

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF**Tape Subject Log***[rev. 10/06]*

Part of a conversation between President Nixon and H. R. Haldeman in the Oval Office between 9:53 am and 10:15 am on May 5, 1971.

Conversation No. 491-14

[Music]

Haldeman: ...Mitchell in today?

President: Picked up them all right.

Haldeman: Yesterday.

President: How's he's do -- great? What was the situation today? Did they have any more actions?

Haldeman: Uh, there's gonna be a, they're going to...

President: March on the Capitol?

Haldeman: Uh, ...be at the Congress at noon when the thing...

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: Well, that's the plan, uh, whether they do it never can quite sure. But they, they've followed the plan pretty much up to now. It's [unintelligible] the theory is they're gonna...

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President: Demonstrate up there, at the Capitol?

Haldeman: From twelve noon until the People's Peace Treaty is signed, you see, they're demanding that the Congress sign this. This is this peace treaty that they've signed with North Vietnam. [Laughs]

President: Hmm. [Unintelligible]

Haldeman: They've got no [unintelligible] special permit. Best estimate is 2,000 demonstrators. Trouble very likely.

President: Good.

Haldeman: They've planned two meetings tonight to plan demon...

President: That was last night.

Haldeman: ...to plan demonstration activities. We don't, I haven't had a late reading on, on that. [Unintelligible] They just granted the federal employees' permit, after all. They're, before they'd left the stand they couldn't get a base for an injunction apparently, so they didn't get...

President: All right.

Haldeman: ...one. So...

President: [Unintelligible] out here today?

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Haldeman: ...that's -- in and out here today. There'll also be the students of Shelton College...

President: Where the hell is that?

Haldeman: ...on the, on the sidewalk in front of the White House. It's in New Jersey. They're then demonstrating in favor of the war. Heh. They're gonna, heh, they're gonna be on our side of the street and the other people are gonna be in the park.

President: That's fine. Probably a new college of some sort.

Haldeman: It's -- I'm afraid it has somethin' to do with Carl McIntyre.

President: Oh, be suspicious, yeah.

Haldeman: Yeah, McIntyre's having a victory thing next Saturday. Sunday. This coming Sunday. Victory by the Fourth of July. It's, it's a...

President: Can we get in there with those Government employees. Is there anyway to?

Haldeman: I guess you can't.

President: I'd sure get a lot of pictures and everything.

Haldeman: Sure, are.

President: You know, just get guys with, with news cam--, news things, so that they don't...

Haldeman: No, they have a plan to do anything [unintelligible].

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President: We sure have good intelligence, don't we?

Haldeman: Heh, heh.

President: [Unintelligible] Don't know, don't know what's been happenin'.

Haldeman: They, can, uh, picked up...

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: ...in a sweep yesterday, they arrested Abbie Hoffman. They got Dr. Spock, as you know, the day before. They got Al Hubbard, the, uh, veterans' guy that, that had...pos--, the black who had posed as a...

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: ...Army, as an Air Force captain and then turns out not to have been a captain.

President: Sargeant is he a, is he one of 'em?

Haldeman: He -- they arrested him.

President: I'll be damned.

Haldeman: So they scooped up, they, they got all these people in these nets, you know. Th-they'd taken one in a fish net. They also discovered, much to their horror, they got two or three *Washington Star* reporters and a couple of *Life* reporters.

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President: And the *Washington Post* reporter I noticed has wrote an article this morning.

Haldeman: Well...

President: They let 'em out. In case...

Haldeman: Oh yeah.

President: Let out. Check that.

Haldeman: Well, the *Life* reporter, *Life* reporters didn't go out. They were delighted to be in. I think there's a *Life* photographer in there, too. So they're getting a lot of pictures [unintelligible] instance, well, we had a big -- did you read about the nude danee. That was one the big things in the stockade is that a lot, men and women took off all their clothes and did a, did a, uh, some sorta [unintelligible] operation.

President: Well, the reporters certainly -- they've got to damned well understand that if they're in there and they're told to move and don't, they're gonna get picked up too.

Haldeman: That's the see-...

President: I noticed the *Post* is, is screamin' about it. Nicolas Von Hoffman, the nut.

Haldeman: Oh, I know.

President: Jesus Christ. Why do they carry that son-of-a-bitch?

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- Haldeman: Well now, because he says the kind of things they like to say. He says it with total irresponsibility.
- President: That's right. They had a reporter in here said he was a Vietnam Marine veteran, an associate editor of the society page of the damned thing.
- Haldeman: Is that right.
- President: [Unintelligible] They had him all over the place.
- Haldeman: But...
- President: They let him out just as soon as they found out who they were, right?
- Haldeman: Should have missed [unintelligible].
- President: [Unintelligible] The whole business about repression and so forth, don't you think it's, on that side -- inci-incidentally, has anybody thought, you know, I, I, I mean it may be that you guys went ahead [unintelligible], maybe it occurred to you that, to, to put some of these guys in sp-- why doesn't somebody introduce a resolution. If you can't get a resolution, perhaps circularize a letter supporting the President on the handling of the demonstrations. You know we -- or something like that. Or if you want to, praising the Chief of Police, or praising the Attorney General. See what I mean? Couldn't you [unintelligible] -- have any speeches been made yet supporting us or on this, uh?...
- Haldeman: Yeah. [Unintelligible] The speeches don't do any damn...
- President: [Unintelligible] do...

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Haldeman: No.

President: Maybe a resolution.

Haldeman: A resolution or a letter might...

President: Maybe, maybe it isn't worth the bother. I just thought that it might,...

Haldeman: It might get them thinking about it.

President: That's my point.

Haldeman: Right.

President: I think really that --

Haldeman: Even Sam Ervin got up and went, went through a big pretension of praising the, the, the whole operation, Justice, the Administration, the police. Everybody heard.

President: That right?

Haldeman: Yeah, he's the great defender of constitutional liberties and all...

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: ...that stuff.

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President: Wh -- what'd he praise?

Haldeman: The handling of the demonstration overall, the whole, you, you know, there was a very -- [unintelligible] it was a sweeping praise type.

President: Yeah. Well,...

Haldeman: It all went...

