

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

Part of a conversation between President Nixon and Henry A. Kissinger in the Oval Office between 12:57 pm and 1:30 pm on May 10, 1971.

Conversation No. 496-9

Kissinger: Oh, yeah, oh, and of course they [the North Vietnamese] think they've got us on the run, with all these demonstrations, which they're misreading.

President: Yeah, it may, it may, but they also [unintelligible] the demonstrations have not succeeded [unintelligible].

Kissinger: I, of course, I, uh, Palm Springs isn't the United St- --

President: It's, it's the health [unintelligible] [laughs] --

Kissinger: -- but, uh --

President: -- good to see a few good Americans.

Kissinger: -- but you really, it really is moving, uh, [unintelligible].

President: Very curious. Y'know, back here everybody thinks we're too hard and out there they wish you were harder.

Kissinger: Yeah, but what I find is interesting, even the movie people who are basically liberal --

President: I know.

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Conv. No. 496-9 (cont.)

Kissinger: -- are healthier than, uh --

President: The television people here.

Kissinger: -- than the television people here and than the, uh, uh --.

President: I know, that's the thing I always tell our staff. [Unintelligible] you must get out of Washington and New York. Those are the two places that are weakest, softest in the country. I mean, almost any other place in the country you go, with the exception of Boston, you'll find a different attitude.

Kissinger: That's, that's what I've found so interesting and, and really they, uh --.

President: It doesn't mean, unfortunately, we've got rip-roaring support for the war. Everybody wants to get the goddamn war over with, but the [unintelligible] this idea of caving into the --

Kissinger: No.

President: -- the Communists.

Kissinger: That's the point. Of course you want to get the war over with. Hell, they, uh, we will certainly hear from Hanoi this week; there's no question about it.

President: One thing about the demonstrations, though, really hurt them badly this week, very badly.