

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

Part of a conversation between President Nixon and Ronald L. Ziegler in the Oval Office between 12:00 pm and 12:07 pm on April 28, 1971.

Conversation No. 491-5

President: The House is quiet, is it not?

Ziegler: Yes, sir. There's [unintelligible].

President: I hear they're all [unintelligible] Selective Service --

Ziegler: Excuse me?

President: They were raisin' hell at Selective Service yesterday, the --

Ziegler: Right.

President: --demonstrators.

Ziegler: Right. They're at the IRS today, but --.

President: To be perfectly frank with ya, [I'm gonna give 'em short shrift tomorrow. That Haldeman mentioned that some of the staffers suggested that I, uh, praise them for their being peaceful and orderly. You don't praise people for doing what they're supposed to do. To hell with 'em! This certainly isn't your view, is it?

Ziegler: No, I, I wouldn't think that you --.

President: Praise 'em. Christ! I [unintelligible] give 'em a goddamn bit of praise.

Ziegler: No, I=d agree with that.

President: [Unintelligible].

Ziegler: I don't think they should be praised. I don't think you should give the critics an opportunity to --

President: No.

Ziegler: -- to, uh --.

President: No, uh, except the press. If the press gets rough, the press is gonna get it right back in the chops.

Ziegler: Well, sure. -

President: When those people start saying [unintelligible].

Ziegler: [Unintelligible].

President: [Unintelligible] to the effect that we don't hear people that are against the war. For Christ=s sake, half the goddamn Cabinet's against the war - can't say that. The White House Staff - what do they think that - God damn - Moynihan, Miller, Finch, Rumsfeld.

Ziegler: Rumsfeld's against the war.

President: No, but I mean, I, that's what we're doin'. They're always talkin' about it. And, of course, ya know, I mean, of course, we have all sorts of clowns that come in here, ya know, businessmen and educators. and they mope about and crap around.

Ziegler: The important thing is that you stay off of this as long --

President: Keep the old --

Ziegler: -- long --

President: -- and the main thing, Ron, is to keep record, they mustn't, the, uh, Connally feels, an' I think he's right, an' I'm glad to see that finally he's taking its gloves off and kicking a few people. That's why he's making news. It's exactly right, the way he took that chamber on.