President: One thing we, uh, one thing I was gonna say, th-th-th-th, Pat went down to the Senate wives and [unintelligible] ate at a luncheon and she said they were all [unintelligible] on our side, left and right. She said Mrs. Ervin, Mrs. Stennis came through the line and she said, "You know, the President has saved our country.≡

Haldeman: [Unintelligible].

President: They really think this is good. I mean, we may have more goin' for us than we think here, Bob. Yah. We shouldn't be frightened about it. That's my point. Let me put it this way, let me put it this way: I know, I know what it is that you're gonna run into on this. You're gonna run into people that -- the overreaction thing and all that sort of thing. My point, you're gonna get accustomed to that. No way that you're gonna avoid it.

Haldeman: That's right.

President: So therefore, play it hard. Play it responsibly, but play it hard and don't back off from it. Now, they can -- you see, they're all, they'll all think back to the San Jose

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thing, you know, and forgetting that San Jose was fine except for the God damned silly speech, you know. Covering that getaway from it, we got out [unintelligible] home free. We had it all on our side.

Haldeman: Nobody's raised that analogy and I think -- there's been no...

President: Well.

Haldeman: ...thought of backing off.

President: Don't back...

Haldeman: It's been all, the whole line has been...

President: ...firm.

Haldeman: Stay firm.

President: Stay firm and get credit for it. That's my point. See, I don't want to make an accident out of it. I don't want to be doing on the basis, well, we're sorta sitting here embattled and doing the best we can. I think the idea here is to lead a noble - -you see maybe, you, it may be that we're setting an example, Bob, for, uh, for universities, for other cities, and so forth and so on. Right? [Unintelligible] Let 'em look here. These people try somethin', bust 'em. [Unintelligible] general attitude of your people.

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: Convinced?

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Haldeman: I think...

President: ...we ought to go forward.

Haldeman: Yeah. We, we stay with that all the way. There's no --

President: In other words, let's be proud of what we're doing, not that we're -- I think Ziegler is 'cause I...

Haldeman: I think there're some folks out there to tear down the Vietcong flags today.

President: Good.

Haldeman: There'll be some confrontation on that in the, in the Hill thing. That's, we're, we're trying for that. Would be good. And, uh, [unintelligible] of the Vietcong flags. There's been some play. *Newsweek* ran some big color stuff. I think they, I don't think realized that they were...

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: ...doing them a disservice because I think the *Newsweek* coverage hurt the demonstra-- we have them--, >cause they showed this guerilla theatre stuff with their faces all painted up and, and Vietcong flags and this kinds thing in color. Uh, very vivid color pictures.

President: Um-hmm.

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Haldeman: So...

President: Hmm. You have 'em on that [unintelligible]?

Haldeman: Yeah, [unintelligible] Uh,...

President: [Unintelligible] take a look. [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: That was the first of last week's stuff. We don't have any this week, uh...

President: Don't you think they'll have quite a bit this week, too?

Haldeman: Oh sure. They'll have to.

President: Even though it came out...

Haldeman: I would guess th-th-th, what *Time*, *Newsweek* covers this week would probably be Chief Wilson. [Unintelligible] Unless somethin' happens the latter part the week, some new story, but, uh, they have to go pretty much with what's in by Wednesday. [Unintelligible] decision and I would think that might be the, might be the story. Maybe not.

President: [Unintelligible] an awfully good job.

[Pause; Unintelligible]

Haldeman: Heh-heh. Damn Colson thing.

President: He do something else?

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Haldeman: Yeah. Uh, Muskie sent those oranges down to the veterans in the, the group on Saturday I mean.

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: He didn't, he didn't go down himself, but he's sent oranges.

President: Colson ordered some oranges for him?

Haldeman: Colson sent oranges down yesterday.

[Laughter]

Haldeman: [Laughing] From Muskie.

President: Is it out?

Haldeman: I don't know whether it's out yet or not. They'll get it out.

[Laughter]

President: [Laughing] He just ordered 'em.

Haldeman: [Laughing] Yeah. He's got an awful lot of cases of oranges at the-- I don't know how the hell he does that stuff, but he -- it's good, you know, he's been around the District here so long, he has a lot of contacts and, he, he, as a local guy he can get stuff done here, but -- and he's got no -- and he's -- gonna get caught at some of

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these things.

President: [Unintelligible] admit it.

Haldeman: Well he has, he has been caught.

President: It's all right?

Haldeman: But, he's, he's got a lot done that he hasn't been caught at and, uh, he, he gets those guys, you know, something like that going. [Unintelligible] of course this is uh -- we got some stuff that he doesn't know anything about too through, uh,...

President: Huston?

Haldeman: No, through Chapin's crew and, and Ron Walker and the advance men we got, we got, uh, -- see our plant's in the,...

President: What do you do?

Haldeman: ...in the [unintelligible]...

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: ... and some of our -- guess you've gotta -- what we've got is a, is a guy that nobody, none of us knows except Dwight --

President: Um-hum.

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Haldeman: Who is a, uh, and, and, who is just completely removed. There's no contact at all. Who has a mobilized a crew of about -- I don't what it is. He's, he's starting to build it now. We're gonna use it for the campaign next year.

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: Are they really any good?

Haldeman: In fact this guy's a real conspirator-type who, who can sorta...

President: Like Huston then?

Haldeman: Thug-type guy, no, his, he's a stronger guy than Huston. Huston is a, is a -- stay in back room.

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: This is the kinda guy can get out and tear things up.

President: What do they, what do they do with, uh, do they just, uh,...

Haldeman: They get in and -- they were the ones that did the, the Nixon signs, for instance, when Muskie was in New Hampshire.

President: Oh did they?

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Haldeman: And, uh...

President: Everybody thought that was great.

Haldeman: They, you know -- things of that sort. They, they=re some of that, and then they're, they='re the, they're gonna stir up some of this Vietcong flag business as Colson's gonna do it through hardhats and legionnaires. What Colson's gonna do on it, and what I suggested he do, and I think that they can get a, away with this, do it with the Teamsters. Just ask them to dig up those, their eight thugs.

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: Just call, call, uh, what's his name.

President: Fitzsimmons.

Haldeman: Is trying to get -- play our game anyway. Is just, just tell Fitzsimmons...

President: They, they've got guys who'll go in and knock their heads off.

Haldeman: Sure. Murderers. Guys that really, you know, that's what they really do. Like the steelworkers have and -- except we can't deal with the steelworkers at the moment.

