Date: March 20, 1973
Time: Unknown between 4:09 pm and 5:39 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President met with John D. Ehrlichman. This recording began while the conversation was in progress.

Watergate
- White House statement
- Judiciary Committee
  - L. Patrick Gray, III
  - Charges
- White House statement
  - Treatment before Congress
  - Double standard
- John W. Dean, III
- Republican Congressmen
  - Edward J. Gurney
  - Hugh Scott
  - Gerald R. Ford
  - Defense of administration
- Leadership meetings
  - Discussion of Watergate
    - Ronald L. Ziegler's view
    - Dangers
    - Advantages
  - Dwight L. Chapin
  - Gordon C. Strachan
  - Charles W. Colson
  - Ehrlichman
    - Relationship with E. Howard Hunt, Jr.
- Revelations
- Claims
- Ehrlichman
  - Dealings of Hunt
    - Edward M. Kennedy
- Campaign funds
- Allegations of misuse
  - Maurice H. Stans
    - Statement
  - Herbert W. Kalmbach
    - Statement
    - Use of funds
    - Accountability
    - Existing laws
  - Kalmbach
    - Use
      - Polls, hiring of personnel
  - Kalmbach
    - Testimony
      - Immunity
  - Future problems
    - Subpoenas of White House staff by Ervin Committee
      - Confrontation
        - Contempt citation
        - Court fight
        - Constitutional issues
    - Administration's strategy
      - Justification for immunity
        - Research on legalities
      - Court case
        - Need to provide a record
        - Status of advisors
    - Formulation of administration's position
      - Richard G. Kleindienst
        - Preparation of administration's case
          - Joseph T. Sneed
    - Senate committee
    - Scott's opinion
  - Samuel J. Ervin, Jr.
    - Criticism of colleagues
    - Interview by Roger Mudd
      - Questions
        - Television [TV] appearances
          - National Broadcasting Company [NBC]'s "Today Show"
Columbia Broadcast System [CBS] news
-“Meet the Press”
-Number

-Publicity
-Impact on Senate colleagues

-Colson's operation
-Effectiveness
-George S. McGovern's campaign

-Administration strategy
-Counterattack
-Effectiveness

-A statement from President
-White House investigation
-Results
-Show of concern for issue
-Dean's efforts

-Public relations exercise
-Written interrogatories
-Release of information
-Deficiencies of approach

-Disclosure of information
-Benefits
-Disadvantages
-White House statement
-Separation of power
-Ehrlichman's opinion

-Reasons for involvement by participants
-John N. Mitchell and Martha Mitchell

-Weak points
-Jeb Stuart Magruder
-Hugh W. Sloan, Jr.
-Defendants
-Hunt
-Knowledge of Committee to Re-elect the President [CRP]'s activities

-CRP
-Stans
-President's knowledge of activities
-Hunt, H. R. (“Bob”) Haldeman, Colson
-G. Gordon Liddy
-James W. McCord, Jr.
-Reliability
-Magruder
-Reliability
-Strachan
-Future job
-Chapin
-Effect on White House
-Dean
-Quality of work
-President's support
-Relationship with President
-Confidentiality of contacts and amount of information provided the President
-President's involvement in case
-Ehrlichman's views on strategy
-Richard A. Moore's analysis
-Full disclosure
-Statement by President
-Other possibilities
-Reasons for withholding information
-1972 election
-Counterattack
-Problems
-Public concern about Watergate
-Growth
-Role of media
-Administration strategy
-Staff testimony before Ervin Committee
-Problems
-Ehrlichman's opposition
-Executive session testimony
-Press conference
-Dean
-Watergate as an issue
-Tenacity
-Effect on Presidency
-Staff testimony
  -Mitchell
-Grand jury on Robert L. Vesco
  -Mitchell's testimony
  -Vesco campaign contributions
    -New direction for investigation
    -Securities and Exchange Commission [SEC]
    -Involvement of Mitchell
-Allegations
  -Culpable intent of contribution
  -Intervention with SEC and Justice Department
-Administration handling of case
  -Dean
  -Public statements
-SEC investigation
  -Ehrlichman's meeting with G. Bradford Cook, March 20
  -Civil action
  -Referral to Justice Department
-Vesco
  -Costa Rica
  -Extradition

[Begin segment reviewed under deed of gift]

