

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 2:40 pm and 3:08 pm on May 10, 1971.

Conversation No. 496-12#1

President: Y' know, I tried this once before, Bob, if you, if you, if you trying to get out of Mitchell and say if everything, cost of the demonstration --

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: -- in other words, the degree, the military costs, the overtime costs.

Haldeman: They've put out a couple stories on that. They got one up to three million --

President: Good.

Haldeman: -- and, uh --.

President: How 'bout the idea of any new laws to deal with other demonstrators or [unintelligible] think it is not a good idea?

Haldeman: I think it is a good idea. It seems to me that's, could give us some --

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: -- that's where we can see the thing. We all know we couldn't do before this last one. It seems to me we can do now. I don't see any reason why we shouldn't now develop a plan, publicize it for the declaration of martial law in effect in this city, which suspends the right, of the r-r-, the right of-f-f a proper trial and all that for

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people and let 'em, let 'em know that that's what's gonna happen. I mean, in other words, what you gonna in, this, somebody's, one of the Congressmen was talkin' about this, that this ought to be done and, uh, let 'em get off a procedure that says that the Government's business must be carried on, is the interest, the national interest --.

President: If anybody interferes, well, rather than calling it martial law --

Haldeman: You don't, that's not what you --.

President: -- call it the interference of the, uh, processes of Government, there, uh, certain things that happen and, uh, I think, I know a little bit of intelligent thinking, I don't think much comes out of Justice. They're pretty good reactors but they never offer anything. We should get some of our bright young people to work on that.

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: I think, uh, y'know, I suggested this thing which [unintelligible] picked it up, have the demonstrators pay for their damage.

Haldeman: Right.

President: Now that came up independently. They [unintelligible] that's the function [unintelligible]. Now they told me it won't work, doesn't make any difference [unintelligible].

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Haldeman: Well, what we could do is to require that when an organization wants to protest here --

President: They put up a bond.

Haldeman: -- they have to put up a bond --

President: I'd just say a bond.

Haldeman: -- before they're issued a permit.

President: A bond, I think a bond should be put up. A bond should be put up for, uh, any damage to property, any damage to property, is caused. I don't [unintelligible], that's fair enough.

Haldeman: Well, they also can be permanent. See, the problem is, if you have the same situation again the best judgment is that what Wilson did was the right thing to do, that you do the same thing again, uh, you're gonna reopen the same constitutional question or, y'know, civil rights question --

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- and all that, again. Why not this time have it laid out that's what this guy proposed? That, uh, have it laid out ahead of time that, that this is the proper procedure that will be followed and that, that, uh, there is no, that there'll be preventive detention during the period of the declared emergency, then the people will be released an', an', uh, be, uh, y'know, transported out. [Unintelligible] one [unintelligible]. There, there have been several [unintelligible].

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President: Well --

Haldeman: [Unintelligible].

President: -- well, [unintelligible] we don't want to appear to be Gestapo living in a, uh, police state and all that kind of crap. I used to think that John Ehrlichman was highly, highly sensitive to this issue. [Unintelligible] I realize that this crap about the credibility issue, which of course is [unintelligible] this repression issue is just limited to a hell of a lot of, a very small group of people, you know. They just don't, that is where the Government is concerned.

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Conv. No. 496-12#2 (cont.)

Transcript #2: Part of a conversation between President Nixon and H. R. Haldeman in the Oval Office between 2:40 pm and 3:08 pm on May 10, 1971.

Conversation No. 496-12#2

President: Thank God I resisted the idea of puttin' somethin' into my DAR speech about these nice young people who are gonna be comin' --

Haldeman: Oh.

President: -- here to demonstrate, y'know. You recognize that, right? Huh? What do you think?

Haldeman: [Unintelligible].

President: It shows you how he gets so mesmerized.

Haldeman: Look at the DAR now, sitting out there in that, you know, that's, that's a marble building. That paint soaks into the pores of the marble. You can't clean paint off of marble. [Unintelligible] building, building is now permanently --

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: -- defaced until they sandblast it. They're gonna have to sandblast pretty deep. They're gonna have to take a big chunk out of the face of the --

President: I didn't know that.

Haldeman: -- of the building.

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Conv. No. 496-12#2 (cont.)

President: Looks like Europe.

Haldeman: Yeah. Or South America. [Unintelligible] in *Time* magazine.

[Laughs]

President: Which side they come out on the side of the demonstrators?

Haldeman: No, they're, they came out pretty well.

President: *Newsweek*?

Haldeman: But the, *Newsweek* too. They're both, all the magazines are good on the, on the thing. But *Time* has a picture that, it's fascinating that they finally published that nobody else published --

President: Don't you --

Haldeman: -- that has --

President: -- [unintelligible]?

Haldeman: -- that shows a scene at the camp where the demonstrators are, with a nude couple standing up embracing, and it's shot from the girl's back --.

President: Two men?

Haldeman: No, it's a, a girl and a, a boy. But it's, they're, uh, y'know, close together and --

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President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- it's shot from the back, see, and the girl is full, full view back nude and, and a pretty good --

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- side of the man. But it makes the point of what was going on in that place and it's a sickening picture.

President: Is it really?

Haldeman: Yeah, because there's other people around in their sleeping bags, you know, and stuff, and here's this nude couple standing outside their tent, embracing. I [unintelligible] it's one that I, you know, I'm amazed *Time* finally ran it. Obviously others have had the picture, nobody used it.

President: Yup.

Haldeman: Even made, they replayed the picture of the nude guy [unintelligible].