President: No.

Haldeman: We can deal with the Teamsters. And they, you know,...

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President: Yeah.

Haldeman: ...it's the regular strikebusters-types and all that and they [unintelligible] types and this and then they're gonna beat the shit out of some of these people. And, uh, and hope they really hurt 'em. You know, I mean go in with some real -- and smash some noses. [Unintelligible] some pretty good fights.

President: I take it you can [unintelligible] picture of the guy in the *Post* that the reporter [unintelligible] back injured and all.

Haldeman: I didn't see that. I must admit Buchanan said in his summary -- it's obvious the *Post* is going for a Pulitzer prize on their coverage of the thing or something because they're just spilling it...

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: ...by the ton with all these [unintelligible] picture stories and everything else.

President: [Unintelligible] just don't want to overplay it. They'll just get, the country 'll just get a belly full of these people.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] yeah.

President: [Unintelligible] How did it handle it last night?

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] had, had some good footage of the big mob out on the Justice Department thing and, and...

President: Some close-up?

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Haldeman: [Unintelligible] Fortunately, they're all just really bad lookin' people. There's no, there's no, uh, semblance of respectability.

President: [Unintelligible] on this. There was some veterans either.

Haldeman: No. I didn't. There's not. Rennie Davis has, has been spokesman and, and he's as good for us and he's a convicted conspirator and, uh, [unintelligible] discredited.

President: Hmm.

Haldeman: I think getting Abbie Hoffman and, and this John -- the other -- they got...

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: ...another of the Chicago Seven guys. Uh, [unintelligible] amounts to anybody, but they got him. But that sorta takes...

President: Aren't the Chicago Seven all Jews? Davis' a Jew, you know.

Haldeman: I don't think Davis is.

President: Hoffman, Hoffman's a Jew.

Haldeman: Abbie Hoffman is and that's so...

President: [Unintelligible] John Luzens or Leubens or...

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Haldeman: [Unintelligible].

President: ...the other one they got.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] is.

President: About half of these are Jews.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] they got one shot of a policeman clubbing a guy. [Unintelligible] it doesn't do us any good; but they're, you know, you can't avoid that. They're bound to get one somewhere along the line. Most of it was very much the other way.

President: [Unintelligible] inevitable, Bob. How the hell do you expect the poor God damned policemen--

Haldeman: They've got to do it and I think people probably recognize that and there wasn't, th-- we don't have the thing like in Chicago, if you remember...

President: Hmm.

Haldeman: ...that it w-, it was a totally different kind of thing. There the policemen were just, they were really ruthless. They had good reason to be.

President: Sure.

Haldeman: But these cops don't come...

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President: And even then, and you'd better remember, [unintelligible] the public supported.

Haldeman: Then...

President: The public supported. We were, we thought the public was not on their side, the public was on their side.

Haldeman: With the cops all the way.

President: You bet your life. And at this time, the public=s gonna be on the side of -- I think the speeches Congressmen and Senators give -- well for me, they won't come but for me, but they could come out for Wilson, couldn't they?

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: And, uh...

Haldeman: I [unintelligible] get 'em, you know, somehow. [Unintelligible].

President: Yeah. Okay.

Haldeman: This is the thing on the, uh [unintelligible] employees for peace thing. They, uh, [unintelligible] over five hundred people on, and, uh, five hundred permits so they've got to do it under law.

President: For five hundred?

Haldeman: Yeah. Court [unintelligible] can't get an injunction because we have to show that it represents a clear threat to security of the White House.

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President: Forget it. Forget it.

Haldeman: And this doesn't, so --

President: Just don't pay any attention to that. We can't [unintelligible] I'll be over there. That's no problem. There's one place Chapin screwed [unintelligible] is getting [unintelligible] God damn it if there are any State Department people there. And I bet I -- I'd just like to know. [Unintelligible] if they're HEW, to hell with it, that's all.

Haldeman: What it's generally gonna be is all the activities at HEW [unintelligible] College people are gonna start this Thursday and go through Saturday. So they aren't gonna be out there today.

President: Oh boy. [Unintelligible] All those preacher types without their [unintelligible].

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] Immediate victory in Vietnam, [unintelligible] a military victory in Vietnam.

[Pause; background noise]

President: [Unintelligible] on Saturdays.

Haldeman: Not really.

President: No, I mean it changed. I mean the attitudes change. Two weeks ago everybody was worried about the goddamn veterans and so forth and this week they're on the side of the cops. See what I mean? People, people there.

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Haldeman: Why...

President: [Unintelligible] They weren't too much on the side of the veterans either.

Haldeman: That same thing as that poll of ours which shows the shift back to 48-40 approval of Vietnam, the President's handling of Vietnam.

President: Yeah, uh-huh. [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: You know, it shifted just the other way, just that week of the veterans'...

President: That the vets...

Haldeman: ...demonstration.

President: That's, that's awful.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] That's really what happened. It sure shows that, the effect of, uh, of the television barrage and was just all it can be. That's the only way they knew anything...

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: ...about the vets 'cause the papers didn't give 'em that much, that much of a play outside of, out...

President: Outside of Washington. That's right. That was a hell of a television show.

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Haldeman: Yeah. [Unintelligible] and that was before, that article was taken before they threw the medals over the fence which was the most effective appearing [unintelligible] on TV.

President: [Unintelligible] Oh, yeah. The lunge around the -- the drop. That's right. [Unintelligible] to show it the day before the medal [unintelligible]. The poll indicates that was...

Haldeman: Well, our poll indicated they were two-to-one against the, the demonstrations before this happens, before any s-s-, of this stuff. [Unintelligible] I think you're gonna have to, have to -- it's more than two. It's almost three.

President: Um-hum.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] I think more now. [Unintelligible].

President: Does know anybody gonna be around today. Did you look -- I hope they're keepin' the flags up. [Unintelligible] That ought to be a national -- >cause I suggested to the Legion and VFW should have that was a national project. Defend the flags. Anybody that would tear it down -- you know, that's, that's part of their drill anyway. Wouldn't that be a good idea? [Unintelligible] just gonna be the end. These people got a flag upside down, you know, burning it and so forth. The hell with it. You let 'em start on that --

Haldeman: Um-hum.