[Dwight] David Eisenhower, III
  -Law school
  -Other career opportunities
    -Possible Congressional race
-Law school
  -Age
  -Possible Congressional race
  -Qualifications
  -Pennsylvania
    -York
    -Republicans
President's schedule
- Meeting of counselors
  - Cabinet
    - Domestic Council
    - Therapy
    - John A. Volpe, Walter J. Hickel, George W. Romney
    - Loyalty.
    - Periodic meetings
    - Value
  - Congressional leadership meetings
    - Value
    - Ford, J. Burt L. Talcott [?]
- Cabinet meetings
  - Groups of officers
    - Value
    - Topics of common interest
      - James T. Lynn
      - Community development
      - Natural resources
      - Meetings with agency heads
        - Donald E. Johnson
- Lynn
  - Community development
  - Under Secretaries
    - Floyd H. Hyde
  - Claude S. Brinegar
  - Peter J. Brennen
  - John Pierce [?]
    - Community Development Committee
- Support for counselors
- Value
- Scheduling
- Domestic topics
-Cost of living
-Lynn
-Caspar W. (“Cap”) Weinberger
-Earl L. Butz

Watergate
-Members of Cabinet Secretary's staff
  -Boost for morale
    -Watergate statement
-White House staff
  -Involvement
  -Ehrlichman
  -Haldeman
  -Magruder
  -Dismissal of guilty
-Magruder
  -Involvement in Watergate
  -McCord's accusations
    -Perjury
    -Need to refute charge
-Colson
  -Culpability
-Ehrlichman
-Targets
  -Haldeman, Mitchell, Colson
-Chapin, Strachan
  -Position in hierarchy
  -St. Louis Post-Dispatch story
  -Chapin's ties to Haldeman
-Haldeman
  -Newsweek article
    -Human interest element
    -Neutral opinion
-Attacks on President
  -Old establishment
    -Harvard, Yale
    -Motives
  -Impact of Watergate on administration
-Briefing of Cabinet
  -Spiro T. Agnew
  -Dean briefing
-White House staff
  -Need for assurance
    -Skittishness
    -George H. W. Bush
-A briefing on Watergate
  -Dean
  -Value, disadvantages
  -Briefing of Cabinet, leaders
    -Reassurance
  -Problem of separation of powers
    -Use of Patrick J. Buchanan
    -Willingness to testify before Congressional committee
      -Peter M. Flanigan
-Executive privilege
  -Sherman Adams case
  -Chapin
    -Possible charges
  -Haldeman
    -Magruder charges
    -Problems
      -Accessory to case
      -Possible sources of problems
  -Flanigan's Congressional testimony in International Telephone and
Television [ITT] case
  -Attempt to differentiate between Watergate and ITT case
  -George P. Shultz
  -Role in White House
    -Status
  -Claim to executive privilege
    -Kleindienst
  -ITT case
    -Charges against
  -Colson
  -Vesco case
  -Executive privilege
-Adams
-Shield laws
  -Precedents
  -Testimony of journalists
-Adams case
  -Charge of criminal actions
-Alger Hiss case
-"Five percenter" case
  -Harry S Truman
-Administration's strategy
  -Public statements
  -Public denials
  -Bush's concerns
    -Contributors' responses
    -Need for an explanation
  -Past statements
    -Ziegler
-Statements
  -Timing
    -Watergate sentencing
    -Weaknesses
-Watergate burglars
  -Sentences
    -Anticipation of harshness
-John J. Sirica
  -Sentences
    -McCord
    -Harshness
      -Reaction of McCord
-McCord
  -Dislike of jail
  -Bail revocation
  -Danger of statements
  -Work with CRP

President's schedule
  -Ehrlichman's schedule
  -Trip to West
-Ehrlichman's plans
  -Veto message
  -President's speech
-Philip's plans
-Andrews Air force Base
-Meeting with Shultz
  -Arrangements
  -Congressional relations
  -Time, Length
  -William Simon

Shultz
  -Meeting with Ehrlichman
  -Meeting with President
    -Labor Management Advisory Board
-Meeting with Ehrlichman
  -Phase III
  -Taxes
  -Trade
  -Report for President
    -Deadline
-Meeting with President
  -Camp David
  -Preparation
  -Henry A. Kissinger's return from trip
    -Georges J. R. Pompidou, Leonid I. Brezhnev

Watergate
  -Dean
    -Encouragement
    -Recommendation of L. Patrick Gray, III
      -Mitchell
      -Kleindienst
-Kleindienst and Gray
  -Problems
  -Targets of attack
    -Dean
    -Haldeman, Colson
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Tape Subject Log
(rev. Sept. 2010)

Conversation No. 885-1 (cont’d)

-Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI] directorship
-Nominees

Ehrlichman left at 5:39 p.m.

