

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

Part of a telephone conversation between President Nixon in the Lincoln Sitting Room and H. R. Haldeman between 6:47 pm and 6:56 pm on April 22, 1971.

Conversation No. 2-28

President: What's the latest on the, uh, we-, the weekend thing? Is that, uh, escalating particularly? Or, uh --

Haldeman: Doesn't seem to be, no. It --.

President: -- number of buses is about the same, huh?

Haldeman: Dean says th' just based on the best that they can get now, that there's a fair chance that this may be a basic fizzle. May not, may not pull together even as much as --

President: Who says this?

Haldeman: -- they thought they would. John Dean, who's pulling the intelligence together on it, what little there is.

President: And yet it could escalate into --

Haldeman: 'N' can. There's, there's --

President: -- be a quarter of a million --

Haldeman: -- there's --

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Conv. No. 2-28 (cont.)

President: -- for all we know.

Haldeman: -- as John said yesterday, there's, uh, Mitchell said yesterday, there's, there's no way to tell, really, 'til things start moving.

President: Well, we=re all ready to pounce on it if it is a fizzle, aren=t we?

Haldeman: Oh, yeah.

President: This time. [chuckles] We=ve got it at a half million, haven=t we? Has that --

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: -- has the press bought that?

Haldeman: It, some have played it, and some of the organizers, of course, are playing at all different figures. So they, it's at least confused. And I think, we, any --.

President: All of our people should put out a half a million, though --

Haldeman: Right.

President: -- just to sell it.

Haldeman: [clears throat] And they talked about it being the biggest one. That's, that's --

President: Right.

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Conv. No. 2-28 (cont.)

Haldeman: -- the one --

President: Right.

Haldeman: -- we'll get 'em best hung on, because they, they won't make that.

President: Go.

Haldeman: At least it doesn't appear they will. And it's --

President: Well --

Haldeman: -- and you'd never know it from the media, but the veterans' thing is basically gonna fizzle in terms of numbers.

President: Is it really?

Haldeman: But it succeeded in what they were after, which is getting coverage.

President: They really got coverage, didn't they? Yeah.

Haldeman: Yup.

President: Well, they wanted to cover it. The press wanted to cover it. But, uh, ya know, an interesting thing though, after covering this one, I don't know whether the interest in covering the rest may be as great --.

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Conv. No. 2-28 (cont.)

- Haldeman: No, that's a good point. I hadn't thought about that, but, uh, it may dull down substantially. Especially with nothing happening, ya know, nothing happening really in --.
- President: Are we, uh, I, uh, I presume we are, but, uh, I hope that, uh, and this one, it might do a little good t-, the, uh, Magruder group really should bom-bombard those damn networks, ya know, for, you know, distorting the news and to give such terrific coverage to these terrible people --.
- Haldeman: They are, and the Congressmen have been doing it too. They're --
- President: Good, good.
- Haldeman: -- they've been hitting some.
- President: Yeah, some of the Congressmen are full of fight, I find. They're really pissed off.
- Haldeman: Well, some of this helps to crank them up too. They --
- President: Um-hum.
- Haldeman: -- uh --.
- President: They really are full of fight, ya know. They=re, they=re mad and, uh, at these people and what they=re doin= and, uh --
- Haldeman: Yeah.

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Conv. No. 2-28 (cont.)

President: -- they're ready to go. But Jesus, that Mathias, that's the one I love. You just buy the ad in the Washington Post. Try to hit it for, for, if they'll sell it. They may not sell it.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible].

President: If not, put it in the Star.

Haldeman: That's right. They may not.

President: But, well, just put an ad in. We are disgusted, ya know?

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: Okay.

Haldeman: All right