President: [Unintelligible].

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Haldeman: Yeah.

President: [Unintelligible] cool spring. It's, it's never...

Haldeman: It's supposed to warm up now today.

President: Is it?

Haldeman: And, uh -- [unintelligible] it's up to seventy.

President: I wonder if the Congress, uh, today will really get a belly full of these people.

Haldeman: Well, I hope so.

President: If they could just move in into the halls of Congress somewhere, have they thought of that.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] Congressional Police are probably gonna try and -- the Capitol Police will turn 'em over to us [unintelligible] know what their plan is, least did as of, first thing this morning.

President: [Unintelligible] Did that thing about that, that story about the bomb under the bridge ever get out?

Haldeman: It turned out that it wasn't a live bomb, just a fake, [unintelligible] went down and tested it and it was no [unintelligible].

President: Just a fake. [Unintelligible].

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Haldeman: [Unintelligible] see these people run. And they [unintelligible] don't even know what they...Really impatient.

Haldeman: On that -- [unintelligible] Yeah. Their technique was theoretically nonviolent, but transient stuff they don't regard as violent. [Unintelligible] God Almighty.

President: That's the worst thing I ever heard of. [Unintelligibles] It's -- he said the Congress is mad again. [Unintelligible] -- well, they're not -- this is really their first run at the Congress en masse. They didn't have a their, th-, last week, they just went -- a few of 'em.

Haldeman: That's right. They didn't have any demonstration -- well, the veterans' thing, uh...

President: No, the majority of the pain though was at, was after the veterans' thing.

Haldeman: Yeah and that was small groups.

President: That was small groups.

Haldeman: Sort of marauding bands. I don't know, [unintelligible] they may decided to crank it up.

President: [Unintelligible] supposed to be the big day. Anyway, that's what I have on the calendar. May 5th.

Haldeman: Oh yeah. This was gonna be the big day.

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President: [Unintelligible] situation reporters have been scooped up alright. [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] say that again.

President: Reporters would be in -- it's the logical thing. They're there to cover --

Haldeman: They just circle them, you know, which has been the tactic they've used. They get a group, order them to disperse. If they don't then they circle 'em and arrest everybody inside the circle. And they, the thing is they'd move 'em fast onto the vans, and uh, [unintelligible] -- they, now they've changed that tactic now. They won't any more press because the press has got all these lit- -- they'll show the badge of course. Unless he wants to be arrested and some of them probably wanted to be. Some of them probably purposely didn't show...

President: Sure.

Haldeman: ...their badge.

President: They wanted to be -- so they can get all the [unintelligible] for the Pulitzer Prize. Steve Bull [unintelligible]. That damned Eisenhower College trying to get me to make a fundraising --

Haldeman: Yeah, they got Julie putting the pitch to you now.

President: Not gonn do it. I=ve done a lot for the Eisenhower family.....

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: ... and I=ve got to do something for Bob Hope=s Eisenhower Center in the Desert and that=s fine -- byt that Eisenhower College is one small college and I=ll be God damned if I=m gonna do it,

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don=t you agree?

Haldeman: Yean. And they=re just milking....

President: Oh yeah.

Haldeman: ... poor Mrs. Eisenhower.

President: You know she=s

Haldeman and President talk at once.

President: seventy-fifth birthday.

Haldeman: using all her prestige to try and --

President: And she calls Julie. [Unintelligible] [Background noise]
[Unintelligible] I don=t talk to her. [Unintelligible] Get Rose to
talk to her.

Haldeman:&&

President: **[END WITHDRAWAL]** now on these meetings today [unintelligible].

Haldeman: Yeah, uh, --

President: Incidentally --

Haldeman: **[WITHDRAWAL - AD≅ RESTRICTION]**

President:

Haldeman:

President: **[END WITHDRAWAL]** what else is, uh, -- with regard to the [unintelligible].

Haldeman: Saw him for a few minutes.

President: [Unintelligible] Left for New York. [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: Mitchell. He wanted to catch up. That, that was just your weekly get-together

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that we had scheduled for yesterday.

President: Well let's leave it up to him. He might have some [unintelligible].

Haldeman: Okay.

President: I know, uh, --

[Pause; writing sounds]

Haldeman: Uh [unintelligible] Pete Peterson. And then this group that's goin' into this Business Council thing.

President: [Unintelligible] head of the Business Council, Bob? Connally? Who else?

Haldeman: Connally, Shultz, Stans, the Vice President, and Pete Peterson.

President: [Unintelligible] what -- I can't see that there's much I can say to them. They all have their own speeches to make. [Unintelligible] I think it gives them -- the Business Council's importance too much...

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: ...for me to spend that much time to talk to [unintelligible].

Haldeman: It was just a, you know...

President: Well, wh-what's the line, er, has been what the line is? Connally's?

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Haldeman: [Unintelligible] to get Connally in and, and still not necessar--, we don't have to do the Lockheed thing.

President: [Unintelligible] I figure the Lockheed thing doesn't have to be done us. I don't have to anyway, [unintelligible].

Haldeman: No, I know.

President: I want Connally to do it in Treasury.

Haldeman: Well, I could get Connally in to get it done.

[Pause]

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] That oughta do it, anyway, stay out of it, that's one more day's st...

President: I...

Haldeman: ...I don't think a leak gonna do that much good. He said he'd announce Tuesday or Wednesday.

President: Yeah. I think you could have done the thing -- I, I think you're right. I think the leaks thing is worth -- they have most anything [unintelligible] the papers have had it anyway. It's a bunch a --

Haldeman: It's...

[President and Haldeman talk at once]

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Haldeman: ...day after day. One more day isn't gonna make that much difference probably.

President: [Unintelligible] Peterson want to talk about to talk about the Japan trade thing?
Does this -- does he say he doesn't know about the day that, uh...

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] He's at a critical stage. Needs to consult prior to taking any further action.

President: Yeah. [Unintelligible] because we don't have anybody in the Cabinet that's sorta guiding him. So he gets down to me all the time. See it's [unintelligible] he's like Kissinger who sets his own [unintelligible] understanding of the whole thing. So, so [unintelligible] kinda the area he's in. Well, we used to have Flanigan -- Flanigan's the one to stick with.

Haldeman: Okay.

President: Flanigan's better.

