

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

Tape Subject Log

(rev. 10/06)

Transcript #1: Part of a conversation among President Nixon, John W. Dean, III, H. M. Exton, R. M. Glaser, Charles Southward, Walter E. Washington, and Jerry Wilson in the Oval Office between 10:05 am and 10:20 am on May 8, 1971.

Conversation No. 494-3#1

Washington: Reverend McIntyre, he's here.

President: Is he around?

Wilson: [Laughs]

President: What's he doing?

Washington: He's, uh, doin' a little marching.

President: What is, uh, it's not that [unintelligible] what, uh, does he have much of a crowd [unintelligible]?

Washington: The Chief was just saying he thought five thousand.

Wilson: That's what it is right now [unintelligible] headquarters. Five thousand.

President: Does he --

Wilson: [Unintelligible].

President: -- [unintelligible] does he have that many?

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Wilson: [Unintelligible].

Unknown: [Unintelligible].

[Laughter]

Washington: He was predicting, uh, two hundred and fifty thousand.

Wilson: Did he?

Washington: That's usually [unintelligible]

President: Yeah.

Washington: -- starts with that.

President: Right. Well, he doesn't bother 'em. He doesn't, uh --

Washington: No.

President: -- bother anybody, though, I don't think.

Washington: Oh no. He's caving in, uh. Governor Wallace 'n' Maddox 'n' --.

Wilson: [Unintelligible]. [Laughs]

President: Well, his read the key --

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Washington: [Unintelligible]. Yeah.

President: -- but [unintelligible].

Washington: But that's not, uh, that's not [unintelligible].

Wilson: The greatest [unintelligible].

President: Where're they meetin'?

Wilson: They're, they're startin' down at Fourth and Pennsylvania, march up the avenue 'n' come down behind [unintelligible].

President: Do they have a permit?

Wilson: Yes, sir. And they the greatest problem with them as always is jacking around these crowd estimates so he doesn't appear to have a low crowd.

President: Oh --

Wilson: [Laughs]

President: -- [unintelligible] he's, he's on the [unintelligible] area. Give 'em a little; it doesn't make any difference.

Wilson: Yes, sir. [Laughs]

Washington: Gets me mad when they say I wouldn't let them parade the same day as the, uh, Cherry Blossom Parade.

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President: Is that right?

Washington: Yeah. Chief's all right now. They complimented the Chief this morning [unintelligible].

[Laughter]

President: Yeah, right, right. Well, I wanted to have you all come in to, for the purpose of, uh, of expressing my appreciation to each of you individually for your own leadership, but also to ask you to convey to the people -- many I've already talked to, the Mayor, the Chief, about this -- but the rest too [unintelligible] to convey to all the people in your own shops for the way that they handled it. This is a, this sort of thing -- I, I'm referring to the whole period here. It's a, it's one where it has to be a combination of firmness and restraint, and it's a delicate line. It's a very delicate line to follow, and, uh, it of course requires leadership at the top. It also requires rather remarkable poise by these people on your force, and the Armed Forces and the rest [unintelligible]. [Unintelligible] were rather provoked by people that are [unintelligible], you know, [unintelligible] these people that [unintelligible] and the rest of them just sit there and take it and handle it well but nobody was seriously injured. This is a very great, uh, [unintelligible] and Washington set an example here [unintelligible]. I was talking to the Attorney General yesterday, and he said, "[Unintelligible] all over the country." He said, "Well, this [unintelligible] Washington is setting an example. You know, maybe we can handle [unintelligible] problems in the same way." This isn't just the war [unintelligible]. I think there are always people going to raise hell about something. And it's a question of handling it well, and, uh, [unintelligible] Mayor, of course, uh, who is concerned as we all are about the fact that these people are [unintelligible] the tourist trade down to a minimum. And, uh, and I

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think the feeling [unintelligible] now with Washington is that the city in which, uh, crime rate at least has been checked and somewhat receded, in fact. That's a very good thing to get out across the country, that this is a city that [unintelligible]. If they come, they want to protest, they can, but they're going to behave. If they don't behave, they're going to go to jail. That's all. [Unintelligible] and that's what I think is what you've gotten across very effectively. [Unintelligible] too you had a problem of, uh, what about the overtime? Did that --

Unknown: [Clears throat]

President: -- [unintelligible] out. Are some of the fellows, uh, their overtime couldn't be paid [unintelligible].

