

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

Part of a conversation among President Nixon, Vice President Agnew, and H. R. Haldeman in the Oval Office between 7:55 am and 8:04 am on April 27, 1971.

Conversation No. 488-10

President: Were, you weren't up there yesterday when they raised hell in the Senate?

Agnew: No, I was, uh, down in New Orleans giving a speech to the Southern Gas Association. What did they --

President: I, uh, it's, uh, interesting.

Agnew: Foreign Relations Committee?

President: In the floor.

Agnew: On the floor?

President: Didn't you hear about it?

Agnew: I didn't see that in the papers.

President: That's it. These bastards, uh, they, uh, you know, when they had these other people there yesterday, they raised holy hell, and, uh, uh, Tower moved twice to kill it, clear the galleries, you know. When they yell, "Stop the fucking war," and all that sort of thing, shit, [unintelligible] outrageous stuff. And finally, and Humphrey was in the chair on both occasions, refused to clear the galleries, says, "Those that are making the [clears throat] disturbance shall leave, but the others may stay." And then finally they began to moan and [unintelligible] parts of

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[unintelligible], and by that time, Buckley was in the chair, and Tower again made his motion. And Buckley said, "The galleries will be cleared, and those will then be readmitted when they are [unintelligible]." And, uh, Humphrey moved to rescind Buckley's order, and that was voted down, apparently. And they cleared the galleries and that was [unintelligible]. So, uh, well now there you are; here's this damn Washington Post doesn't --.

Agnew: Not a word [unintelligible].

President: I didn't see [unintelligible].--

Agnew: [Unintelligible].

President: -- anything after the first page anyway.

Agnew: Yeah.

President: 'Cause notice, the average guy doesn't read it. Neither the Times nor the Post gets a goddamn word of it, and here they are out there and they threw, they covered, uh, they threw red paint all over Barry Goldwater's office door. Now that's just a little prank, right?

Agnew: Yeah.

President: And, uh, some of the, they made the Senators mad anyway. That, that is really something, isn't it?

Agnew: Well, it's gonna get worse this week. I [unintelligible].

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President: Oh, it's gonna be rough, and, uh, this week is the week I, I wanted to, I want it to go further. The veterans, we had a hell of a time. We didn't want to get in a position of poor old, remember Hoover and MacArthur and all that, arresting those poor Bonus veterans in the thirties?

Agnew: Yeah, I remember that.

President: But now that they're out of town, these guys are just the ratty radics, as,- Russell Long was in here yesterday and he said, "I," he said, "They," you know, "Boy, I'm for you what you're doing," he said, "Stay your course --." Come on in. [Speaks to Haldeman] He said and, uh --

Haldeman: Good morning.

President: -- he had, he said, uh, "I'm for it all the way." Bob, uh, I'm just saying to the Vice President, he just got back from New Orleans --

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: -- [unintelligible] I said, did you hear [unintelligible] Senate. He said, "what do you mean, the Foreign Relations Committee?" [Unintelligible] floor. Well, he [unintelligible] see it in the papers.

Haldeman: It wasn't in the Times.

President: It wasn't in the Times. It wasn't in the Post.

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Agnew: Look there's --.

President: Now, now were --

Haldeman: Well, this is what you --.

President: -- were you reporting a different story yesterday? What in the hell, there wasn't a goddamn thing on the front page of the Post or the Times. I didn't read the rest of 'em.

Haldeman: Not a thing.

President: The Post and the Times completely ignored the story.

Haldeman: No.

President: Wasn't it an important story? Why the hell did people tell me I have to come back from California Monday then?

Haldeman: I don't think you do have to. I --.

President: Yeah, I think you're g-, uh --.

Haldeman: People panicked about things --

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- but, uh --.

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President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: The Post, the Post did carry the story, but it's fascinating they [sighs] it's really unbelievable the way they do some of this stuff. The Post carried the story, and they go through the whole thing. And then they get to the point where they say, "And then Senator Buckley, who was in the chair at the time, ordered them removed."

President: Left out --.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible].

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: Totally leaves out the fact that when the thing started, Senator Humphrey was in the chair!

President: And twice refused to remove them and also refused to --.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] rescind the order. Senator Tower demanded that they be, re-, that the galleries be cleared, and Senator Humphrey refused to clear the galleries and only ordered the removal of those who had shouted. Then they removed those; then some more shouted. Tower again demanded they clear the galleries. Humphrey again refused and only removed those who shouted. Then Buckley took the f-, chair and Son-, and Humphrey took, went to the floor and Buckley, then, they, uh, Senator Byrd --

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President: --Byrd of West Virginia, the whip, or-, asked, uh, requested the galleries be cleared, and Senator Buckley cleared the galleries.

