

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

Part of a telephone conversation between President Nixon in the Oval Office and Walter E. Washington between 4:20 pm and 4:22 pm on May 4, 1971.

Conversation No. 2-74

President: Yes, I wanted you to know that, uh, all the reports we have of, uh, this, uh, of the activities of the last couple of days have been that you, uh, and your staff have just done a splendid job and I'm most grateful.

Washington: Well, I'm, uh --.

President: And, uh, I'm, I'm particularly, uh, you know, it seems to me very, very interesting to note too that is, that the very small participation, you know, that, they're, they're, they're trying to get a lot of the black, uh, militants in it but --

Washington: Yes.

President: -- but this is mainly, uh, mainly, uh, white operation, isn't it?

Washington: Yeah, it is.

President: Yeah, it's a --.

Washington: Point we've --

President: Yeah.

Washington: -- just had a few that we've been able to --

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President: Sure.

Washington: -- identify.

President: Yeah.

Washington: Uh --.

President: I know, but it's just, it's, it's minimal, minimal and --

Washington: It is minimal --.

President: -- and that's to their great credit that they didn't join with this, this rat pack.

Washington: I, I think it is --

President: Right.

Washington: -- and, uh, I think the citizens here have been --

President: Yeah.

Washington: -- exceedingly responsive --

President: Right.

Washington: -- and positive and --.

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President: What has happened on tourism? How bad has it hurt ya?

Washington: Well, it's hurt us pretty bad.

President: Came at a wrong time, didn't it?

Washington: Just the wrong time. It was just building up to, I'd say, about two hundred thousand --

President: Yeah.

Washington: -- for the cherry blossom period over last year --

President: Sure.

Washington: -- and it just dies.

President: Just, just dies, huh?

Washington: Yeah, it just took a dip that, uh, left us in, uh, in real bad shape.

President: Isn't that a shame!

Washington: Most of our facilities have had to, uh, be used --

President: Yeah.

Washington: -- in this, uh, to --

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President: Yeah. Yeah.

Washington: -- deal with this situation --

President: Right.

Washington: -- and, uh --

President: Well --

Washington: -- have a lot of citizens, uh --.

President: Well, maybe this week if we can, uh, I think this could, I hope, will finish it and then you get back and, and make up for it in the next two weeks, huh?

Washington: Well, I hope, uh --.

President: May's a good month here.

Washington: Yes, it is and what, uh, what we hope, Mr. President, is that, uh, uh, the sit-, that it'll, it won't take a lot of time and people will realize this is over and --.

President: No, no, no, no, no, we'll --

Washington: [Unintelligible].

President: -- we'll advertise that fact too. We'll just --.

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Washington: I hope so.

President: I think after tomorrow, which is their last day presumably, we'll just say, "Now look here, everything's fine." We're going to go ahead with the s-, big salute to agriculture here on Friday on the White House lawn and that'll be well advertised. That'll make people --.

Washington: Uh, may I, uh, say to the civilian employees, Mr. President --

President: Yes.

Washington: -- that you've, uh --.

President: You tell, uh, I want you to tell all the civilian employees that I'm most grateful for two things: one, for their conduct, for the way they handled the situation and, two, for the fact they, they came and, and came on the job.

Washington: Right.

President: Uh, and we're not, uh, despite whatever, whatever views they had on policies that they, they, uh, they recognize that there's a wro-wro-wrong and a right way to, uh, do it and they, they aren't intimidated and they went to work and did their jobs and that's to their great credit. They kept the city running and --

Washington: Yes, indeed.

President: -- and that we appreciate it. Would you do that?

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Washington: Yes, I --.

President: You put, you put that out and put it out to the press too.

Washington: I'll put that out to the --.

President: Fine.

Washington: Thank you, Mr. President.

President: Fine.