Conversation No. 885-2

Date: March 20, 1973
Time: 5:39 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President talked with the White House operator.

[See Conversation No. 37-171]

Conversation No. 885-3

Date: March 20, 1973
Time: Unknown between 5:39 pm and 5:40 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President talked with Tricia Nixon Cox.

[See Conversation No. 37-172]

Conversation No. 885-4

Date: March 20, 1973
Time: Unknown between 5:40 pm and 5:45 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President met with Stephen B. Bull.
Conversation No. 885-3 (cont’d)

President's meeting with Gen. Brent G. Scowcroft

Bull left before 5:45 pm.

Date: March 20, 1973
Time: Unknown between 5:40 pm and 5:45 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President met with Manolo Sanchez.

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[Begin segment reviewed under deed of gift]

President’s schedule
  -Executive Office Building
  -Dinner
    -Bacon and eggs
    -Refreshment

[End segment reviewed under deed of gift]
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Sanchez left before 5:45 pm.

Date: March 20, 1973
Time: Unknown between 5:45 pm and 5:59 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President met with Gen. Brent G. Scowcroft.

Conversation No. 885-5

Conversation No. 885-6
Vietnam settlement
   -Infiltration from North Vietnam
     -US responses
     -Provocation
     -Reduction
       -Reasons
       -Seasonal weather
     -Annual rate
       -Effect of cease fire
       -Decline
     -US message from Henry A. Kissinger
       -Delays
       -Signals

-Laos
   -G. McMurtrie Godley
   -New government
     -Formation date
-Prisoners of war [POW] release
   -Timing
     -Provisional Revolutionary Government [PRG] statement
   -Air strike
     -Effect
     -Kissinger's opinion
       -Second thoughts
-Laos negotiations
   -Godley's statement
   -Air Strikes
   -North Vietnam’s reactions
     -POW release

-Air strikes
   -Timing
   -POW release
   -Effectiveness
   -POW release
   -Public support
   -Cease-fire
   -Laos
-Congressional Objections
-South Vietnam
-Cambodia
-Laos
-Infiltration from North Vietnam
-Public and Congressional resistance
-Value
  -Symbolism
  -Military Effect
-Timing
  -POW release
-Public objections
  -Laos
-Purpose
-Congressional and public reaction
  -End of war
    -Perception of escalation
-Kissinger
  -December 1972 bombing
    -POW's
    -Settlement agreement
-Guarantee for settlement
  -Promise to Nguyen Van Thieu
    -South Vietnams capabilities
      -Air Force
-North Vietnam testing
  -US reaction
  -Deterrence

Kissinger
  -Return From Trip

Vietnam settlement
  -US responses
    Second thoughts

Scowcroft left at 5:59 pm.
Date: March 20, 1973
Time: 6:00 pm - 7:10 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President met with H. R. ("Bob") Haldeman and Stephen B. Bull.

President's schedule
- William P. Rogers [?]
- Haldeman
- National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse
  - Raymond P. Shafer
  - John D. Ehrlichman's recommendation on meeting
- Publicity
  - Ronald L. Ziegler
- Shafer
  - Submission of final report to President
    - Photographs
    - Press
    - Oliver F. ("Ollie") Atkins
- Meeting with Gen. John B. Flynn
- Postponement
- Labor Management Advisory Board
  - George P. Shultz
    - Withdrawal of request
- Consumer Price Index [CPI] release
- Meeting with President
  - Postponement
- Meeting with Flynn
- Congressional Campaign Committee
  - Mrs. Bruce Bedford
  - Announcement
  - Carlos Sanz deSantamaria

Bull left at an unknown time before 7:10 pm.
John B. Connally
-Return from Europe

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[Begin segment reviewed under deed of gift]

George Christian
- Harry S. Dent
- Party switch
- Timing

[End segment reviewed under deed of gift]
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Terry L. Decker
- Job change
  - New York
  - Lucy A. Winchester
  - Julie Nixon Eisenhower's executive assistant
  - Competence
  - Knowledge of First Family
- Bull