President: That's right.

Haldeman: And Senator Humphrey objected to clearing the galleries, and Byrd repeated his demands, and Humphrey said, "Just clear those who are demonstrating." And Byrd said, "No, clear the, clear the galleries and then readmit those who are not demonstrating." And that's what Buckley did. None of that's in the paper. All that's in the paper is that some of the demonstrators were ordered out by Senator Buckley who was in the chair at the time.

President: Because they were [unintelligible] and creating disturbances. [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: Yeah, one guy shouted, shouted, "Shit, man, what about the kids in Vietnam," [laughs] from the Senate gallery [laughs]. There --.

Agnew: You know what I think they ought to do with that Senate gallery? I made the recommendation they ought to put that soundproof glass in the gallery and put microphones so they can hear what goes on, on the floor and they can see it, but --

Haldeman: But they can't disrupt.

Agnew: -- Senate can't hear 'em and not only that, it's a good security measure.

President: Yes, sir, take this glass for example, it's soundproof --

Haldeman: Yeah.

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President: -- and you can't see in --.

Haldeman: You put it half-way down this is practically one-way glass too, so that the --

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: -- Senate can't see the gallery. They can just hear 'em, uh, the gallery --.

President: The gallery, as you know, act disgracefully all the time. Whenever they have a vote or something like that --

Haldeman: Well, this --.

President: -- what I started to say the, the, uh --.

Haldeman: The Post did carry the story. I haven't seen the Times this morning.

President: Well.

Agnew: The Times has nothing.

President: He read the Times, no --

Haldeman: [Unintelligible].

President: -- the Times wouldn't --.

Haldeman: Uh, the networks last night --

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President: Did they refer to it at all?

Agnew: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: -- not, th-they, they referred to it in passing, they mentioned there were also some, you know --

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: -- in effect they said some of these nice kids were also --

Agnew: So Humphrey gets --

Haldeman: [Unintelligible].

Agnew: -- the best, best of both worlds. He gets the accolades and the nuts.

President: The left.

Agnew: They know what he did [unintelligible] --

Haldeman: And no blame from anybody else.

Agnew: -- on the right.

Haldeman: That's right.

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President: [Unintelligible] was in here last night and [unintelligible] talked to me about all this. And I looked in the papers, and I said, "For Christ's sakes, I must have had a nightmare."

Haldeman: I didn't see any news summary this morning --

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: -- the wire copy in there --

President: The wire copy, sure.

Haldeman: -- which has got the whole Humphrey --

President: But they didn't --

Haldeman: -- because that's where we got it, off the wire [unintelligible].

President: -- [unintelligible] out in the hinterland.

Haldeman: But it's [unintelligible].

President: Well, I person-, I, I don't [unintelligible] the other [unintelligible] that's the, uh, what's the, what do you think, uh, uh, the level of this is, I think the --.

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Haldeman: It's, what it is, these are [unintelligible]. They went out to Mel Laird's house, ya know, and staged a, uh, guerrilla theater business on Mel Laird's front lawn. They all ran around killing gooks and dying and piling up in his driveway, and all this, and there were about seven neighbors there who viewed it with some disgust. But the TV cameras were there and managed to get it on the networks last night.

President: [Unintelligible] don't think that's gonna help.

Agnew: That doesn't help 'em.

Haldeman: No, it doesn't help 'em, but it, except that, it just, ya know, why the hell cover 'em [unintelligible].

President: Well, they were, they're, uh --

Haldeman: And it's gonna make, stimulate more of 'em to go to more peopl's homes and start, ya know, togo out and get --

President: -- [unintelligible].

Haldeman: -- busy residential neighborhood in Bethesda and start scaring people.

President: Yeah, and what is the situation now? Today are they gonna have, uh --?

Haldeman: Today they go to the Selective Service.

Agnew: They were supposed to go to seven thirty this morning. I don't think they have anything according to the, what I heard - not much anyway.

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Haldeman: They don't start that early, they, this is --.

Agnew: There was something, something scheduled for seven thirty because one of my agents said to me, "They didn't show up" [unintelligible].

Haldeman: Well, may --.

President: Probably [unintelligible].

Haldeman: Yeah, they, they shift around, th-, there's not a lot of 'em here yet, and there's not supposed to be. See what, what they're doing now is their training tactics for next week. So they're out, they go, each group goes to the area that it's supposed to block next week and, and hands out pamphlets and, and, uh, gets familiar with the area.

President: [Unintelligible] Ron [unintelligible]. Well, I thought, though, that it was really --

Haldeman: [laughs]

President: -- really typical of the press, though.

Haldeman: It is.

President: Just completely, as you says, lets good old Humphrey off.