

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 7:49 pm and 7:52 pm on May 4, 1971.

Conversation No. 2-80

President: Uh, I was just, just checking on the late reports here and the thing I don't particularly [unintelligible] and avoid in any event is this soft line [unintelligible].

Haldeman: Right.

President: [Unintelligible] just take the hard line and, uh, don't be worried about all that and force the Democrats to t-take that line, too.

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: See my point?

Haldeman: Right.

President: Now, I know we're on the right track. Just keep right on it. Don't worry about this little [unintelligible].

Haldeman: Right.

President: Don't you agree?

Haldeman: Absolutely. No question at all.

President: And, uh, don't let anybody get excited about it. They should just [unintelligible] a

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little [unintelligible] Scali, [unintelligible] Safire.

Haldeman: Yeah, I think so.

President: Well, they, you may or may not but --

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: -- if they do, I just want to to know --

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] got it --

President: -- I know what the country feels and don't, don't give an inch on this. These people have broken the law. People want 'em herded up. They don't worry about due process. I mean, that sorta thing, they just want 'em herded up, particularly since we're not going to put 'em away, just put them in for a day and then --

Haldeman: Right.

President: -- release 'em.

Haldeman: The reason I don't think that they got a prayer of gettin' any mileage out of that question [unintelligible].

President: The way they're playing it? John Ehrlichman's on his [unintelligible] TV tonight [unintelligible].

Haldeman: They played the rallies on the local TV. The networks didn't play that at all.

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President: They didn't?

Haldeman: Nope.

President: Good, good.

Haldeman: That was somethin' they had. The locals, you know, do good, uh, crybaby lawyers out, uh, --

President That's good, yeah.

Haldeman: -- on the local news.

President: You see my point? I don't want any of our people --.

Haldeman: The networks [unintelligible] huge mobs showed us, showed 'em dancing around in front of the Justice Department and, uh --.

President: It didn't, it didn't do them any credit, huh?

Haldeman: Nope.

President: Good.

Haldeman: Nope. It didn't have one iota, uh, I, I only saw one, I only saw CBS but--

President: Yeah

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Haldeman: -- [unintelligible] that --.

President: Well, my point is take a hard line [unintelligible], giving in and starts apologizing 'n' then that's it.

Haldeman: Right.

President: Now keep [unintelligible] keep it [unintelligible].

Haldeman: Absolutely.

President: Because, uh, [unintelligible].

Haldeman: That's right.

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: You've got a lot of credit [unintelligible]. Stay right with it.

President: Right, right, right. Okay.

Haldeman: Right, now.