Haldeman: We'll try and do these this morning and keep the afternoon clear then.

President: [Unintelligible] Peterson on two important things -- I, I don't think he's a hell of a lot of value, so, uh, -- if Connally wants to come over, any time. [Unintelligible] I think would probably just as soon not come today. He's busy with his [unintelligible].

Haldeman: Yeah. There's, there's no pressure on...

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President: I'll meet with Mitchell. I think if possible I'd let him, I'd let him ride today. You could do it tomorrow. Why don't you have him come -- could have one at 10:30 and one at 11.

[Background noise during next segment]

President: Okay. Huh?

Unknown: [Unintelligible] Connally. Connally if he wants to come see me.

Haldeman: Can you get him in.

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible].

[End of background noise]

President: Boy it's really a clear day.

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: On the agriculture thing -- do I speak outside?

Haldeman: No.

President: To the dinner or...

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Haldeman: No, you, you...

President: What do I do then?

Haldeman: You--you go over to the Agriculture Department on a Friday morning.

President: Oh [unintelligible].

Haldeman: Seminar that you just open. And then they have greetings from Henry Kissinger or somebody, you know, and that, uh,...

President: But what do I have to --

[President and Haldeman talk at once]

President: ...expect a speech then? Do I have to give something?

Haldeman: Remarks. Just, just...

President: What in the hell is out there? I don't have to go out there today, do I?

Haldeman: That's something -- I don't know what that is, no [unintelligible].

[Background noise during next segment]

President: Hold the door. Now if God damn it, I can, I don't want to [unintelligible], Bob.
We went through this before.

Haldeman: No, this is, this [unintelligible]. This is the, the, uh, --

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[End of background noise]

President: What is it, just a Aduring each Administration, men are chosen top civil servants [unintelligible]" [Unintelligible] not going to comment upon it.

Haldeman: This is the one where you don't...

President: I don't want to say a word. Now...

Haldeman: You've never done the ceremonies.

President: I'll do the ceremony. Just leave...

Haldeman: We're only doing just [unintelligible]...

President: [Unintelligible] introduce you to the Chairman and [unintelligible]. Then the boys will want, "you might wish to comment.≡ No, no, no, no, no, no, no, I'm not gonna c-, -- see I don't want to a speech about these men. I don't want to do it. They can send it over for your signature to the heads of [unintelligible] by the appropriate Department heads. That's --

Haldeman: Well, nothing good.

President: Sure. Now, then. Oh, with regard to this thing here in August, uh, --

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] presentation.

President: -- of the, of the just presenting the awards. And get the God damned people out,

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you know. I mean, I don't want the, you know, the reporters chewin' their gum and waiting for me to say something profound.

Haldeman: Well there's nothing to say that's...

President: You know really it isn't going to me lose anyway, Bob. Just present the awards. Very nice picture story. That's all. And then, and tell 'em there's not going to be any comments. If, if the reporters -- let's let Ollie take a picture. Can we do that this time? I mean, you have so many coming in of, of the press pool.

Haldeman: You don't have to say anything. There's no, you know, uh --

President: Okay. We'll go over it tomorrow. Good, this is [unintelligible]. Maybe [unintelligible].

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Part of a conversation between President Nixon and H. R. Haldeman in the Oval Office between 9:35 am and 10:15 am on May 5, 1971.

Conversation No. 491-14

President: What was the situation today? Did they have any more action this morning?

Haldeman: Oh, there's gonna be, uh, they're going to --

President: March on the Capitol?

Haldeman: -- hit at the Congress at noon with the thing that, uh, [unintelligible].

President: They'd have to. They're definite, huh?

Haldeman: Well, that's their plan. Uh, whether they do it, never --

President: Um-hum.

Haldeman: -- quite sure, but they, they followed the plan pretty much up to now.

President: It's --

Haldeman: And the theory is they're gonna [unintelligible] --

President: -- [unintelligible] there at the Capitol?

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Conv. No. 491-14 (cont.)

Haldeman: -- from twelve noon until the People=s Peace Treaty is signed. So they're demanding that Congress send us this is, this peace treaty that they've signed with North Vietnam. [Laughs]

President: Umm.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible], uh, they have no permit; best estimate is two thousand demonstrators; trouble very likely.

President: Good.

Haldeman: They plan two meetings tonight to plan demon- -- that was last night -- to plan demonstration activities. We don't, I haven't had a late briefing on, on that. Justice granted the Federal employees' permit after all.

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: Before they let them stand, they couldn't get a base for an injunction permit --

President: Um-hum.

Haldeman: -- so they didn't grant one.

President: All right. So they're out here today?

Haldeman: Yes, that's them out here today. There'll also be the students of Shelton College --

President: Where the hell is that?

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Haldeman: --on, on the sidewalk in front of the White House. It's in New Jersey. They're demon-, demonstrating in favor of the war. [Laughs] They're gonna [laughs], they're gonna be on our side of the street, 'n' the other people are gonna be in the park.

President: That's funny. Probably a new college of some sort.

Haldeman: It's, I'm afraid it has somethin' to do with Carl McIntyre.

President: Oh, he's just [unintelligible].

Haldeman: And McIntyre is having a victory thing next Saturday, Sunday, this coming Sunday. Victory by the fourth of July is his thing.

President: Can we get in there at those [unintelligible] employees? [Unintelligible] I guess you can't. I should get a lot of pictures 'n' everything.

Haldeman: Sure.

President: Tell who they are. Ya know, just get guys with, with news ca-, news things so that they aren't [unintelligible] --.

Haldeman: Yeah, they have a plan [unintelligible].

President: We sure have good intelligence, don't we?

Haldeman: [Clears throat] I know, ya know, what's gonna happen. They, uh, [unintelligible]

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Conv. No. 491-14 (cont.)

-

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: -- in a sweep yesterday, they arrested Abbie Hoffman. They even got Doctor Spock, as you know, the day before. They got Al Willard, the, uh, veterans guy that, that pos-, the Black who had posed as a --

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- Army, as an Air Force captain and turned out not to have been a captain.

President: The sergeant. Is he, uh, is he one of 'em?

Haldeman: He, they arrested him.

President: I'll be damned.

