

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

Tape Subject Log
(rev. 10/06)

Transcript #1: Part of a conversation between President Nixon and John N. Mitchell in the Oval Office between 4:33 pm and 4:39 pm on May 7, 1971.

Conversation No. 495-26#1

President: [Unintelligible].

Mitchell: I think it was better that they did what they did --

President: I agree.

Mitchell: -- and, uh, had it come out the way that it did without any serious injuries.

President: Listen. There were no injuries [unintelligible] no serious injuries. Nobody was killed, everybody got to work that wanted to go to work, 'n' the Government kept going. The people that wanted to protest had a right, got a chance to protest. Constitutional rights -- balls, there were no constitutional rights violated -- no right to be, not to be arrested.

Mitchell: None, whatsoever.

President: The rights to have a fair trial and a quick one.

Mitchell: Absolutely.

President: And they all got 'em. I just, we aren't givin' an inch on it over here, you know. I told Ziegler, I said, "Don't give 'em a damn inch."

Mitchell: That's the party line over there. [Clears throat] Rehnquist made a good speech on

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the subject. I don't know whether you saw it or not.

President: Did he? I didn't see it, no.

Mitchell: Which he, uh, analyzed all of the legal principles in the cases and of course they supported us a one hundred percent. And, of course, the courts here in the District, basically their decisions were good.

President: Um-hum.

Mitchell: They waffled on how long you could keep 'em and got mad about lettin' 'em out on bond when they were running 'em through on the other end of the thing, but, uh, legal principles were all sound.

President: One thing's that's to be certain to establish, uh, [unintelligible] say, "We're not gonna tolerate the, uh, the [unintelligible] disruption of this Government," and, uh, I think that message got through.

Mitchell: I'm gonna make a talk to the, uh, sheriffs in California on Monday.

President: Oh, good.

Mitchell: I'm gonna give 'em a chapter and verse on this.

President: Oh, boy, good. They'll love it.

Mitchell: Yeah, and it'll get, uh, circulation.

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President: I think, too, the idea of this getting around, uh, looks [unintelligible]. I've gotta get Wilson in tomorrow with the Mayor, just to thank them quietly.

Mitchell: Good.

President: That's about the best [unintelligible] --

Mitchell: Very good.

President: -- because, uh, this idea to, uh, [unintelligible] that they didn't [unintelligible], not a bit. No, I, as I'm concerned, I'm glad they just [unintelligible].

Mitchell: Oh, Walter Washington was, had a pretty low visibility 'til we, I put the jack to 'm and told 'im to go have a press conference and back up Wilson, which he did.

President: I guess he was, uh, worried or feared that he didn't wanna be on the side of, uh, repression. Is that his problem?

Mitchell: Well, no, I was talkin' to Walter, he, uh, I think he's absolutely, uh, mentally honest, but he does better for us workin' the other side of the street.

President: I understand [unintelligible].

Mitchell: And, um, he, of course, proved everything that was done and wa-, no criticism even when some of his people started their a-, civil rights groups --

President: Yeah.

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Mitchell: -- 'n' so forth.

President: Yeah.

Mitchell: So, uh, he, he's p-played the game all right.

President: Yeah, yeah. [Unintelligible] just had Meany here for a while, you know, he disagrees with some [unintelligible]. By God, he's with us on this one. Whew! Those labor guys have no use for these punks, none.

Mitchell: [Unintelligible] was a Q and A after I got through talking over the Agricultural --

President: Yeah.

Mitchell: -- Department today. And this seventeen-year-old boy got up and wanted to know about certain aspects of it and made the statement that, uh, be sure that we didn't believe that everybody in his age group were of that type.

President: Oh, yeah.

Mitchell: Said most of his age group would approve of what was done here in Washington and the place went into spontaneous applause. [Mitchell addresses unknown person on unrelated matter].

President: Most of his age group would, uh --.

Mitchell: Would approve what we, what was done here.

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President: [Unintelligible] some coffee?

Mitchell: No, thanks, no.

President: Huh.

Mitchell: Most of his age group would approve what was done in the city here today --

President: Unintelligible].

Mitchell: -- and the place went into spontaneous applause over that.

President: Referring to, uh --

Mitchell: To the police activities here in the city.

President: A seventeen-year-old said this? Well, good for him.

Mitchell: And it's out as a wire story, I noticed.

President: What was he? Is he a son of a [unintelligible], of a farmer?

Mitchell: I would presume he's probably in the Four-H or some group.

President: Yeah.

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Transcript #2: Part of a conversation between President Nixon and John N. Mitchell in the Oval Office between 4:47 pm and 5:53 pm on May 7, 1971.

Conversation No. 495-26#2

President: Well, I think that, John, uh, these bastards, uh, I mean, uh, they, they came in first with their veterans and that gave him a positive play at least for a while. And then they came in with, uh, their big march and that was, I suppose, relatively positive according to the, if you look at the networks. Boy, but this week really, uh, people won't even remember the last event. I think this week makes the whole damn thing look pretty sad. What's your [unintelligible]?

Mitchell: I quite agree, Mr. President. I don't agree that the, uh, week ago Saturday was too positive when you have Bella --

President: I didn't --

Mitchell: -- Asbug or whatever her name, uh --.

President: -- I didn't [unintelligible] the goddamn networks [unintelligible].

Mitchell: Well, but, uh, people see that stuff on televiser and they get a little different, uh --

President: Yeah.

Mitchell: -- idea of it.

President: It may be that the television didn't react that way to 'em.

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Mitchell: And of course, uh, the country is getting damn sick of demonstrations. The interesting part of, uh, going around the country a day, let's say yesterday -- was it yesterday or the day before?

President: Um-hum.