Unknown: [Unintelligible].

Wilson: [Unintelligible]. We have some men who, uh, they can't pay. We pay no overtime, uh, above the rank of deputy chief, and so once the man hits the salary level above that of assistant chief, their overtime is stopped. They, they, they continue working, but they don't get paid.

President: I see.

Wilson: And, so, uh, I understand that Congressman Broyhill is going to introduce legislation to resolve the problem and --

President: Um-hum.

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Wilson: -- and I hope --.

President: You had a lot of overtime, didn't you?

Wilson: Yes, sir.

Washington: Yes, we had, uh, we had about forty thousand hours on Monday and forty-one thousand hours on, uh, as far as we can check, uh, on Tuesday. Wednesday's figures are not all in. Uh, but it drops off after that with just, this is, this is as far as we can put together [unintelligible] --

President: Um-hum.

Washington: -- municipal services, Mr. President. This is a hundred thousand hours overtime just related to --

President: Um-hum.

Washington: -- to the demonstration.

Wilson: I would estimate two million dollars cost, uh, for the, you know, [unintelligible] --

President: Two million dollars.

Wilson: -- and then the [unintelligible].

President: [Unintelligible] they must be, be beginning to feel a little, uh, [unintelligible].

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Washington: Yes.

Wilson: This is in overtime --

Unknown: [Unintelligible].

Wilson: -- not in, not in the, not in the costs to, of [unintelligible] --.

President: Oh, [unintelligible] overtime.

Wilson: [Unintelligible] overtime alone, yes sir.

President: Really.

Washington: This is just overtime we're talking. The hours I was giving as just straight overtime is, uh, fantastic.

President: Have you got any estimate of what it costs for the whole thing, or you can't tell?

Wilson: The, the military costs must be phenomenal, our costs [unintelligible].

Unknown: I used [unintelligible] for anything so we would review that anyway. So theoretically, Mr. President, there's no official [unintelligible] DC National Guard.

President: Yeah.

Unknown: We got some [unintelligible].

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President: You're going to do it anyway, huh?

Unknown: Yes, sir.

President: [Unintelligible].

Washington: [Unintelligible].

Unknown: [Unintelligible], sir.

President: Yeah.

Unknown: From the military point of view, I think the principal cost for the airlift required --

President: Yeah.

Unknown: -- [unintelligible] troops up here.

President: Oh, you had to bring them up by air?

Unknown: Yes, sir, to get 'em up here on time.

President: Um-hum.

Unknown: I think it'll run, ran well over a --

President: Yeah.

Unknown: -- [unintelligible] million dollars.

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President: Yeah.

Unknown: [Unintelligible].

President: The damage, yeah, I can imagine the da-, the, course you never, you never can get any estimate on the damages, you know, people, uh, those are, uh, it's all so personal,

Unknown: Yeah.

President: The people here you knock over, you know, spread stuff in the streets.

Washington: I [unintelligible], Mr. President, this time is the nature of the situation, the disruptive character of the [unintelligible]. Oh, I know our citizens, particularly our businessmen, have called me have just, uh, well, one of them said, "Glorious." [Laughs] He's not given to that kind of language.

President: No.

Washington: But, uh --

President: But he was pleased --.

Washington: But he was pleased we didn't lose [unintelligible] and I think [unintelligible].

President: Didn't break any windows this time.

Washington: The windows, nobody was killed, no serious injuries.

