

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

Part of a conversation between President Nixon and Ronald L. Ziegler in the President's office in the Executive Office Building between 2:55 pm and 3:00 pm on April 20, 1971

Conversation No. 251-9

Ziegler: [Unintelligible] leadership meeting this morning and I just heard a little portion of it. I'm quite sure you did not say that only about thirty percent of the Vietnam veterans were veterans. You [unintelligible], yes, sir, [unintelligible]. I was quite sure --.

President: -- that the whole, the whole [unintelligible] went into [William E.] Brock[, III].

Ziegler: That's what I thought. Quite hones-, I was quite sure of that 'n' I talked to several others who were in the meeting 'n' they said, "No, sir, I didn't hear it." But I wanted to check directly with you, 'cause then I could say I'm talkin' about it, about it. The matter wasn't even discussed [unintelligible].

President: [Unintelligible] why don't you quote, why don't you quote [Clark] MacGregor? He was there.

Ziegler: Right.

President: The subject was not even brought up. We didn't discuss the Vietnam veterans.

Ziegler: Right.

President: You mean this, this, uh, demonstrations?

Ziegler: Yes, sir.

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President: Nobody brought it up. It's a-, it wasn't even, it wasn't on the agenda. It wasn't brought up by anybody. I didn't bring it up. Who the hell said that? [Hugh] Scott?

Ziegler: No, no, no, no, there=s a-, it=s, it=s flappin= around town and, uh, I want to hit it pretty hard. Uh, i-it was said, the President's never said that.

President: Uh, no, just say that the matter that, that was not even discussed at all --

Ziegler: Right.

President: -- in that meeting or in any other meeting --

Ziegler: And the President --

President: -- in the White House.

Ziegler: -- has never said [unintelligible].

President: No, no, no, no. Don't say that.

Ziegler: [Unintelligible].

President: The matter was not discussed at that meeting or any other meeting and it was not. I didn't discuss the damn thing. I dunno how many there are. [Unintelligible] haven't the slightest idea.

Ziegler: Right.

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President: What is the num-, what is the picture? Do we know?

Ziegler: I don't know. The [unintelligible]. [clears throat] You're being quoted as saying that only thirty percent of those who [unintelligible] that are [unintelligible]. I've never heard you say that.

President: [Unintelligible] haven't the slightest idea what they were. I was, assumed there=re some that are not, but I --

Ziegler: I would, too.

President: -- I'd be very surprised if they were all veterans, but, uh, we haven't even discussed it. We don't have any numbers. We have no, we have no reason, no knowledge of it. The matter was not even discussed this morning and has never been discussed at any meeting to my knowledge.

Ziegler: All right. We haven't discussed it.

President: But I'd like to nail who the hell said it. Who is it?

Ziegler: I don't know. I, I just wanna track it down. [Unintelligible] process of tracking it down.

President: Somebody from the White House?

Ziegler: I, I, I --

President: In this case is gonna stop it here.

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Ziegler: -- I don't know who.

President: No, really, I mean, that's a, somebody may just try, tryin' to jump us. Who was in that meeting this morning? Who, who the hell, uh --.

Ziegler: Well, the point is, that you did not say that. Without [unintelligible] --.

President: Let's forget whether I said it. We did not discuss the demonstrations at all.

Ziegler: That's right.

President: Didn't discuss it. It would've been brought up about the demonstration.

Ziegler: That=s right.

President: I think thirty percent of that is somethin' new.

Ziegler: I think the Vice President [Spiro T. Agnew] said [unintelligible].

President: Maybe he said it. Did he?

Ziegler: Don't know. He might have said it, I dunno.

President: But it=s not been in the meeting --

Ziegler: No.

President: -- in the meeting the matter of --

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Ziegler: No.

President: -- demonstration was not even discussed. You were there. So it'd be
[unintelligible] the subject of the draft, uh, all the other [unintelligible].

Ziegler: [Sneezes] Thank you, sir.