President's meeting with Ehrlichman
- Meetings with counselors
  - Organization
  - Cabinet involvement
    - Earl L. Butz
  - Cabinet meetings
    - New cabinet
    - Loyalty
    - George W. Romney, John A. Volpe, Peter G. Peterson
- Value
- Topics
  - Economics
Conversation No. 885-7 (cont’d)

-Economics
  -Quadriad
  -Number at meeting
  -Ehrlichman’s role
  -Kenneth R. Cole, Jr.
  -Purpose
  -Harry S. Truman's meetings with Congress members
-Meetings with Cabinet, Congressional leaders
  -Number
  -Purpose
  -Presence of staff members
    -William L. Safire, Raymond K. Price, Jr., Thomas C. Korologos
-Meetings with staff
  -Value
    -Haldeman, Ehrlichman, Ronald L. Ziegler
    -John W. Dean, III
  -Scheduling
-Cabinet meetings
  -Ehrlichman’s role
  -Earl L. Butz
    -Agriculture Department
    -Natural resources
  -Value
  -Purpose
-Counselor meetings
  -Value
    -Roy L. Ash
      -Meetings with President
    -Assistants to President
      -Haldeman, Ash, Shultz, Ehrlichman, Kissinger
  -Common issues
  -Value
-Cabinet meetings
  -Value
-Decision making
  -Haiphong
    -Bombing
-Disagreements and recommendations
-Record

Vietnam settlement
  -President's decisions
    -Bombing of Laos
      -Alexander M. Haig, Jr.
    -Doubts
  -Kissinger's trip to Mexico
  -Bombing resumption
    -Value
    -Public reaction
      -Press
      -North Vietnam
      -Laos
      -Ho Chi Minh trail
    -Prisoners of War [POW] release
      -Kissinger
      -Risks
  -Signal
    -Infiltration from North Vietnam
      -South Vietnam
      -Nguyen Van Thieu
      -US commitment
  -POW release
    -Risks
  -Ho Chi Minh trail
  -US public reaction
    -Kissinger’s recommendation
      -POWs
    -Rashness
    -Haldeman’s call to Kissinger
      -Risks
      -Public Reaction
      -P.O.W. Reaction

Kissinger
  -Vacation
  -Discussion with President
Conversation No. 885-7 (cont’d)

-Place
  -Mexico
  -California
  -Thieu
-Arrangements
  -Departure
-State of the world message
  -Thieu
  -Preparation

Leaks
  -Julienne L. Pineau
    -Newsweek reporter
  -John A. Scali
  -Hugh Sidey
    -Time
  -Kissinger
    -Conversations with reporters

Theodore H. (“Teddy”) White
  -Deadline on book
    -Memorandum
  -Book
    -Last Chapter

Heads of State visits
  -[Shah of Iran] Mohammed Reza Pahlavi
    -Scheduling
    -Dinner
      -Dress
    -Scheduling
  -Guilio Andreotti
    -Agnew
    -Golf Game
      -Francis A. (“Frank”) Sinatra
      -Cancellation
  -Shah of Iran
  -California
-Golf
-Andreotti
  -Activities
    -Golf
    -Precedent
    -Sinatra
    -Kakeui Tanaka
-President's meeting with Ali Bhutto
  -National Security Council [NSC]
  -Arrangements
    -Dinner
-Meeting with Tanaka
-Ivory Coast
-Meeting with William R. Tolbert, Jr.
  -Kissinger's recommendation
    -Thelma C. (“Pat”) Nixon
    -Statement Department
-Tolbert visit to US
  -Prayer breakfast
  -Office call
    -Commencement address
      -San Francisco State University
      -Grambling College
  -Dinner
    -Scheduling
      -Leonid I. Brezhnev
-Andreotti
-Sulman Franjieh
  -Lebanon
  -Rogers's recommendation
    -Kissinger
-Fall Of 1973
  -Union of Soviet Socialist Republics [USSR]
  -Iran
  -Japan
  -Thailand
  -Poland
  -Frequency
The President and Haldeman left at 7:10 pm.

Date: March 20, 1973
Time: Unknown between 7:10 pm and 9:27 pm
Location: Oval Office

Unknown men met.

President’s location
-Executive Office Building [EOB]

The unknown men left at an unknown time before 9:27 pm.