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President: That's important there, yeah.

Washington: And these are important things. The city moved, uh, pretty much with some inconvenience as it would although in the center of it you had, uh, disruption but the municipal services went ahead and [unintelligible]. [Laughs] People told me that sanitation services were better Monday [unintelligible]

President: Is that right?

Washington: -- in the outlying regions of the city but, uh, you know, it's something to think about and, uh, with, with the nature of this [unintelligible] fourteen thousand arrests, uh, disruption, and your city moves along. The only thing that they succeeded in doing was overcrowding the jails, and I, I don't know whether --

President: [Unintelligible].

Washington: -- [unintelligible] relates to --

President: Um-hum.

Washington: -- to Vietnam. [Laughs] I couldn't make that --.

Unknown: You know, one observation, sir, that, uh, I think is worth bringing up here, is the quality of soldier, because we brought soldiers in from all over the country, East Coast, and of course there were some from this local area --

President: Um-hum.

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Unknown: -- and there's been some doubt, as you know, about, uh, our --

President: [Unintelligible].

Unknown: -- professionalism and so on --

President: Yeah.

Unknown: -- but, gee, I was really impressed with the professionalism, attitude, uh, the fact that, uh, these youngsters, even though they're, uh, dealing with their own peers --

President: Yeah.

Unknown: -- uh, didn't seem to bother them too much.

President: How, uh, how many were in? How many were soldiers?

Unknown: Uh, ten thousand.

President: Ten thousand?

Unknown: Yes, sir.

President: And National Guard?

Unknown: I had nineteen hundred National Guardsmen, and, uh, I'm very proud of my men, Mr. President, because, uh, we're really closer to this group than the ac-, than the active forces. [Unintelligible] part-time soldiers.

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President: I know [unintelligible].

Unknown: These men are students. They wear their hair the same way.

President: That's right.

Unknown: And, uh --

President: Right.

Unknown: -- we had the, uh, uh, we were supporting the policemen securing the arena where they were all captive.

President: Yeah, yeah.

Unknown: And we related to them to the extent that they now call the National Guard "DC Friendlies."

President: Um-hum.

Unknown: We were laying --

Unknown: [Laughs]

Unknown: [Unintelligible].

President: Yeah.

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Unknown: [Unintelligible].

Washington: [Unintelligible].

Unknown: No, no, no.

President: Yeah.

Unknown: Don't [unintelligible] the underground press [unintelligible].

President: That's right.

Unknown: But, uh, uh, the, it was a lesson for my men and --

Unknown: [Clears throat]

Unknown: -- and, uh, what you, and, uh, what you do when you are exposed to the namecalling and the [unintelligible].

President: Oh, [unintelligible] that's rough.

Unknown: And they held up well because they, most of them --

President: Um-hum.

Unknown: -- are not, most of them [unintelligible].

President: Particularly, yeah. As far as the, uh, as far as the regulars are concerned, they

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keep 'em --

Unknown: Um-hum.

President: -- they're all back now, aren't they?

Unknown: All back.

Unknown: [Unintelligible].

Unknown: -- everybody's closed back, sir, and a very interesting, another interesting observa-, I know, incidents and accidents and all and moves we made.

President: Yeah.

Unknown: We brought them, uh, from Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune. We had Marines and the paratroopers from the Eighty-second Airborne who came up here to reinforce the troops that normally are under General Glaser come up from nearby stations, Fort Meade and Fort Belvoir.

President: Um-hum.

Unknown: [Unintelligible] the soldiers I talked to before they left expressed a little disappointment that they hadn't seen a demonstrator while they were up here.

President: Ha!

Unknown: Because they were guarding the bridges [unintelligible].

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President: Yeah, yeah.

Unknown: And of course the very fact that they didn't see any demonstrators attested to the -
-

President: Yeah.

Unknown: -- uh, efficiency of the entire thing.

President: I see. Of course they would be on the bridges, and they wouldn't touch them.