Haldeman: So they scooped up, [laughs] they caught all these people in these nets, ya know, 'n' they said they didn't want to go fishing then. And they also discovered much to their horror that they got two or three *Washington Star* reporters and a couple of *Life* reporters.

President: And a *Washington Post* reporter, I noticed, just wrote an article this morning. Well, they let them out, didn't they?

Haldeman: Oh, yeah.

President: I checked.

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Conv. No. 491-14 (cont.)

Haldeman: Well, the *Life* reporter, *Life* reporters didn't go out. They were delighted to be in. I think there's a *Life* photographer in there too. So that means a lot of pictures. It's just as well. They had a big --. Did you read about the nude dance? That's one of the big things in the stockade. There's, uh, a lot of men and women who took off all their clothes and did, uh, did a, uh, some sort of a [unintelligible] operation.

President: Well, the reporters certainly, they've got to damn well understand that if they're in there and they're told to move and don't, they're gonna get picked up too.

Haldeman: They're asked that the --.

President: Because I noticed the *Post* was, uh, screamin' about it. Nicholas von Hoffmann 'n', uh --

Haldeman: Oh, yeah.

President: -- Jesus Christ, why do they carry that son-of-a-bitch?

Haldeman: Von Hoff-, because he says the kind of things they like to say; he says it with total irresponsibility.

President: That's right. They had their reporter in here, said he was a Vietnam Marine veteran, an associate editor of the society page or some damn thing. They had 'em all over the place but they let them out just as soon as they found out who they were, right?

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Haldeman: Unintelligible].

President: [Unintelligible]. Yeah, that whole business about repression and so forth, don't you think it's, uh, on that side. I-incidentally, if anybody thought, ya know, I may, I maybe exaggerate it - maybe it occurred to you that, to put some of these guys on the spot. Why doesn't somebody introduce a resolution -- if you can't get a resolution, then circularize a letter -- supporting the President on the handling of the demonstrations, you know, New York, something like that, or if you want to, praising the Chief of Police or praising the Attorney General! See what I mean? Could be a particularly good idea. Have any speeches been made yet supporting us, er, uh, on this, or not?

Haldeman: Yeah. The speeches don't do any good.

President: They don't do much, do they?

Haldeman: No.

President: Well, maybe a resolution --.

Haldeman: A resolution or a letter might.

President: Maybe. Maybe it isn't worth it, Bob. I dunno, I just thought that it might --

Haldeman: Yeah. Excuse me.

President: -- it might, it might get them thinking about it. That's my point.

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Haldeman: Right.

President: I think really that the problem --.

Haldeman: Even Sam Ervin got up and w-, went through a big pretension of praising the, the, the whole operation: Justice, the administration, the police, everybody for --

President: That right?

Haldeman: -- being, yeah, he's the great defender of constitutional liberties --

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- and all that stuff.

President: But, but what=d he praise?

Haldeman: The handling of the demonstration, overall. The whole, he, he, ya know, it was a very, it was a sweeping praise type.

President: Yeah. Well, one thing --

Haldeman: It all went wonderfully well.

President: -- one thing I was gonna say that, uh, that Pat went down to the Senate wives and ate her lunch, and she said they were all [unintelligible] left and right. She said Mrs. Ervin, Mrs. Stennis came through the line, and she said, ya know, "The President has saved our country."

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Haldeman: She did?

President: They really think this is good. Maybe, we may have more goin' for us than we think here, Bob.

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: We shouldn't be frightened about it; that's my point. Let=s put it this way. Let me put it this way. I know, I know what it is that you're gonna run into on this. You're gonna run into people that, the overreaction thing and all that sort of thing. You're gonna get [unintelligible]. No way are you gonna avoid it.

Haldeman: That's right.

President: So therefore, play the hard way, play it responsibly, but play it hard and don't back off from it. Now they can, you see, they're all, they all think back to the San Jose thing, ya know, and forget that the San Jose was fine except for the goddamn silly speech. Ya know, the covering up. Yeah, I remember, we were not home free [unintelligible] all on our side.

Haldeman: Nobody's raised that analogy, and I'm s-, there's a been no --

President: Bob.

Haldeman: -- thought of backing off.

President: Don't back --

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Haldeman: The, the whole, the whole line has been --

President: Firm.

Haldeman: -- stay firm.

President: Stay firm and get credit for it. That's my point. See, I don't wanna make an accident out of it. I don't wanna be, do it on the basis, well, we're sorta sitting here embattled and doing the best we can. I think the idea is for me to [unintelligible]. Ya see, maybe i-, it may be that we're setting an example, Bob, for the, for universities, for other cities, an' so forth and so on. Right? [Unintelligible] 'em look here. If these people try somctlling, bust 'em. [Unintelligible] the general attitude of your people.

Haldeman: Yeah. [Unintelligible]. I think --.

President: Tell 'em to go forward.

Haldeman: Yeah, we, we cou-, stay with that all the way. There's no --.

President: In other words let's be proud of what we're doin'. That's what we're pushin=. I know Ziegler is.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] folks out there --

President: What?

Haldeman: -- tearing down the Vietcong flags today.

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President: Good.

Haldeman: Maybe a confrontation on that. And, uh, the Hill thing that's, we're, we're tryin' for, it would be good, and, uh, there's been some play of the Vietcong flags. *Newsweek* ran some big color stuff. I think they, I don't think they realized they were --

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- doin' 'em a disservice but I think the *Newsweek* coverage hurt the demonstrators --

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: -- badly because it shows this guerrilla theater stuff with their faces all painted up and Vietcong flags 'n' this kind of thing, in color, uh, very vivid color pictures.

President: Um-hum.

Haldeman: So.

President: Hmm. That much.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible]. Uh --.

President: But, uh, [unintelligible].

Haldeman: That was, of course, with last week's stuff. Ya know, it happened last week.

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President: Don't you think they'll have quite a bit this week too?

Haldeman: Oh, sure. They'll have to.

President: Even though it came [unintelligible] --.

Haldeman: I would guess that, that, that, what *Time* 'n' *Newsweek* covers this week would probably be Chief Wilson. Unless somethin' happens the latter part of the week, some big story, but, uh, they have to go pretty much with what's in by Wednesday. [Unintelligible] decision, and I would think that that might be the, might be the story. Maybe not.

President: [Unintelligible] an awfully good job. You're gonna [unintelligible].

