

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

Part of a telephone conversation between President Nixon in the Oval Office and John W. Dean, III at an unknown time between 12:43 pm and 1:13 pm on May 5, 1971.

Conversation No. 2-88

President: What's the situation on the Hill? Are they, uh, they up there yet?

Dean: We have about two thousand down on the foot of the Hill.

President: Yeah.

Dean: And they're sitting under the trees and generally peaceful at this point in time.

President: Yeah. What 're they planning to do?

Dean: Well, their intention is to march on the Capitol and, uh, uh, attack it.

President: Oh, is that right?

Dean: A siege.

President: What time, at what time're they gonna do that?

Dean: Uh, roughly two o'clock.

President: Two o'clock, and, uh, we, we will do nothing 'n' that's the Capitol Police's problem.

Dean: That is correct.

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Conv. No. 2-88 (cont.)

President: Are they prepared for it?

Dean: Yes, sir.

President: Do they have enough personnel 'n' everything?

Dean: Yes, sir.

President: Have they asked any help from us?

Dean: No, sir, they have not. We, uh --

President: Well --.

Dean: -- MPD is prepared to give them any assistance down there.

President: Yeah, yeah, yeah. That's fine, that's fine. Well, we'll just leave it right there. Their, their problem, and about two thousand of them goin' up the Hill, huh?

Dean: Correct.

President: Good.

Dean: I have a, uh, status report on the way over on the rest of the city, and it's generally quiet.

President: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Things've sorta cooled off, apparently.

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Conv. No. 2-88 (cont.)

Dean: I think, I think the spirit has been broken.

President: You really think so?

Dean: Yes, I do.

President: Um-hum.

Dean: They had a meeting last night and, uh, [clears throat] good bit of internal dissent amongst the demonstrators on what to do at this point in time.

President: Yeah, like, like, uh, what, why did they dissent, what were they dissenting about? Tactics, ya mean?

Dean: Tactics. Rennie Davis, who's out on bond now --

President: Um-hum.

Dean: -- uh, was urging that they go to the Lincoln Memorial with the, uh, Southern Christian Leadership group but, uh, uh, the others would not buy that.

President: Yeah [laughs], yeah, okay, fine, fine.

Dean: Yes, sir.