Washington: Mr. President, I want to, uh, play, uh, pay another special comment to, commendation, to all of the men in terms of how they worked to coordinate as fast and, uh, it seemed that [unintelligible] so, uh, well-planned, coordinated that, uh, [unintelligible] went along, I think, particularly Chief Wilson --

President: Um-hum.

Washington: -- is not only taking full responsibility for the tactical [unintelligible], but, uh, his performance in the field in my, in my opinion was magnificent.

President: [Unintelligible].

Wilson: [Unintelligible] had a lot of training, though, and their morale was high, yeah, it's been good for them. And --

President: Yeah, right.

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Wilson: -- that they know that you're pleased is enough for them, really.

President: Yeah.

Wilson: They're very happy with this thing.

President: And your people felt the same way, did they? They were, they, did they, they felt they had done a good job?

Unknown: Oh, yes. Yes, sir.

President: Um-hum.

Unknown: I think, uh, if anything, I think the Tenth Marines from Lejeune and the Eighty-Second Airborne from, uh, Fort Bragg probably felt that, uh, that they could have done more, but, uh, they weren't used. They --.

President: Yeah.

Unknown: We in fact brought a few troops into town we didn't need, but on the other hand [unintelligible].

President: Sure, there was all the estimates you had, you had to, 'cause if the thing had gone, you know, they had a huge number. I think that the best stroke was the going in there Sunday morning. When you knocked those, when you got the hard core, then they couldn't get organized.

Washington: Yeah, they were all over the place.

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President: Yeah.

Washington: [Unintelligible] foul of course they've been, been crying foul [unintelligible] --

President: They always do.

Washington: -- here. You know after, uh, somewhat amazing, they slept down here on, on the park for five days. As soon as we put them in an outside en-encampment out there in the stadium --

Unknown: Yeah.

Washington: -- they cried foul, you know.

[Laughter]

Washington: They, they'd been sleeping with hardly any facilities, hardly any food, most of them just, uh, just what they put together, just pots of stuff they were boiling down there, beans and everything. We put them in an outside enclosure and --

President: Fix them up real nice, yeah.

Washington: -- which is really better than a cellblock. [Laughs]

Unknown: Did, did you see where one of them complained about getting a baloney sandwich because he was a vegetarian?

[Laughter]

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President: [Unintelligible].

Washington: [Unintelligible] Thursday [unintelligible] Thursday I had a real problem with that. They, we, we backed your, uh, feeding fifteen, uh, hundred sandwiches, and [unintelligible] they claimed they didn't, didn't want, want any more meat sandwiches. They wanted peanut butter and jelly --

[Laughter]

Washington: -- so I figured they were just [unintelligible].

(laughter)

President: Peanut butter and jelly. Oh, boy, I'm telling you.

Wilson: You've got a real sense of power, Mr. President, when you call up McDonald's and say I want five thousand Big Macs.

[Laughter]

President: Well, d'you do that?

Wilson: Yes, sir.

Unknown: [Unintelligible] hamburger stand.

President: Yeah.

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- Unknown: The army also provided, uh, I think about fourteen thousand meals. These were C-rations.
- Unknown: [Unintelligible].
- Unknown: I haven't gotten any report as to how those were received. I personally don't care for them too much --
- Washington: [Unintelligible].
- Unknown: -- but, uh, [unintelligible].
- President: Well, it's a good chance that he gets to try.
- Washington: Well, they, they --
- Wilson: [Unintelligible] were --.
- Washington: -- had little metal containers, the police didn't want any, the police didn't --
- Wilson: Right, and, uh --.
- Washington: -- policy in the cells. And so we had [unintelligible].
- President: How many do you still have under arrest? I mean, uh, uh --.
- Wilson: [Unintelligible] they'd all be out now. Last night we were down to a few hundred that, and those were just those who were, had refused to be fingerprinted --

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President: Um-hum.