Mitchell: There was very, very few, uh, demonstrations and the ones that they did have, like Boston, San Francisco --

President: Um-hum.

Mitchell: -- and the rest of them are much, much smaller --

President: Smaller, yeah.

Mitchell: -- than the ones before and the police reacted to them just in the same as they did here in Washington. They arrested 'em up in front of, when they tried to --

President: Did they?

Mitchell: -- block, oh, yes, they tried to block the entrance of the Federal Building in --

President: See, we set an example.

Mitchell: -- Boston, that's right.

President: In Boston or [unintelligible]?

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Mitchell: In Boston. In San Francisco they tried to block Market Street, and they picked up a hundred of 'em and arrested them and so this just broke the backbone of the whole thing.

President: That's a good way to do it --

Mitchell: Yeah.

President: -- that's the way to do it. Uh, uh, [unintelligible] I think now that we, uh, we just, uh, plows, plow the course in straight furrow an', uh, have to see these things through, I mean, we gotta see the war through and, uh, the, uh, [unintelligible] screw around with their little amendments and this and that and the other thing [unintelligible], granted of course it's got to come out right.

Mitchell: Yeah. My concern is that the frustrations that the Rennie Davises and the Dellingers and the rest of 'em experience are gonna lead to more violence and bomb throwing.

President: [Unintelligible] yeah, um-hum. They'll go underground, will start, uh --.

Mitchell: This has been the case in that group in Seattle and, uh, the Black Panthers and all the rest of 'em and it's been a miracle that with all these bombings and firebombings and the rest of it --

President: So few are killed.

Mitchell: -- so few people have been hurt.

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President: Thank God.

Mitchell: Yeah.

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Transcript #3: Part of a conversation between President Nixon and John N. Mitchell in the Oval Office between 4:47 pm and 5:53 pm on May 7, 1971.

Conversation No. 495-26#3

President: One thing I'm sure is that our southern block of Senators and Congressmen, this demonstration really mobilized their support for us. I saw both McClellan in here and others, uh --.

Mitchell: I've had [unintelligible].

President: -- [unintelligible] Stennis, how do you hear from them?

Mitchell: Oh, I get telegrams and phone calls, and even Bob Byrd sent me, uh, one this long as glowing as can be.

President: Is that right?

Mitchell: Yeah. Quite a few of 'em, I haven't seen 'em all 'cause I haven't had time, but there's a lot of 'em there and, uh --.

President: What do you think got into Teddy [unintelligible] this damn thing, Teddy Kennedy.

Mitchell: He has got a staff up there that has come almost entirely out of the Justice Department --

President: Oh?

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Mitchell: -- and most of 'em were there under Ramsey Clark --

President: Oh?

Mitchell: -- so they have this complete, uh, uh, approach to this whole operation, know, civil-rights-minded as distinguished from law enforcement, and I think that gave 'im a bad, a bad steer. Uh, Teddy has been just looking in every way possible to, uh, try and get something that he can hang on us in this area of repression. He was, uh --.

President: [Unintelligible].

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Transcript #4: Part of a conversation between President Nixon and John N. Mitchell in the Oval Office between 4:47 pm and 5:53 pm on May 7, 1971.

Conversation No. 495-26#4

Mitchell: Before we leave, uh, the District of Columbia situation I noticed this squib in the paper this morning that says that the, a lot of the officers who have been on duty on overtime, their overtime pay allowance has run out. Now wouldn't it --

President: Oh.

Mitchell: -- wouldn't it be a n-nice thought to take up with the Mayor and Wilson to see if this might be rectified in some way, I don't know what the complications are.

President: Well, I'll check it --

Mitchell: But it's --.

President: -- [unintelligible] Ehrlichman's shop to see who can get the piece of legislation. That's what [unintelligible].

Mitchell: It may be an administrative [unintelligible].

President: I know, yeah. It'd be good administratively. I'd be inclined to it. It would be nice to put some of those Congressmen and Senators on the spot and make them vote for, for overtime pay for policemen beatin' up on kids.

Mitchell: Yeah.

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President: [Unintelligible].

Mitchell: Well, the last time Kennedy called us up in his Operations Committee to review what we had done in the District [unintelligible] --

President: Yeah.

Mitchell: -- and we put together this Government-wide, uh, memorandum on all the activities, and it was sent up there, and he dropped the hearing. He wan-, he started the same thing. He sent his little boy Flugg, his a, a, down here right in the middle of the activity on Tuesday, wantin' to know when we'd be available for hearings on the operations that were goin' on down there.

President: Oh.

Mitchell: So we told him we'd, we'd tell him about that at some later date. We have memorandum, everybody that was involved in this thing Government-wide has prepared memorandums of times, dates, activities, *et cetera*, so we will do the same thing again and let him see where his inquiry comes out if he has guts enough to hold one --

President: Hmpf.

Mitchell: -- which I doubt he will do.

President: Yeah, yeah. Well, if he digs into this one, John, I think he'll get a bad issue out of it, because both the networks and the left-wing press will try to build up the repression issue. They'll take a few examples, uh, the country is fed up to the

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teeth with these damn, uh, extreme people like the, the disrupters, I mean, they inter-, they're fed up and don't like the war either but they like disrupters more, don=t you think?

Mitchell: Oh, yeah.

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Transcript #5: Part of a conversation between President Nixon and John N. Mitchell in the Oval Office between 4:47 pm and 5:53 pm on May 7, 1971.

Conversation No. 495-26#5

Mitchell: Did you notice after the conversation that Les and Jerry had here the other day about Carl Albert, that he, he waffled both sides of chasin' the demonstrators off the Capitol? He said once that he did chase 'em off and then he said he didn't chase 'em off.