Conversation No. 875-5

Date: March 9, 1973
Time: Unknown between 3:10 pm and 3:17 pm
Location: Oval Office

Two unknown men met.

Departure

Winner [?]

The two unknown men left at an unknown time before 3:17 pm.

Conversation No. 875-1

Date: March 9, 1973
Time: Unknown between 3:10 pm and 3:17 pm
Location: Oval Office

Unknown men met.

Schedule
- Arrangements

The unknown men left at an unknown time before 3:17 pm.

Conversation No. 875-2

Date: March 9, 1973
Time: 3:17 pm - 3:53 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President met with William E. Simon, John T. Dunlop, John D. Ehrlichman and Herbert G. Stein.
Wage and price controls  
- Peter G. Peterson  
  - 5.5 percent wage settlement [?]  
  - Ehrlichman’s press conference [?]  

Economy  
- Latest figures  
- Pressure for administration action  
- Administration policy  
  - Quadriad meeting  
  - Political pressure  
  - Response to wage settlements  
- Labor demands  
  - Impact on prices  
- Prices  
  - Need to moderate  
    - Possible actions  
      - Gimmicks  
      - Impact on wages  
- Wage increases  
  - Rejection  
    - Labor reaction  
      - George Meany  
      - Resumption of freeze  
- Latest figures  
  - Labor reaction  
    - Gimmicks  
- Price freeze  
  - Conversation with Peterson  
    - Problems  
      - Food supply  
      - Beef, poultry, pigs  
- Food prices  
  - Farm prices, earnings  
    - Decline over past year  
- Non-food prices  
  - Industrial products  
    - Lumber, oil  
  - Phase II price freeze
Impact on supplies of petroleum

Administration policy statement on energy
- Impact of Phase II on price freeze [?]
- Preparation for President's review
- Camp David meeting
  - Energy
    - Phase I August 1971 precedent
    - George P. Shultz’s attendance
  - Trade
  - Session for policy advisors
    - Outside advisors
      - President's dinner conversation with unnamed oil businessman
      - Private sector input
      - Libya
      - John B. Connally
    - American Petroleum Institute [API]
    - Connally
    - Independent refiners
    - Max Fisher

Wage and price controls
- Labor
  - Reaction to price increase
    - Food prices
  - Meany
    Cost of living
    - Views of other labor leaders
- Administration policies
  - Possible actions
    - Return to Phase II price controls
  - Oil action
  - Industry-specific controls
    - Cigarettes
    - Canning
    - Fertilizer
  - Lumber
    - Seriousness of problem
      - Interior, Agriculture, and Labor Departments
Conversation No. 875-2 (cont’d)

-Earl L. Butz
-Forestry Service
-Butz, Bill Brown [?]

-Food prices
  -Increased supplies
  -Price controls
    -Meat
    -Labor reactions
    -Impact
    -Support for freeze on food prices

-Labor agreements
  -Labor-Management Advisory Council meetings
    -Adjustments
      -Cost of living escalators
      -Deferments
      -Settlement costs

-Cost of Living Council [COLC] meeting
  -Latest trends
  -Need for publicity
    -Price increases
  -Food prices
    -Labor reactions

-Symbolic action [?]
  -Shultz
  -Stein
  -Need to reassure unions
  -Psychological effect of food price increases
    -Stein

-Publicity for programs
  -Visibility
  -Examinations of industries
    -Controls
      -Explanations
  -Public reaction
    -“Food story”
  -Butz’s speech
  -White paper
    -Food problem

-Agriculture Department
Conversation No. 875-2 (cont’d)

