

**NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF****Tape Subject Log***(rev. 9/08)*

Part of a conversation among President Nixon, H. R. ("Bob") Haldeman, and William P. Rogers in the Oval Office between 3:41 pm and 4:35 pm on April 22, 1971.

Conversation No. 486-7

President: One other thing I just wanna say. I have, you know, we've been, we, we had a little incident today we couldn't do anything about. The Chief Justice with these [unintelligible] and so forth. Veter-veterans went up to the Supreme Court and squatted up there and raised hell. So the Chief Justice called a policeman, the Chief of Police, and had 'em removed. So they finally got the picture they been trying to get. I had no, even though we had a court order. We got Mitchell in. We had ordered, we had told Mitchell just to continue to negotiate with Ramsey Clark and say we're trying to negotiate a peaceful evacuation of the area because I don't want a picture of a policeman throwing veterans out of the place. Uh, do you think it's, it's [unintelligible]?

Rogers: It's absolute chaos.

President: Have you, is there anything else we can do on the thing? We, we're trying to locate a, God! [unintelligible].

Rogers: Can we just --

President: He is giving me a hell of a [unintelligible].

Rogers: -- can we give them, uh, some place on locale, you know?

President: No, it's been offered. [Unintelligible] They've offered 'em Kennedy Stadium.

Rogers: They did?

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President: They've offered 'em the Washington Cathedral. They've offered 'em the Bolling --

Haldeman: Bolling Field.

President: -- Bolling, uh, Bolling Field. All of 'em with tents and everything else.

Haldeman: They won't got though th- --.

Rogers: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: That's right. Their interest is not, you know, everything's a turn-off. They're frantically trying get at, uh --

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- a genuine confrontation.

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: This may satisfy 'em. They got it at the Court today. Burger arrested a hundred and ten of 'em. Sent 'em to jail.

Rogers: He did?

Haldeman: Yeah. Well, he had the Washington Police do it but he, they were on his grounds.

President: But not on the grounds of, uh, but on the interesting ground of disturbing the

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peace. Not disturbing the peace --

Haldeman: Not disturbing the peace, no --

President: --Obstructing justice.

Rogers: Exactly. But I don't they're gonna make any friends doing that. I think they --.

President: You don't think so?

Rogers: People still respect them.

President: Well, what about veterans?

Rogers: I don't think they --.

Haldeman: They're such ratty-looking people, and two of them were up on top today  
[unintelligible].

President: [Unintelligible]

Rogers: [Unintelligible]. Yeah, yeah.

President: And you'd be asked about it. You'd be asked about it. Let me say it'd be helpful if, I think, in all of your interest tomorrow, if you would, it would be very helpful to say that that we've talked about this and that, as a matter of fact, the President is, respects the right of dissent, you know, uh, but, and we, we, uh, we want peaceful demonstration that, uh, we've, uh, we, uh, uh, we have, uh, you know, a

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li--little of that, but on the other hand we, we can't do that.

Rogers: I think I might like to test the Court. Having been Attorney General, I'd say that -

President: Yeah.

Rogers: -- we respect the right of dissent. The President, of course, is, is watching and listening to the comments they have to make but to, I have great concern about the disrespect for the Court of the United States, the Supreme Court of the United States.

President: The Supreme Court of the United States.

Rogers: Show that to 'em.

President: Showing disrespect for the Supreme Court. That's, there's another idea too. The Supreme Court has been very vigilant in its decisions --

Rogers: That's right.

President: -- and, you could say the Supreme, that we, that is, that the President and the Congress is one thing, the Supreme Court --.