

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

Transcript #1: Part of a conversation between President Nixon and H. R. Haldeman in the Oval Office between 2:52 pm and 3:20 pm on April 23, 1971.

Conversation No. 487-21#1

Haldeman: The only negative --

President: What?

Haldeman: -- the only negative in that period, really --

President: Is what? Is the demonstration?

Haldeman: -- was the demonstration. It wasn't the war. There was no bad news on the war. In fact, we captured Firebase Six and --

President: Right.

Haldeman: -- ended that thing.

President: That's right. An' the, and the war news is out of the news in fact, for a week, wasn't it? Remember? [Unintelligible]. Then the demonstrations came on. Then they started to pour in these pictures night after night. [Unintelligible] steaming them up, building them up.

Haldeman: And building up the Senators and their --

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Conv. No. 487-21#1 (cont.)

President: [Unintelligible] we feel are doing everything they can. I just don't know. Maybe, uh, I mean, we just, I think the idea of counterattack, that's what several of these Congressmen said. Pound the hell [unintelligible]. I feel they are, you know. They can't get on, isn't that it?

Haldeman: That's [unintelligible] point [unintelligible] --

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: -- [unintelligible] idea.

President: Networks [unintelligible].

Haldeman: Which is, they're tryin' to, the veterans' thing is what's hurtin' us, and it's sure as hell with us. [Unintelligible] by getting [unintelligible], uh, VFW and the American Legion to mobilize a thousand Vietnam War veterans --

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: -- and get them to come here and demonstrate in support of the President [unintelligible] the media to give them the same amount of coverage.

President: Try it.

Haldeman: See what happens.

President: See, we'll finance it, find out who'll finance it.

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Haldeman: [Unintelligible] put it together.

President: Well, Mulcahy's people could handle it. They, uh, get a thousand, eight hundred, good kids, you know what I mean?

Haldeman: Get them to come --

President: Get >em [unintelligible].

Haldeman: -- and do the same and have them come, ya know, have 'em --

President: Right.

Haldeman: -- have --

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- good clean-cut kids --

President: That's right.

Haldeman: -- and all that.

President: That's right.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] the other way, I just wonder, if we make, the problem is --.

President: You remind people of war.

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Conv. No. 487-21#1 (cont.)

Haldeman: That's right. You keep it goin'. But the other hand is, if you could do it fast, you could do it next week. They're gonna be demonstrating anyway that week and the following week.

President: Um-hum.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible].

President: It's the media that's the problem, Bob. That's the point.

Haldeman: Sure it is.

President: It=s the media. They=re crybaby, crybaby, crybaby >cause they were asking what to do. Why don=t you take a slug at it?

Haldeman: The other thing I was wondering is whether it's worth unleashing the Vice President tomorrow. [Unintelligible] and take the media on, on their coverage of, of that veterans' thing. [Unintelligible] just, just se- ye-, you got the demonstration tommorrow. It's gonna dominate the news anyway. If the Vice President came on, he would tend to override some of that. And I think the Saturday TV and the Sunday papers, that [unintelligible] get in with the demonstration story.

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: Hitting the charge hard or - yeah, that might be better - is to let the story ride and then, then hit it when we get a better shot. We could do it on a Sunday, make them then dominate the Monday paper. No, you wouldn't get any TV.

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President: You don't even have Monday papers.

Haldeman: Monday.

President: [Unintelligible] the papers won't have it.

Haldeman: Do it Monday.

President: Do it Monday after the, the media has covered its both events. Outrageous, biased coverage, ya know, of this [unintelligible].

Haldeman: See you can=t, you can hardly knock >em covering the demonstration [unintelligible] --

President: I know.

Haldeman: -- on Saturday, but you sure can knock 'em on the coverage they've give the veterans.

President: That's right. Well, why don't you get the case made up? Give it to Buchanan. I really think it's well to uh, uh, to let him, let him take a crack at it. Meanwhile too, I don't think it's going to hurt him. I mean, there, it's gonna be par for the course. They're not gonna hurt us, d'ya think? [Unintelligible] would make the media issue, see, rather than the war [unintelligible] so by Monday he can also get some ideas of how they fig- figures on crowd size. You know, they will've exaggerated some of it. [Unintelligible] knows goddamn right, doesn't he? He could, in other words, go back through the line on how many minutes they're

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givin' 'em night after night. This many people [unintelligible] who come out here. Others have been in the White House, ya know, 'n', uh, everybody from the Building Trades and, uh, ya know, the commanders of the Ameri-, of the various or-, veterans' organizations have been in representing millions of Americans. [Unintelligible] won't do it, except one minute. They can [unintelligible] one lonely minute for, uh, for the VFW representing a million, two hundred, or whatever. [Unintelligible] this is, crack 'em the best they can, are they? But --

Haldeman: Yep.

President: -- how are they doing that? Ya know, I mean with calls and letters and that sort of thing?

Haldeman: Yep. Colson's weighing the possibility --.

President: Of a suit?

Haldeman: No. Of, of talking to the network presidents again on the same basis they talked before and just saying, with no threatening, ya know, at all, th-th-he just doesn't understand. And asking the honest question, "If there were a thousand veterans out on the Mall [unintelligible] support for the President's policies on the war, would they have given 'em this much coverage?" --

President: Or will they --?

Haldeman: -- or will they, if they come, can they be assured when they, th-that --

President: That's right.

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Haldeman: -- they're talking about coming, but they've asked --

President: That=s right.

Haldeman: -- can they be assured of the same kind of coverage.

President: The VFW, uh, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, they've had [unintelligible]. They wanna bring a thousand in, wanna bring a thousand in, uh, and, uh, uh, uh, I know who you, will you promise [unintelligible]

Haldeman: That might be worth doing. That's --

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- just as good as having 'em here --

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- and get the networks --

President: Say --

Haldeman: -- to say no.

President: -- and we will say, "Will you give them equal coverage?" And then say, "Now look, give them this much and this much. Will you give them equal coverage? Will you pledge that?" Fair coverage, ya know.

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Haldeman: [Unintelligible] say they, they wanted --

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- to come, but they'd been --

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- uh, informed by the --

President: Colson.

Haldeman: -- networks that they will not be provided --

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: -- with coverage.

President: That gives something for the Vice President to say. Get Colson on that today.

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Transcript #2: Part of a conversation between President Nixon and H. R. Haldeman in the Oval Office between 2:52 pm and 3:20 pm on April 23, 1971.

Conversation No. 487-21#2

President: The way that the, the networks are s-s-so selective in their, ya know, when they put on the, the, uh, attractive guy rather than the unattractive one. Ya know, they're pretty goddamn selective, don't they? Sure, there are a lot of, uh, terrible-lookin', scruffy people th-that the networks got on that, the first time, tape. Cleaned it up after that, you notice?

Haldeman: Somewhat, yeah.

President: They tried. They hide the bad ones, just as they did about the rockthrowers, ya know.