Miller
-Young

-Butz
  -Criticism
    -Hardin
    -Benson
      -William J. Scherle
        -Request for resignation
    -Orville L. Freeman
      -Democrats

-Farmers
  -Belcher’s career
    -Belcher’s father
    -Position
    -Ross Rizley

-Farm bill
  -Hardin
  -Benson
  -Joseph W. Martin, Jr.
  -Hardin
  -Support
    -Democrats
    -Carl B. Albert
    -Republicans
  -Belcher’s actions
    -Effect on the President, Hardin
    -Introduction
      -Bipartisanship
  -Amendments
    -White House desires
    -Sugar bill
    -Pesticide bill
    -Committee vote
    -Floor vote

-Hardin
  -Reason for leaving
BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 3
[Privacy]
[Duration: 3s]

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 3

BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 4
[Privacy]
[Duration: 4s]

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 4

- Replacement
  - Ralston-Purina job

-Age
- Contact with Belcher
- Corn prices
- Butz
  - Ralston-Purina
- Confirmation
- Relations with Belcher
  - Meetings
    - Frequency
- William R. Poage
- Poage
  - Relations with Belcher
  - House agriculture committee
Conv. No. 657-1 (cont.)

Stephen B. Bull [?] entered at an unknown time after 5:15 pm.

The President’s schedule

Bull [?] left at an unknown time before 5:48 pm.

Belcher’s support of administration
   - Whitaker
   - Opinion on politics
      - Bryce N. Harlow
         - Belcher’s wife and Harlow’s father
   - Belcher’s efforts to contact the President
   - The President’s word
   - Whitaker
   - Butz
      - Farm bills

Football
   - Belcher

Murray, Butz and MacGregor entered at 5:48 pm.

Whitaker’s schedule

The President’s relationship with Belcher
   - Butz contact
Conv. No. 657-1 (cont.)

-Nixon Presidential Materials Staff

Tape Subject Log
(rev. 10/06)

- House agriculture committee
- Belcher’s support for the Administration
  - Political effect
- Hardin

Farm Bill
- Belcher’s opinion
  - Budget increase
- Future relationships
  - Poage
  - Miller
- Reelections
  - Curtis
- Scherle
  - Forthcoming breakfast meeting
  - 1972
  - Miller
  - Announcement

Tulsa Hospital
- Governor [David Hall]
  - Signing
- Public relations
  - The President’s meeting with Belcher
- Signing of mortgage guarantee
- St. John’s Hospital
  - Catholics

Whitaker entered at 5:55 pm.

Agriculture
- Whitaker
  - Belcher
    - Contact with the President
    - 1972
- Congressional leadership meeting
  - Belcher’s attendance
  - Political cheerleading
    - Benefits
    - Goldwater
    - Football metaphor
-Cattle import from Italy
  -Quarantine
    -Duration
    -Location
    -New Jersey
-Belcher’s outlook
  -Politics
-Corn prices
-National Wheat Growers Association
  -Denver
    -American Farm Bureau Federation [AFBF]
  -Butz’s talk with unknown person
-Administration program
  -Popularity
    -Oklahoma
    -Bellmon
  -Belcher’s talk with AFBF
  -Milk producers
  -Cattlemen
-Corn prices
  -Prospects
-Acre reduction in feed grains
  -Forthcoming farmers’ intentions report
    -Timing
  -Changes
  -Spending
    -Butz’s talk with the President, November 1971
  -Bill
  -Political effect in Senate
-Long range plans
  -Need for secrecy
  -Soviet package
    -Foreign policy
      -Farm vote
      -Maurice H. Stans
-Farmers’ vote
  -Albert H. Quie
  -John Zwach
  -Quie
    -Meetings
      -Dairy farmers
- National Farmers Organization [NFO]
- National Farmers Union [NFU]

Congressional relations
- Belcher
- Harlow
- The President’s contacts with Congressmen
  - The President’s morale
- Votes
  - Belcher
  - Clement F. Haynsworth
  - G. Harrold Carswell
  - [Unknown person]
- Belcher
  - Power behind the scenes
- The President’s contact with Congressmen
  - Belcher
    - Prior support
    - Contacts in Congress
      - Belcher’s philosophy
- Rural development legislation
- Forthcoming message
- Humphrey
  - White House strategy
- Belcher’s support for administration
  - Contact with the Administration
    - Administration’s requests
    - Gratitude
- Benson
  - Belcher
  - H. Carl Andersen of Minnesota

Bull entered at an unknown time after 5:55 pm.

Belcher’s staff
- Gifts
  - Money clip
    - Presidential seal
    - Previous visit from Biesheuvel

Bull left at an unknown time before 6:16 pm.
Vietnam negotiations
   - Hanoi’s reaction to US proposal

Letters to Democrat presidential candidates
   - Ford
   - Albert
   - Budget plan
   - F. Edward Hebert
   - George H. Mahon
   - Gillespie V. Montgomery
   - Albert
   - John W. McCormack
   - Congressional majority
   - Hugh Scott and Ford


Nomination for the President’s signature

The President’s schedule
   - Forthcoming telephone call

Manolo Sanchez entered at an unknown time after 6:16 pm.

Delivery of item

Coat

Sanchez left at an unknown time before 6:17 pm.

Item for the President’s signature

Dr. W. Kenneth Riland

Belcher
   - Air Force One
   - Relationship with the President

Telephone call
   - Kissinger
The President, *et al.* left at 6:17 pm.

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**Conversation No. 657-2**

Date: January 26, 1972  
Time: Unknown between 6:17 pm and 11:59 pm  
Location: Oval Office

Alexander P. Butterfield me with unknown people.

[Unintelligible]

The President’s location

[Unintelligible]

Butterfield and the unknown people left at an unknown time before 11:59 pm.