-Butz’s role
  -Agriculture compared to price control
  -Speeches
-Farmers, meat processors, ranchers
  -Prosperity
-Use of rhetoric
  -Middlemen
    -Tilt away from farmer, processor
      -Value
-Reports
  -Actions
    -Lemons
-Resistance to President's policies
  -Butz’s role
  -Bureaucracy
-Surplus grain disposition
  -Auctions
  -Reports
  -Subsidies
    -Butz
  -Blame
    -Railroads
    -Grain sales to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics [USSR]
-Meeting
-Statement by President
-Transportation secretary
  -Railroads
-Meeting
  -President’s attendance
  -COLC
  -Agriculture department
  -Talking paper, report, presentation
    -President’s role
-Need for publicity
  -Symbolic action
  -Need to appear active
  -Excuses
    -Food shortage
    -Household budget
-COLC
  -Work with Agriculture department
    -Butz
    -Problems
      -Meeting on grain surplus
      -Other commodities
      -Cheese
  -Meeting with President on railroads
    -Scheduling
      -Meeting with Congressional leaders
    -COLC
    -Lumber issue
  -Lumber supply
    -Forrest Service
    -Criticism of release of timber for sale
    -Prices
  -Commodity stockpiles
    -War contingencies
    -Bomb shelter
  -Release for sale
    -George A. Lincoln [?]
      -Agriculture Department
      -General Services Administration [GSA]
    -Bureaucratic congressional reluctance
      -Copper prices
      -Need for legislation
  -National security arguments
  -Oil stockpiles
    -Imports
      -Oil producers
      -Supplies
      -Excess consumption
  -National security arguments
    -Secondary consideration
  -Release
    -Impact on prices
    -Departmental authority
      -Treasury Department, Council of Economic Advisors [CEA][?]
  -Wheat subsidies
USSR
  - Extension
  - CEA[?] study
- Release
- Food
  - Levels
    - Wheat bushels
- Defense Department surplus
  - Sale
  - food
  - Elliot L. Richardson
- Government hoarding
  - Land
  - Stockpiles
    - Impact on prices
- Agriculture department stockpiles
  - Meeting on grain, lumber supplies
    - Hard-line stance
  - Impact on other departments
- Agenda
  - Stein
- Shultz’s, Roy L. Ash’s attendance
  - Office of Management and Budget [OMB] role
- White House staff compared to agencies
  - Frederic V. Malek
    - Stockpiles
  - National security arguments
    - President’s role
- Wage demands
  - Problems
  - Food prices
    - Government efforts
- Milk producers
- Congressional relations
  - Wilbur D. Mills
    - Relation with the milk producers
- Pet projects [?]
-President's meeting with U. Alexis Johnson

Simon, Dunlop, Ehrlichman and Stein left and Ronald L. Ziegler entered at 3:49 pm.

Meeting with Henry A. Kissinger [?]

People's Republic of China [PRC]
-Release of John T. Downey
  -John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson
-William Downey [?]
-Ziegler’s press statement
-William Downey [?]
-Downey’s mother’s illness
-Chou En-lai
-Downey’s release
  -President’s appreciation
-Hong Kong, PRC border
-Release from PRC

Henry A. Kissinger entered at 3:50 pm.

William P. Rogers
  -Presence

COLC

The President, Ziegler and Kissinger left at 3:53 pm.

Date:  March 9, 1973
Time:  Unknown between 3:53 pm and 4:40 pm
Location:  Oval Office

Unknown people met.

Furniture
-Movement

The unknown people left at an unknown time before 4:40 pm.

Conversation No. 875-4

Date:  March 9, 1973  
Time:  Unknown between 3:53 pm and 11:59 pm  
Location:  Oval Office

Unknown people met.

Arrangements for recording
- Schedule

The President entered at 4:40 pm.

Recording arrangements

The President made a video recording of his highlights from "Radio Address About the State of the Union Message on Law Enforcement and Drug Abuse Prevention" between 4:40 pm and 4:43 pm.

Federal criminal code
- Revision
  - Penalties
    - Drugs
    - Capital punishment
    - Hijacking, kidnapping, terrorists
  - Maximum penalties
    - Drug pushers

Marijuana
- Criminalization

Announcement
- Arrival of helicopter
John T. Downey
- Release
  - President's call to William Downey
  - Incarceration in People’s Republic of China [PRC] compared to Vietnam
    - Downey’s release date
    - Vietnam prisoners of war [POWs] release date
      - Delay

Church service
  - Invitation

The President left at 4:43 pm. Unknown people remained.

[General conversation]

Protestants compared to Catholics

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Offer of assistance

Gear

The recording was cut off at an unknown time before 11:59 pm.