Wilson: -- and were --

President: So, they were just let go actually, and --.

Wilson: We're, no, we're the, the court has [unintelligible] ordered that they be [unintelligible] so then, now, they should all be out. I, I, I'm quite sure that they don't have any [unintelligible].

President: Um-hum.

Wilson: The, the bail fund that they had was phenomenal. They must have put up at least two hundred thousand dollars in bail money.

President: Really.

Wilson: Yes, sir.

President: Did, how did, how, how was that arranged, through their lawyers?

Wilson: We're, we're trying to find out.

Dean: A lot of street solicitation was going on.

Wilson: I don't [unintelligible].

President: Street solicitations?

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Wilson: I don't [unintelligible].

Dean: [Unintelligible] streets.

Wilson: I don't think, I don't think that much money came from [unintelligible].

President: My God, they couldn't get two hundred thousand.

Dean: They couldn't get [unintelligible] money. They had street solicitation.

Washington: And it had to come up faster 'cause on Monday when we talked to Bill he was broke.

Unknown: Uh --.

Wilson: He said --.

Washington: A lawyer, he said he was. That he only had --

President: Um-hum.

Washington: -- a couple thousand dollars and, uh --

President: Umm.

Washington: -- in the meantime the rest of 'em were in there and it did come up to about two hundred thousand. Fourteen thousand's a lot of bodies. [Unintelligible] I, uh, must admit, Mr. President, our crisis facilities are not prepared for, for that number, and I would hope to prepare them for that number.

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President: No, God, no.

[Laughter]

President: Well, I think that actually this incident here may well be a very great, uh, deterrent to similar incidents in the near future. And I think that other cities can show the same [unintelligible], uh, the, if other cities and, uh, you know, uh, to do the same thing, and they, they may, uh, may be able to handle it. It's a very difficult situation to put young policemen, soldiers, and the rest of 'em just sittin' there facing them [unintelligible] swearing at them, and so forth. Okay.

Unknown: Right.

President: Uh, it's, uh, they swear at them, and so forth, what would you do? Stop to think. What would you do? If you're in the service and you see a bunch of guys that aren't in, you know, for the most part, you're probably a draftee or something and say, "What's the matter with that s-, s.o.b." Huh?

Unknown: [Unintelligible].

Unknown: Well, I don't, uh [unintelligible].

Unknown: They may --

Unknown: [Unintelligible].

Unknown: -- they may have it sir, but, uh, they keep it under good control, because that's something we were watching very closely.

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President: Yeah. I imagine a lot of your policemen must have felt it, too. You have a lot of young guys there, too.

Unknown: [Unintelligible].

President: [Unintelligible] service and all the rest [unintelligible] but you see [unintelligible].

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Part of a conversation among President Nixon, John W. Dean, III, H. M. Exton, R. M. Glaser, Charles Southward, Walter E. Washington, and Jerry Wilson in the Oval Office between 10:23 am and 10:32 am on May 8, 1971.

Conversation No. 494-3#2

Unknown: The difference between the news reporting on TV film clips and what actually took places, you can hardly recognize the, what you're seeing on TV.

Unknown: Oh, no.

Unknown: There's another --.

Unknown: Completely out of context.

President: Yeah, of course, of course.

Wilson: [Unintelligible] the, the, the news photographers at the Vietnam Embassy Thursday told me that tomorrow they're going to announce a demonstration by the newsmen against any coverage of further demonstrations. [Unintelligible].

President: [Unintelligible] by the newsmen's [unintelligible] coverage. Well, I, uh, well, of course, the coverage is, uh, is always distorted, because they want, they want to make their own story [unintelligible] they don't care about what the story really [unintelligible]

Unknown: The thing hit me because I probably haven't been exposed to it as much as --

President: Yeah, yeah.

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Unknown: -- a lot of people. I was absolutely amazed.

President: Is that right? In other words, you, would you [unintelligible], you weren't [unintelligible].

