Conversation No. 693-1

Date: March 24, 1972
Time: 3:02 pm - 3:39 pm
Location: Oval Office


[General conversation]

Conversation No. 693-2

Date: March 24, 1972
Time: 3:39 pm - 5:10 pm
Location: Oval Office

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

The President's press conference
- Format
- Topics
- Television
- Questions
- International Telephone and Telegraph [ITT] case
  - Richard G. Kleindienst confirmation
  - Peter M. Flanigan’s testimony
  - Ronald L. Ziegler
Tape Subject Log
(rev. Sep-01)

Conv. No. 693-2 (cont.)

-Justice Department investigation
-San Diego
  -Ziegler’s response
  -Kleindienst
-Television
-George Meany
-Schools
-Food prices
  -Farmers
  -Eggs
-Arthur K. Watson
-Television
-ITT case
  -San Diego question
  -Kleindienst confirmation
    -Investigation
    -Justice Department
-Fidel Castro question
  -Sarah McLendon
-Marijuana question
  -The President's answer
    -Opposition to legalization
-Busing question
  -Desegregation progress
  -National Broadcasting Company [NBC] broadcast
  -California
  -Compensatory education
-Making points
  -Memorandum
    -Patrick J. Buchanan
    -Ziegler
-Economy
  -Food prices
-Paris conference
  -Filibuster
-Busing question
  -Racism
  -Moratorium
-Robert B. Semple, Jr.
  -Foreign policy
    -Leonid I. Brezhnev
-ITT question
-John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson administrations

-Pace
-Watson
  -The President's comments
-Meany
  -The President's comments
    -National security
    -Real wages

-Television compared to office
-Type of questions
  -Busing
  -Inflation
  -Canada
  -The People's Republic of China [PRC]
  -Soviet Union
  -Vietnam
  -ITT
  -Marijuana
  -Watson
  -Meany
  -Vice President Spiro T. Agnew
  -Kleindienst
  -Negative compared to positive
  -Number
  -Paris
  -Moscow
  -Cuba
  -PRC
  -Canada
  -Busing
  -Marijuana
  -Political contributions
  -Justice Department actions
  -Wage Board
  -Inflation

-Credit to the administration
  -Herbert G. Klein
[ITT] case
  -Press conference
    -San Diego question
      -Ziegler’s response
    -Kleindienst confirmation
      -Justice Department response

Ziegler entered at 3:53 pm.

Press conference
  -Press reactions
    -Paris talks
      -Negotiations
    -Inflation
      -Food prices
    -Busing
      -Desegregation
      -Racism
      -Moratorium
        -Significance
      -Compensatory education
        -United Press International [UPI]
        -Associated Press [AP]
    -Food prices
      -Middleman
      -Farmers
      -Egg story
        -John B. Connally
  -ITT case
    -Press reactions
      -Kleindienst confirmation
      -Campaign contributions
      -Maurice H. Stans
        -Flanigan
      -Richard W. McLaren
      -Time magazine story
        -Erwin N. Griswold
      -Divestiture
      -Kennedy and Johnson administrations
    -Glass house analogy
    -Watson
    -San Diego question
- Kleindienst confirmation
  - Refusal to comment
  - Justice Department
- Possible televising
- "No comment" philosophy
- Questions and answers [Q&A]
  - Kennedy
    - Dwight D. Eisenhower press conferences
      - Absence of live television
    - Johnson press conferences
      - Length
      - Number of questions
- Television
- Extended answers
  - Busing issue
  - Wage and price issue
  - Television
- NBC
  - Compensatory education
- Television
  - Answers
  - Length
- Strategic Arms Limitation Talks [SALT] question
  - Semple
  - Moscow trip
- World powers
- Office compared to television
  - Preparation
    - Time
    - Relaxation
    - Grammar
- Busing
  - "Lost generation"
  - Desegregation
- Agnew question
- Gerald L. Warren
- Lucian C. ("Lou") Warren
- Television
- Campaign questions
  - Speeches
  - Partisan political groups
  - Before compared with after the Republican Convention
BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1
[Personal Returnable]
[Duration: 22s]

