

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

Transcript #1: Part of a conversation between President Nixon and H. R. Haldeman in the Oval Office between 12:26 pm and 1:02 pm on May 7, 1971.

Conversation No. 495-18#1

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] resolution to, uh, make illegal the display of the Viet Cong flag until the war in Vietnam is over.

President: Good. I also wanted --.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] pickin' up the [unintelligible].

President: I also saw that Thurmond [unintelligible] my suggestion to make them, to make demonstrators pay for --.

Haldeman: Pay for the damages.

President: Hell, yes. I just mentioned that to Mitchell. It's a good thing.

Haldeman: Yup. Well, they, the guys on the Hill are picking up some of this stuff.

President: 'Bout time.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] I figure the demonstrators -- which is really the difference -- up to now they've been afraid to come down because they think people are for 'em.

President: Um-hum.

Haldeman: I think now they know that's not their --.

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Conv. No. 495-18#1 (cont.)

- President: They're [unintelligible] home. They're hearing from home.
- Haldeman: [Unintelligible] a few of the nuts, Bella Abzag and Ron Dellums and those people, [unintelligible].
- President: Of course. They're Communists. You know that. Shit, that's what they are. No question what Bella Absug is. Dellums.
- Haldeman: But, uh, ya get past them and, and that Edith Green business.
- President: Yes, sir, just, she's not gonna take it anymore [unintelligible]. But, ya see, some of these guys are hearing from home. They're, they're all, all got their little fingers up in the air, and, uh, [unintelligible] listen, uh, we're just gonna have to ride this slump out. [Unintelligible] if that's the case, we'll just have to do another press conference. And, uh, I, uh, don't you agree with me that we do not get, that we do not get the, uh, we don't have a draft, you know, of that? Uh, we really ought to do the, the [unintelligible] thing [unintelligible].
- Haldeman: Yeah.
- President: [Unintelligible].
- Haldeman: If we possibly can [unintelligible].

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Conv. No. 495-18#1 (cont.)

President: The further away from his election, the better anyway, and I think it ought to be done the eighth, make the announcement the second anniversary. Henry [unintelligible] I know his concern is wrong. He wants to implement his plans, and his plans don't make a bit of difference. They aren't gonna be effective one whit. [Unintelligible] I believe I can knock off that bit of [unintelligible] going for Paris if I could [unintelligible]. It may be that they will not, uh, invite him.

Haldeman: Yeah, they may take care of him.

President: That's right. Not [unintelligible].

Haldeman: [Unintelligible].

President: And Henry'll blame it on the demonstrators. That isn't the reason. No.

Haldeman: No, they can't read much into the demonstration 'cause there's just no question that, that --

President: That flopped. No.

Haldeman: -- all the other things --.

President: [Unintelligible] but the other [unintelligible]. We have to realize they're goin' in [unintelligible] their own reasons. That's the thing we gotta [unintelligible]. I've always understood it. It's a cold, dirty proposition, and all this crap that was done. Demonstrations used to affect it; they don't any more. [Unintelligible] years ago when we had a hell of a lot of people there, demonstrators would give [unintelligible].

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Conv. No. 495-18#2 (cont.)

Transcript #2: Part of a conversation between President Nixon and H. R. Haldeman in the Oval Office between 12:26 pm and 1:02 pm on May 7, 1971.

Conversation No. 495-18#2

President: Be very interesting, I think, though that [unintelligible] of these Congressmen, Bob, is, is, is some of 'em are here from small towns, little [unintelligible]. They don't like these damn demonstrators. [Unintelligible], y'know, how they, how they can take and disrupt those goddamn antiwar vets the way they did, y'know.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible]. It seems to me that's all [unintelligible]. Even Kerry's out condemning the --.

President: He condemned this one, this bunch?

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: Sure he's interested in a political career.

President: The Kennedy thing, [unintelligible]. Christ, how [unintelligible].

Haldeman: Yeah, there's somethin' strange there.

President: And the press is protecting him on it by not building it up and the press would normally build that up 'til hell wouldn't have it.

Haldeman: Apparently some guy who was at that meeting at Iona College, and I guess it was

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quite a thing, an' one of the hard-hat guys was there and had reported to Colson on it. But then he get a report from somebody else, one of Mulcahy's guys, I guess, or somebody that this guy, Kennedy, started in on this taking on the, the demonstration, er, defending the demonstrators. Some, some guy in the middle of the, the dinner stood up, cupped his hands and shouted, "Bullshit." Then Kennedy, I guess, had just completely, the students started clapping and [laughs] the other people, y'know, were kind of astonished and, uh, [unintelligible] Kennedy apparently had kind of a rough time with the thing, which of course doesn't get out.

President: Yeah, they sure protect him.