Unknown: [Unintelligible].

Wilson: [Unintelligible] it's, it's, I wasn't surprised because it, it happens constantly [unintelligible].

President: Of course, you're not [unintelligible] see it all the time in Washington.

Wilson: Yeah.

President: Can't recognize it if you did [unintelligible].

Wilson: The working newsman gets out and tapes it, of course, and then some policy area puts it together in whatever format they want, and it, it, in [unintelligible].

Unknown: I sort of felt I'd been in another city or something when I saw it.

[Laughter]

President: [Unintelligible] television [unintelligible].

Washington: This is a day-by-day thing with us. We [unintelligible]. [Laughs]

President: We [unintelligible] yeah.

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Washington: [Unintelligible] the thing is, we're gonna, uh, button down to, I guess --.

President: Yeah.

Washington: All of this, uh, this civil libertarians in the next few weeks and the -- -

President: Um-hum.

Washington: -- they'll be trying the cases and --

President: Sure.

Washington: -- Monday-morning quarterbacking.

President: Um-hum. [Unintelligible] ask 'em what they have done.

Washington: I already have.

President: Yeah.

Washington: They said they know they couldn't think of anything.

President: Yeah. That would be nice. What would they do? Here you got the streets blocked and the rest. What=re you gonna do? Gonna go ahead and try and take 'em out? Just let them, let it grind to a halt. They are, they don't answer [unintelligible]. There was a [unintelligible]. There were no injuries, what would, what would they go in like the Chicago police, you know what I mean.

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[Laughs]

Wilson: This is, well [unintelligible].

President: Did pretty well, I think.

Wilson: This is the role of the police. We always do what's necessary and then in the next year judges fire at you.

Unknown: There was a very good column in this morning's *Washington Post* by William S. White.

Unknown: William S. White, yeah.

Unknown: Did you see this?

President: You [unintelligible].

Unknown: Yes.

President: Yeah.

Unknown: And, uh, but it, it's interesting, people seem to lose, lose sight of the fact that the objective of this whole exercise was to disrupt the Government.

President: Sure.

Unknown: And so, credit is not given where credit is due --

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President: Um-hum.

Unknown: -- and all this fuss is made, uh, about --

President: Government.

Unknown: -- arrests and things of that kind.

Washington: [Unintelligible] put his finger on it. I have not found anyone who can tell me what else to do --

Unknown: Exactly.

Washington: -- or what they would have done under similar circumstances with groups in town marauding. I've, I've failed to understand whether, how you can nonviolently turn over a man's automobile --

President: That's right.

Washington: -- or how you can nonviolently stand and kick his windshield in or take a manhole cover on Prospect Street over there in Georgetown and roll it down the side of the street --

President: Um-hum --

Washington: -- or how you can --.

President: -- or dump over a [unintelligible]. [Unintelligible] even, even, uh, even this

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trashing business, you know. That's, uh --

Washington: [Unintelligible].

President: -- you, that's not a viol-, that's not a nonviolent act.

Washington: Of course, it isn't. You take rags and stuff in the, uh, the mail, in our mail containers.

President: Um-hum.

Washington: You know, burn, burn those up [unintelligible].

President: Um-hum.

Washington: [Unintelligible] nonviolent [unintelligible].

President: Um-hum.

Washington: And then to, for us to, uh, to, uh, engage in this and assume we're gonna let this thing continue.

President: Yeah.

Washington: I don't see how [unintelligible].