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1

Press conference
-Evening news coverage
  -Paris peace talks
  -Meany
  -Marijuana question
    -Answer
      -Opposition to legalization of marijuana
    -Raymond P. Shafer
  -Paris peace talks
    -Filibuster
    -Alexander M. Haig, Jr.
-Paris peace talks
-Frequency of conferences
-Office compared to television
  -Subjects
  -Length
  -Press selection of questions and topics
-Office conference compared to television
  -Dan Rather
    -Coverage of press conference
    -Haldeman’s view
-Egg quote
  -Connally
-Meany answer
  -Press coverage
-Office conference compared to television
  -Shafer
  -Marijuana
-Watson answer
Conv. No. 693-2 (cont.)

-Sobriety
  -Members of the House of Representatives and Senate
-Airplane incident
  -Carl B. Albert
  -[Thomas] Hale Boggs

**************************************************************************
BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 2
[Privacy]
[Duration: 42s ]

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 2

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

-Number of conferences
-Frequency
  -Television
-Pattern of appearances
  -Ziegler
-Television
-The President’s preparation
-Lou Warren
  -Treatment by the President
-Castro question
-McLendon

Ziegler left at 4:20 pm.

Press conference
-Office
-Preparation
-Television
  -Prior press conference
  -California
-Connally's view of leadership
  -Cabinet
  -Republic Congressional leaders
-Press conference
-Compared to speeches
  -Busing
  -Narcotics
    -New York

PRC
  -"New China hands”
  -Significance
  -Pictures

[No conversation]

Press conference
  -Busing
    -Answer
      -Ziegler's comments
  -Watson answer
    -Ziegler’s comments compared to the President's comments
  -Busing
    -Racism
  -David Kraslow
  -Reuters [?]
  -Hedley Donovan
    -Bureau Chief
    -Special commentator
  -The President’s forthcoming trip to Canada
  -Preparation

ITT case
  -Press conference
    -Kleindienst answer
  -Ziegler
    -Flanigan
  -Answers

The President's schedule
  -Charles G. (“Bebe”) Rebozo's schedule

Stephen B. Bull entered at an unknown time after 4:20 pm.

The President's schedule
Bull left at an unknown time before 4:32 pm.

Colson
- Lawyer
  - Advice
  - ITT
    - Dita D. Beard
    - Committee

Economy
- Wage and price controls
- Meany
- Food prices
  - Decrease
    - Economists
- Chain stores
  - International Brotherhood of Teamsters
    - Trucks
      - Delivery costs
- Meat
  - Processing
- Eggs
  - Hotel Pierre

Haldeman left and Colson entered at 4:32 pm.

Press conference
- The President's performance
- Executive Office Building [EOB]
  - Basement
    - Colson's listening
- Television
- ITT case
  - Kennedy and Johnson administrations
    - Adlai E. Stevenson, III
      - Withdrawal Kleindienst nomination
    - Henry M. (“Scoop”) Jackson
      - Statement
-President’s answer
  -Democrats
-"Glass houses" comment
  -Sobriety
    -American Broadcasting Company [ABC] news request
      -State Department files
        -Congressmen
          -Incidents abroad
-Tone
-Television
-Meany
-Economy
  -Wages
    -Food prices
      -Middleman compared to retailer
      -Eggs
      -Farmers
      -Consumer
        -Giant Foods
        -Safeway
      -Food chains
      -Lawsuit
        -Herbert Stein
          -Connally
            -Today show
-ITT
  -Democrats
  -Settlement
  -McLaren
    -Possible lawsuit
  -Griswold
-Wire stories
  -Ziegler
-Paris peace talks
-ITT
  -Antitrust record
  -Hearings
  -Administration
  -Drop case
-"Glass houses" comment
  -Sobriety
-President’s Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse
-Criminal justice
-Private compared to public use
   -Homosexuality comparison
      -Peter I. Tchaikovsky

-Topics
   -Meany
   -Food prices
   -Busing
      -Compensatory education
-ITT
   -Contributions
      -John N. Mitchell
   -Hearings
   -"No comment"
      -Antitrust record of the administration
-San Diego case
-IT&T Bureau of Investigation [FBI] experts
-Outside experts
-Assistant Director
-John W. Dean, III
-Comments

Bull entered at an unknown time after 4:32 pm.

