

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

Part of a telephone conversation between President Nixon in the Oval Office and Richard G. Kleindienst between 4:29 pm and 4:31 pm on May 4, 1971.

Conversation No. 2-76

President: Well, somebody told me you hadn't had any sleep for three days and I thought I'd better wake you up.

Kleindienst: It'll supress my personality.

President: Listen, uh, what kind of animals you got out there today?

Kleindienst: Oh, same goddamn bunch.

President: Ahh, they are something, aren't they?

Kleindienst: Well, this really fooled us because, you know, they've been so disintegrated and separated --

President: Yeah.

Kleindienst: -- uh, all of our informants couldn't find 'em. [Laughs]

President: Yeah.

Kleindienst: And, uh, we anticipated more than, no more than three or four hundred at Franklin Square and, good God Almighty, they showed up with about four or five thousand of them, so --.

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Conv. No. 2-76 (cont.)

President: Where do they come from? Where do they [unintelligible]?

Kleindienst: All over the country but primarily, I would say, Chicago and east.

President: And they mobilized, but how'd they mobilize this many at this --

Kleindienst: Oh --

President: -- time?

Kleindienst: -- well, I guess they just did it by word of mouth. We had them all in the clink, uh, last night and Chief Wilson just feels they must have gotten the signal among themselves to not do anything on the streets this morning and be there because they just came like ants from everywhere.

President: Yeah. Well, I don't know, it's, uh, the, uh, what [unintelligible]. How are they, uh, how'd they conduct them-, what=d they do when they're there? Just shout, yell?

Kleindienst: Well, they shout and yell and then pretty soon their leaders, uh, start, you know, the rhetoric in the streets and get 'em pretty well fired up. They came down here in front of the Department of Justice, but actually this is pretty good. We, we would like to have, not have had it, but it permitted the Chief to just round 'em all up and instead of chasin' 'em all over town tonight and will cause no problem with traffic. So it really solves a problem for his officers. They'll get a good night's sleep.

President: Are they gonna have to arrest these people too?

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Conv. No. 2-76 (cont.)

Kleindienst: Well, we've already arrested over twelve hundred, and they're cordoned off on our street, and they'll be arresting them for another two and a half hours.

President: Yeah. On the ground that they were told to disperse and did not, huh?

Kleindienst: It was an unlawful assembly, and they just sat down in the middle of the street so
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President: Um-hum.

Kleindienst: -- they were arrested. The military will be in position by now just --

President: Um-hum.

Kleindienst: -- for, uh, patrol duty in the traffic hours.

President: They going to, you handling it in a way that you're not appearing to be, uh, that we, we've come off on the first day so well, but, uh, I, uh, just, just continue to handle it firmly and, uh --.

Kleindienst: Right. No problem on that and, uh --

President: Be firm but --

Kleindienst: -- it's all been nonviolent --.

President: What?

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Conv. No. 2-76 (cont.)

Kleindienst: It's all been nonviolent, and --

President: Oh, yeah.

Kleindienst: -- it's a very orderly arrest procedure now because it enables us to take a photograph of each one as we put them on the bus, and it identifies, uh, with the arresting officer.

President: Um-hum.

Kleindienst: Our problem on the sweep yesterday is that about six thousand five hundred of 'em were not identifiable. All --

President: Um-hum.

Kleindienst: -- of these will and, uh, it's gonna, I think, give us some entirely different judicial procedures. [Laughs]

President: Boy.

Kleindienst: It's really something; it really is.

President: They're really a crummy lot, aren't they?

Kleindienst: But, I'll tell ya, the thing that, uh, after gone through five of these things now, the thing we really have in this Government is a very cohesive, well-coordinated --

President: Um-hum.

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Conv. No. 2-76 (cont.)

Kleindienst: -- group of people in all branches of the executive, you know --

President: Um-hum.

Kleindienst: -- department of the Government --

President: Um-hum.

Kleindienst: -- the military and everybody else.

President: Um-hum.

Kleindienst: And we're capable, really, upon very short notice of putting together the whole Government, you know, uh, to meet any type of situation.

President: Um-hum.

Kleindienst: It's just been kind of a drill that we've gone through so many times --

President: Um-hum, um-hum.

Kleindienst: -- that uh, I think it makes this the model city of the United States.

President: Right, right.

Kleindienst: There's, ya know, no injuries, no-not one person's been killed and a million people doin' this in this town.

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Conv. No. 2-76 (cont.)

President: Um-hum, um-hum, um-hum.

Kleindienst: I think it's a remarkable, uh, achie- --.

President: It really is, isn't it? Yeah, the Chief=s done a good job everywhere.

Kleindienst: If I could be presumptuous, Mr. President --

President: Um-hum, um-hum.

Kleindienst: -- sometime if you'd call that Chief up there, the White House, you know, and --.

President: Who?

Kleindienst: Chief Wilson up there and thank him personally because he --

President: Oh, wait. I, I had planned to do something special.

Kleindienst: Do you, sir?

President: Oh, you know, I called him on the phone Sunday, you know --

Kleindienst: [Unintelligible].

President: -- from Cali-California. But I will call him. We, uh, I think maybe we'll give, uh, I'm trying to think of ci-citation to give to the whole department.

Kleindienst: Yeah.

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Conv. No. 2-76 (cont.)

President: How do you like that?

Kleindienst: I think it'd be good.

President: Yeah.

Kleindienst: And the National Guard.

President: Yeah, well, we do that separately. [Laughs] Okay. [Laughs]