President: Well, let me say this, that the, uh, that, uh, one of the reasons I [unintelligible] to come in for two purposes to [unintelligible] so that you, so that you can convey directly to all your people the [unintelligible] of the country and [unintelligible]

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some responsibilities in the District. They all know we think they did a very fine job, and they deserve commendations. The second thing, I want to assure you that, that, uh, [unintelligible] the second-guessers and Monday-morning quarterbacks, you know, that as far as I'm concerned, we back you all the way and, uh, we're not going to take any of this jazz to the effect that we were [unintelligible] done this or that or the other thing. The, uh, the, uh, situation here was one that had a potential of violence and had the potential of stopping the Government. And, uh, [unintelligible] we had the responsibility to avoid violence and just keep the Government running. We did both. We're going to do it again. The other thing is that I want everybody put on notice that, that's one of the reasons I [unintelligible] 'cause I know they, they would like to see it brought to a halt [unintelligible]. As far as I'm concerned, they come to town again, they're gonna get it again. And I want that understood. They're gonna get it right again. That's the way to keep 'em out. When I say "they," anybody can come to this town; they can march peacefully; they can have a permit; they can go up and down; they can shout obscenities, anything like that, fine. But nobody can come to this city and break the law without being prosecuted. And I think that should be clearly understood. And if you go after 'em, you'll be backed, and we'll fight in the courts and every place else. The civil libertarians [unintelligible].

Washington: Mr. President, I should tell you this: there are two of us here that, uh, as long as we're here, we're not gonna have the city disrupted.

President: [Unintelligible].

Unknown: [Unintelligible] three [unintelligible].

President: That's right, that's right.

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Washington: [Unintelligible].

President: [Unintelligible] the thing is, you're, the Mayor takes a lot of heat here I know too because --

Washington: Yeah.

President: -- you know, he's got a lot of his, uh, people, uh, people, what, what he would call his constituency and [unintelligible] they're, they're sensitive on this issue, and they don't want, but on the other hand --

Unknown: [Unintelligible].

President: -- look at your police corps, uh, force. You've got a lot of, uh, your, your, your, uh, black policemen just did just as well as the white policemen.

Wilson: [Unintelligible].

President: They're all the same. That's the important thing to bear in mind. They, uh, you know, uh, when you talk about disorders and all the rest, the whole city suffers. I mean, they don't draw any color lines on that. I mean, if you, uh, if the Government stops, it's, if, the Government, the Government belongs to everybody. Uh, the right to go to work peacefully is everybody's right. The right not to demonstrate -- you know, there's a right not to demonstrate too -- uh, the right to demonstrate doesn't mean that you can impose upon the p-, rights of other people who don't want to demonstrate and who want to go to work. And so we are, uh, that's the line we're taking. That's the, the, uh, reason that when, uh, I talked to the Attorney General on Saturday night [unintelligible] I said, "Yes, sir,

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go right to it. [Unintelligible] you did the right thing." And just stand right up there. You and the Mayor, any of you who have to make public statements, and you have the backing of this office all the way.

Wilson: Thank you [unintelligible].

Washington: [Unintelligible].

President: And I don't care what the editorials, all the second-guessing and the whining and the whimpering and the rest and so forth and so on. Let 'em go, because we're gonna see, we're gonna see that the peace of this city is not disturbed.

Unknown: Thank you, Mr. President.

Washington: It's a great feeling for us, I tell ya, uh, just happy that we were able to come and [unintelligible]

Unknown: Yeah.

President: You tell all your people that, uh, don't let them worry about their, they'll, some, you know, they'll get concerned about the fact that I don't know [unintelligible] this, that, and the other one says, "Gee whiz, I was just in town to look at the cherry blossoms," even though they've been gone for a couple of weeks. Well, they weren't in town for the cherry blossoms. They all knew what they were doing. They were given a chance to get off the streets. As far as these reporters were concerned, well, I [unintelligible]. Why didn't they show their press badge? They wanted to be picked up.

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Wilson: Absolutely, that's the way they --

President: Oh, I have --

Wilson: -- write their stories.

President: -- I have [unintelligible] know I know exactly what they were up to. And, and on this one, when, when, particularly when you accomplish it without violence, just take a hard a line as is necessary --

Wilson: Thank you.

President: -- and bust 'em.

Wilson: We'll do that, Mr. President.