

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

Tape Subject Log

(rev. 10/06)

Transcript #1: Part of a conversation among President Nixon, H. R. Haldeman, and Henry A. Kissinger in the Oval Office between 9:28 am and 10:03 am on April 23, 1971.

Conversation No. 487-1#1

Kissinger: Did you see this - no, I know you don't watch tele- --

President: No.

Kissinger: -- vision - this fellow Hubbard, the head of these veterans? Turns out he's a phony. He said he was a captain who had flown missions. Turned out he was a sergeant who was a mechanic with airplanes.

Haldeman: The black guy who was a --

Kissinger: The black guy.

Haldeman: -- one of the two leaders of this veterans' thing.

President: [Unintelligible] in the news summary.

Kissinger: No, uh --

Haldeman: They did it this morning.

Kissinger: -- they did it this morning and on the "Today" show. And, uh, it was so revolting. He made it look like, he said, "Now that I have explained the discrepancies in my story, I call on the Government to explain the discrepancies in their story."

President: Who brought it out? Who --?

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

Tape Subject Log
(rev. 10/06)

Conv. No. 487-1#1 (cont.)

Haldeman: I don=t know.

Kissinger: I don=t know.

President: Apparently, this fellow, uh, that they put in the front row, is that what you say, the front [unintelligible] the real stars? Kerry.

Haldeman: Kerry. He is, he did a hell of a great job on the, uh --

President: He was extremely effective.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] he did a superb job on it at Foreign Relations Committee yesterday. A Kennedy-type guy - he looks like a Kennedy and he, and he talks exactly like a Kennedy.

Kissinger: [Unintelligible].

President: Where did he serve?

Haldeman: He was a Navy lieutenant, jg., on a gunboat, and he used, uh, to run his gunboat up and shoot at, uh, shoot babies out of women's arms.

President: Oh, stop that. People in the Navy don't do things. That's not what service in Vietnam, as you well know, Henry, [unintelligible].

Kissinger: That's pretty [unintelligible].

Haldeman: He was only over there for, I thinks it's four months or five months.

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

Tape Subject Log

(rev. 10/06)

Conv. No. 487-1#1 (cont.)

President: Bob, the Navy didn't have any casualties in Vietnam except in the air.

Haldeman: Well, this guy got a Purple Heart with two clusters and the --

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: -- Navy Star. He's got a hell of a bundle of lettuce up here.

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

Transcript #2: Part of a conversation among President Nixon, H. R. Haldeman, and Henry A. Kissinger in the Oval Office between 9:28 am and 10:03 am on April 23, 1971.

Conversation No. 487-1#2

Haldeman: Yes, Ziegler was i-in there this morning complaining. Whatever he said --

Kissinger: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- the problem is all, the only spokesman we have of this is Rainwater from the VFW, and that's a lousy way, a lousy spokesman to have. And I said, "Well, that's just fine, but why doesn't your TV put on the other people who were speaking?" They all went up to the TV galleries, the Senators.

President: Yeah.

Kissinger: But the hippies [unintelligible] veterans.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible].

President: Well, they wouldn't, they wouldn't put on a Taft. Why didn't they put Saxbe on? They put Rainwater on because Rainwater is a typical old veteran. He's a good guy, but he isn't the best spokcsman in the world, is he?

Kissinger: Well, it, it's an outrage --

Haldeman: No, but he's said some good things.

Kissinger: -- that eight hundred veterans --

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

Tape Subject Log
(rev. 10/06)

Conv. No. 487-1#2 (cont.)

President: Yeah.

Kissinger: -- of whom I'm sure a significant percentage are phonies --

President: Yeah.

Kissinger: -- get five minutes on national television every --

President: [Unintelligible].

Kissinger: -- night.

Haldeman: Well, they've got about six paraplegics up there with the whole bunch and that's, God, everything ya read'd make ya think all those guys out there had no legs.

Kissinger: Yeah.

President: Would ya?

Haldeman: 'Cause they keep talkin' about the paraplegics, and they write these nauseating stories about the, the guy that went to the hospital because his leg wound was bothering him, and he couldn't they wouldn't let him have a wheelchair to come back and join the demonstration. [laughs]

President: In the press?

Haldeman: Yeah. They're writing these [unintelligible].

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

Tape Subject Log
(rev. 10/06)

Conv. No. 487-1#2 (cont.)

President: Balls.

Haldeman: -- human-interest type --

Kissinger: Tragic, tragic.

Haldeman: -- stories.

President: Building up [unintelligible]. Wait - just listen - the next group comes in - just, just does a little destruction - that's about what we need now.

Haldeman: They're going to.

Kissinger: No --

President: I'm looking forward to the next one.

Kissinger: Rennie Davis, uh --.

President: That group, you don't think it would?

Haldeman: They're playin' it pretty cool right now an' I think it just depends. They may not be able to control it. That's the main advantage.

President: Yup.

Haldeman: Ya know, hell, they gave in on their Rock Creek Park fight. They're taking

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

Tape Subject Log

(rev. 10/06)

Conv. No. 487-1#2 (cont.)

[unintelligible] Justice put 'em. I don't know if they'll be able to stop the "stop the business" thing though, and that'll, that'll be violating laws, and then they'll [unintelligible].

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

Tape Subject Log

(rev. 10/06)

Transcript #3: Part of a conversation between President Nixon and H. R. Haldeman in the Oval Office between 10:03 am and 10:10 am on April 23, 1971.

Conversation No. 487-1#3

President: And, uh, you just, you just see it day after day, I mean, you, you run, you run one thing, you get China in the news for a couple o' days, and we get the economy in the news for one day, and then for one full week they run these veterans for one full goddamn week. Might blow the war thing, right?

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] died.

President: I know [unintelligible].

Haldeman: [Unintelligible].

President: -- lead.

Haldeman: Yeah, that was the lead story last night. Went on and on. Uh, I was surprised at that. I don't know why, 'cause [unintelligible].

President: [Unintelligible]. I don't mean to sound depressive about the whole thing. I'm not a bit, but I do feel it's, that we gotta fight. And, ah, and I am placsd, incidentally, like I say, I don't want those Senators to feel a bit discouraged because they didn't make big news in this one thing. They did a hell of a good job, don't you think?

Haldeman: They sure did, and they're set up to keep doin= it, ya know. They wanna, they wanna fight the fight, but it=s, uh --

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

Tape Subject Log
(rev. 10/06)

Conv. No. 487-1#3 (cont.)

President: Hard. They don=t get any --.

Haldeman: Yeah, well, damn it, the, the opposition says the same thing over and over; they don't have anything new either.