Haldeman: Yeah. This Colson thing --.

President: He checked [unintelligible].

Haldeman: Yeah. [Unintelligible] Muskie sent those oranges down to the veterans, er, that, uh, group on Saturday, I mean. He didn't, he didn't go down himself, but he sen-, he sent, sent oranges down.

President: Did Colson order some oranges for 'em?

Haldeman: Colson sent oranges out yesterday, [laughs] from Muskie [laughs] --

President: Did it get out?

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Haldeman: I dunno whether it's out yet or not; they'll get it out.

President: He just ordered 'em.

Haldeman: Yeah, he's had a lot o' cases of oranges. I don't know how in the hell he does that stuff, but he, it's good, ya know, he's been around the District here so long, he has a lot of contacts. And he, he, as a local guy he can get stuff done here that, and he's got no, he's gonna get caught, is, that's what I'm saying.

President: Well, he's already admitted --

Haldeman: Well, he has --

President: -- he'll be caught.

Haldeman: -- he has been caught.

President: It's all right.

Haldeman: But, uh, he's got a lot done that he hasn't been caught at and, uh, he [laughs], he gets those guys, ya know, somethin' like that going, which is just as well. We got some stuff that he doesn't know anything about, too, through, uh --

President: Huston.

Haldeman: -- no, through Jacob's crew and, and Ron Walker and the advance men. We got, we got, uh, see, our plants in the --

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President: Oh, you do.

Haldeman: -- in the demons-, we got some of our guys, we've gotta, what we've got is a, is a guy that nobody, none of us knows, except Dwight --

President: Um-hum.

Haldeman: -- who is a, uh, an', an', who is just completely removed -- there's no contact at all - who has mobilized a crew of about, I don't know what it is. He's, he's, he's starting to build it now. We're gonna use it for the campaign next year.

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: Are they really? Good.

Haldeman: And, and this guy, this guy is a real conspirator type, who, who can sorta --

President: Like Huston?

Haldeman: -- thug-type guy. No, he's, he's a stronger guy than Huston. Huston is a, is a stay in the back room. This is a guy who'll get out and tear things up.

President: What do they, what do they do? What the hell do they do? They just, uh --.

Haldeman: They get in and, they were the ones that did the, the Nixon signs, for instance, when Muskie was in New Hampshire.

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President: Oh, did they?

Haldeman: And, uh --

President: Everybody thought that was great.

Haldeman: -- they, you know, things of that sort. They, they're some of that. Then they're, they're the, they're gonna stir up some of this Viet Cong flag business. As, Colson's gonna do it through hard hats 'n' Legionnaires. What Colson's gonna do on it, and what I suggested he do, and I think they can get away with this too, with the Teamsters. Just ask 'em. The, they've got hood-, their paid thugs, and --

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- just call, call, uh, what's-his-name, Fitzsimmons, is trying to get, play our game anyway. Is, is, just, just tell Fitzsimmons --.

President: They've got, they've got guys who'll go in and knock their heads off.

Haldeman: -- sure, ya-, murderers, guys that really, you know, that's what they really do, like the Steelworkers have. And, except we can't deal with the Steelworkers at the moment.

President: No.

Haldeman: We can deal with the Teamsters. And they, ya know, it's the --

President: Yeah.

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Haldeman: -- regular strike-buster types, an', an' all that. And they [unintelligible] types and just send them in and let 'em beat the shit out of some of these people. And, uh, and hope they really hurt 'em, ya know. They go in with some real, smash some noses. [Unintelligible] some pretty good fights.

President: [Unintelligible]. That's interesting to note that they pictured a guy in the *Post*, that reporter [unintelligible], ya know.

Haldeman: I didn't see that. I must've missed, Buchanan said in his summary it's obvious the *Post* is going for a Pulitzer Prize on their coverage of the thing or somethin', because their just filling it --

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- with a ton, with all these [unintelligible] stories and everything else.

President: [Unintelligible]. Just don't wanna overlay it, but just to let the country to just get a belly full of these people.

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: How'd they handle the last thing?

Haldeman: What's that? They had some good footage of the big mob out in the Justice Department thing, and then, then some close up, uh, [unintelligible]. Fortunately, they're all just really bad-looking people. There's no --

President: Umm.

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Haldeman: -- there's no, uh, semblance of respectability --.

President: There's not a spokesman as there was for the veterans, either.

Haldeman: No, uh, there's not. Rennie Davis has been the spokesman, and, and he's, that's good for us. He's a convicted conspirator, and, uh, [unintelligible] discredit him.

President: Hmm.

Haldeman: I think gettin' Abbie Hoffman and, and this John, the other, and they got another of the --

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: -- Chicago Seven guys, uh, [unintelligible] counts with anybody. But they got him. But that sorta takes --.

President: Aren't the Chicago Seven all Jews? Davis a Jew, isn't he?

Haldeman: I don't think Davis is.

President: Hoff-, Hoffman's a Jew.

Haldeman: Abbie Hoffman is, absolutely. [Unintelligible] John Rubins, or whatever it is; that's the other one they've got. He is --

President: About half of these are Jews.

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Haldeman: I've seen one shot of a policeman clubbing a guy which doesn't do us any good, but they're, ya know --

President: No.

Haldeman: -- ya can't avoid that. They're bound to get one somewhere along the line. Most of it was very much the other way.

President: [Unintelligible] it was inevitable, Bob. How the hell do you expect the poor goddamn police --.

Haldeman: Well, they've gotta do it, and I think people probably recognize that. And it wasn't, there, ya don't have a thing like in Chicago. If you remember --

President: Um-hum.

Haldeman: -- that it was, it was a totally different kind of thing. There the policemen were just, they were really ruthless, 'n' they had good reason to be.

President: Sure.

Haldeman: But these cops don't come [unintelligible] --.

President: And even then, and you better jus' remember it --

Haldeman: Ya remember.

President: -- how we supported 'em --

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Conv. No. 491-14 (cont.)

Haldeman: Damn right.

President: -- how we supported 'em. We were, we thought the public was not on their side.
The public was on their side.

Haldeman: With the cops all the way.

President: But you're right. And at this time the public's gonna be on the side of, I'd like to see some Congressman and Senators give, well, maybe they won't come out for me, but they could come out for Wilson, couldn't they?

