

**NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF****Tape Subject Log***(rev. 10/06)*

Part of a conversation among President Nixon, Charles W. Colson, and H. R. Haldeman in the Oval Office between 6:14 pm and 6:32 pm on April 19, 1971.

Conversation No. 482-27

Colson: [Unintelligible]. He was telling me going out that he's had quite a job keeping his people from, uh, raising hell with some of the demonstrators.

President: [Unintelligible]. Why doesn't he let them do it?

Colson: Oh, I don't, I don't think he will, Mr. President. Three days until [unintelligible].

Haldeman: Great if those, all the hardhats could go in and bust 'em up.

President: On our side.

Colson: Oh, they took four thousand up there --.

President: Yeah.

Colson: Some will get out, I'm sure, before it's over.

Haldeman: Why doesn't he quit tryin' to keep 'em locked up?

President: I dunno.

Haldeman: It would be a great thing to get the hardhats in --

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- Washington today --

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: -- and New York. we=re gonna beat --

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- the shit out of some --

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- of those veterans --

President: The thing about it --

Haldeman: -- veterans.

President: -- the thing about this, uh, well, beating veterans --

Haldeman: The veterans could be a problem, that's a problem, yeah.

President: I think I'd let them go, but the thing about this, if you can get them, now --.

Haldeman: They still be here Saturday?

President: No, they'll be gone [unintelligible] that's the thing that's worries me. I think that, uh, I just lay you money, that veterans' thing's half of it's phony. I --

Colson: Oh --.

President: -- just, well --.

- Haldeman: They've changed, they've coppered it to a, to an extent that they said they welcome, you know, nonveterans who want to join with them.
- President: Oh, can we get any kind of honest reporters to go in and say how many are veterans and how many are not? That=s all bein= done now, huh? Are they --?
- Haldeman: [Unintelligible] trying.
- President: Is it hard to do? The reporters don't wanna find out, do they?
- Colson: No.
- President: Well, the bastards --.
- Colson: They get a, they get a better news story out of saying that veterans demonstrating against the war and a fellow taking the ears out of his pocket and, uh, they really don't want to expose it, they're getting better news, most of the reporters get a better story the way it is, the way they'd like.
- President: Well, --.
- Haldeman: How many did they have? What kind of turnout do you think --?
- Colson: I hadn't heard any report today. They, they, uh, expected [unintelligible] hundred by yesterday but they never say so.
- President: Can't we get a reading on our reporter? Why don't we put a guy with them? Tag on press, you know, some damn thing and let 'im go down 'n' let's, let's find out. I'll lay ya money you're gonna find out this is a phony deal, a hell of a lot of it. Huh?
- Colson: Oh, we=ve, we=ve, uh, we=ve checked out a number of the leads; there=s no question it=s phony.

President: Is that right?

Colson: Yes, sir. Sure, some very questionable sources of money that they've had 'n', uh, -  
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Haldeman: Let's start getting that out and --

Colson: Did you hear --?

Haldeman: [Unintelligible].