The President's schedule
   -Helicopter
      -Departure time
   -Alexander P. Butterfield
      -Documents
         -The President's signature

Pen or pencil

Bull left at an unknown time before 4:50 pm.

ITT case
   -Beard memorandum
   -Walter McCrone
      -Paper analysis
   -FBI
      -Dating
         -Pearl L. Tytell
- McCrone and Tytell testimony
- FBI
- John A. Scali
  - ABC
    - Evidence of fraud
- Jackson
  - Antitrust issue
  - Submission to Congress
    - Kennedy and Johnson administrations

Colson's schedule
- Louis P. Harris
  - Meeting

Press conference
  - Press coverage
  - Paris peace talks
  - SALT agreement
    - Semple
  - Marijuana question
  - "Glass houses" comment
    - Watson
      - Possible resignation
        - William P. Rogers
      - Airplane incident
        - Rogers
      - State Department

Colson's schedule
- Harris
  - ITT issue
  - Democrats
    - Campaign issue
    - Committee
    - Report
      - Democratic Committee
        - James O. Eastland
    - Foreign Relations Committee
    - Begin investigation
      - ITT and Chile
BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 4

[National Security]
[Duration: 52s]

CHILE

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 4

Press conference
- Food prices
  - Egg comment
  - Connally’s story
  - Farmer, middleman and consumer

Congress
- Foreign policy
- Democrats
- Passage of bills
  - Republican leadership
  - Easter
  - Democratic National Convention
  - Clark MacGregor
    - Administration proposals
      - Lack of Congressional action
        - Michael J. Mansfield
        - Albert
        - Wilbur Mills
        - Revenue sharing
  - Russell B. Long
  - Welfare reform
    - Elliot L. Richardson
    - Pilot program

Press conference
- Television
The President's conversation with Haldeman and Ziegler
-Preparation
-Answers
-TOPICS
-Answers
-ITT
-Kennedy and Johnson administrations
-President’s comments
-Public impressions
-Tone
-Television
-Kennedy's press conferences

Butterfield entered at 5:00 pm.

Documents
-Signatures

The President's schedule

Butterfield left at 5:02 pm.

Frank E. Fitzsimmons's call to Colson

Meany
-Harris's opinion
-ITT

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

BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 5
[Personal Returnable]
[Duration: 45s ]

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 5

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

Strategy
-Publicity
-Leaks
  -Pentagon Papers
  -Robert J. Dole

Bull entered at an unknown time after 5:02 pm.

The President's schedule
  -Helicopter
  -Departure
  -Haig

Bull left at an unknown time before 5:04 pm.

Fitzsimmons
  -Call to Colson
    -Support
    -Meany
    -Calls to Fitzsimmons
      -Callers' support
        -Building trades
    -Meany
      -The President’s comments at press conference
        -Jay Lovestone

Bull entered at an unknown time after 5:02 pm.

The President's schedule
  -Haig
    -New York
    -Possible message

Bull left at an unknown time before 5:10 pm.

Press conference
  -Questions
    -Paris negotiations
      -Charge of filibuster
    -Domestic issues
      -Consumer Price Index [CPI]
      -Food prices
        -Price Commission
        -Middlemen
The President left and Butterfield entered at an unknown time after 5:04 pm.
The President returned at an unknown time after 5:04 pm.

States
- Report on George C. Wallace

ITT case
- Beard memorandum
- FBI

Colson left at 5:09 pm.

The President's schedule
- Reception for Congress
  - Number of guests
  - Hussein ibn Talal [Hussein, King of Jordan]
    - Stag dinner
    - Honors
    - Time
    - Congressmen
    - Army Chorus
      - Sea Chanters
    - Organization of American States [OAS] dinner
      - Entertainment
        - Dorothy Kirsten

The President and Butterfield left at 5:10 pm.