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: And, uh --.

Haldeman: I don't know why they couldn't get 'em somehow.

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: The President and the other [unintelligible] --

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- [unintelligible].

President: Okay.

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Conv. No. 491-14 (cont.)

Haldeman: This is the thing on the, uh, Government Employees for Peace thing. They, uh, [unintelligible] five hundred people and, and, uh, they filed for permits, so they've gotta do it, and they're lookin' for --.

President: For five hundred?

Haldeman: Yeah. Court issued an injunction because we have to show that it --

President: Can't.

Haldeman: -- represents a clear threat to security at the White House.

President: Forget it. Forget it.

Haldeman: And it doesn't, so --.

President: Let's just don't pay any attention to that one. Okay? 'N' I'm gonna be over there.

Haldeman: That's no problem.

President: There's one place where Schaefer was screwed. Kissinger is getting [unintelligible] feel about. God damn it, if there are any State Department people there, anything like that, I'd just like to know. I mean, they're in HEW the hell with it, that's all.

Haldeman: What it is generally gonna be 'cause all that activity has been HEW.

President: College people --.

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Conv. No. 491-14 (cont.)

Haldeman: College people are gonna start this Thursday and go through Saturday.

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: 'N' so they aren't gonna be out there today.

President: Oh, boy, [unintelligible] all those preacher types [unintelligible] stay away from there.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] immediate victory in Vietnam, uh, a military victory in Vietnam.

[Room noise]

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: [Unintelligible]. Not really.

President: [Unintelligible]. No, I mean a change, I mean the attitudes change. Two weeks ago, everybody was worried about the goddamn veterans and so forth, 'n' this week they're on the side of the cops. See what I mean? People, people are --

Haldeman: Well --

President: -- they weren't too much on the side of the veterans either.

Haldeman: -- that same thing is that poll of ours which shows the shift back to forty-eight/forty approval of Vietnam, the President's handling of Vietnam.

President: Yeah.

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Conv. No. 491-14 (cont.)

- Haldeman: Uh, [unintelligible] you know, it shifted just the other way just that week of the veterans' --
- President: The vets --
- Haldeman: -- demonstration.
- President: -- that's, that's awful.
- Haldeman: That's really what happened. It sure shows the, the effect of the, of the television barrage, uh, which is all it can be. That's the only way they knew anything about the veterans.
- President: Oh, that's true.
- Haldeman: The papers didn't give 'em that much, that much of a play outside of, out of --
- President: Outside Washington.
- Haldeman: -- outside of Washington.
- President: That's right, but it was a hell of a television shows
- Haldeman: Yeah. And that was before, that our poll was taken, before they threw the medals over the fence which was the most effective appearing {unintelligible} on TV.
- President: Oh, yeah, the one showing the, the drop. That's right. Yeah. [Unintelligible] three forty-five was the show the day before the medals went --

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Haldeman: Um-hum.

President: -- over the fence [unintelligible] and on this one [unintelligible]. The poll indicates that was --.

Haldeman: Well, our polls indicated that they were two to one against, uh, the demonstrations before this happened, before any s-, s-, uh, of this stuff. I think they're gonna have to, have to, oh, [unintelligible].

President: Um-hum.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] should be more [unintelligible] can't [unintelligible] --.

President: You see any other flags battered around today too? I hope they're keeping the flags up.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible].

President: [Unintelligible] that ought to be a national, could I suggest the Legion 'n' VFW should have as a national project and defend the flags from anybody that would tear it down? You know, that's, that's part of their drill anyway. Wouldn't that be a good idea?

Haldeman: [Unintelligible].

President: [Unintelligible]. People could fly it upside down, ya know, and burning it and so forth. The hell with it. You gotta start on that. Hmm? [Unintelligible].

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Haldeman: Yeah.

President: [Unintelligible] too cool for spring yet.

Haldeman: There is --.

President: There's never --.

Haldeman: Supposed to warm up now today, and, uh, I'd just let this out.

President: I wonder if the Congress, uh, today will really get a belly full of these people.

Haldeman: Yeah, I hope so.

President: If they could just move in, in the halls of Congress somewhere, they could offend some [unintelligible].

Haldeman: Uh, the Congressional Police would probably [unintelligible], uh, the Capitol Police will try and take it on. [Clears throat] I know what their plan is. It's that as of [unintelligible] percentage.

President: You see the thing 'bout that, the story about the bomb under the bridge the other day?

Haldeman: It turned out that it wasn't a live bomb. It was a fake. [Unintelligible] Justice is doin' somethin' --

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President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- there, something to stir 'em up.

President: Just a fake. [Unintelligible] these people rough, I think.

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: I really think they should [unintelligible], don't they?

Haldeman: Yeah, their technique leas theoretically nonviolent. That truncheon stuff they don't regard as violent.

President: God Almighty, that's the worst thing I ever heard of. [Room noises] Let's get the Congress mad again. [Room noises] Well, they're not, this is really [unintelligible] their first run at the Congress *en masse*. They didn't have, there last week they just wanted a few of 'em.

Haldeman: That's right. They didn't want any demonstration. Well, the Senators' thing, uh --

President: No, the throwing of the paint though [unintelligible] was after the veterans' thing.

Haldeman: -- yeah, and that was small groups --

President: In small groups, those veterans --

Haldeman: -- marauding bands. I dunno, they, they may decide to crank it up.

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Conv. No. 491-14 (cont.)

President: [Unintelligible] to be a big day 'n' they were, that's what I have on the calendar, isn't it?

Haldeman: Oh, yeah. This was gonna be the big day.

President: [Unintelligible] kind of a situation reporters get scooped up all right [unintelligible].

Haldeman: [Unintelligible].

President: Reporters would be it, it's the logical thing. They're there to cover the [unintelligible]

Haldeman: Which has been the tactic they've used. They get a group, order 'em to disperse, and they don't. Then they circle 'em and arrest everybody inside the circle. And they, the thing is they move 'em fast on to the vans, and, uh, [unintelligible] they've, now they've changed that tactic now. They won't get any more press because the press can always, well show their badge, of course, unless he wants to be arrested and some of 'em probably wanted to be. Some of 'em probably purposely didn't show their badge.

President: Sure they wanna be so they can get all, they want a Pulitzer Prize.