

**NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF****Tape Subject Log***(rev. 9/08)*

Transcript #1: Part of a conversation among President Nixon, H. R. ("Bob") Haldeman, and John N. Mitchell in the Oval Office between 4:18 pm and 4:31 pm on April 21, 1971.

Conversation No. 485-4#1

President: 'Fraid it's gonna rain here.

Mitchell: Well, I'm glad.

President: Hope the kids come to the Rose Garden. Hope to hell they get here 'n' get down in time.

Haldeman: That'll fix the veterans: their sleeping bags'll leak 'n' their girls'll get damp, 'n' if you ask how good-looking they are, uh, that gives ya an idea. There's one of the leading c-, Presidential contenders in a dilemma.

President: What'd he do?

Haldeman: He went and sat down on the Mall with 'em.

President: Who?

Haldeman: And Senator Hart invited 'em all to his house last night for a fund-raising dinner that was attended by such stalwarts as Ogden Reid 'n', 'n', uh, Brad Morse, two clear idiots.

President: Really?

Haldeman: Yep.

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Conv. No. 485-4#1 (cont.)

Mitchell: Brad and Reid was on the, t-, radio last night 'n' this morning complaining about, uh, how we didn't provide them quarters to sleep in 'n' all the benefits and so forth.

Haldeman: [laughs]

President: The way that little son of a bitch hung around during the campaign --.

Mitchell: [Unintelligible].

President: I don't know. I can't believe that that's going to help even Teddy, identifying with that bunch. What do you think?

Mitchell: I can't conceive of agreein' with 'em.

President: They we-, really are a gruesome-lookin' bunch o' people!

Haldeman: That's what I told ya, tha--you know, they are a rabble and, uh, the general was saying you drive by there 'n' the pot smoke's hanging over.

Mitchell: 'N' the [unintelligible] are in the bed rolls with 'em.

Haldeman: Girls are in the sleeping bags, and it's just a complete decadent type of thing.

President: At least they weren't veterans.

Mitchell: Well, they are, and we --

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President: So they --.

Mitchell: -- twist this thing all around and --.

President: Leave them there. I don't wanna, uh, you know, like the Bonus March 'n' all that stuff. Y-you recollect poor old Hoover --

Haldeman: [laughs]

Mitchell: [Unintelligible].

President: -- and MacArthur, you know. MacArthur was the guy that was --

Haldeman: MacArthur ---

President: -- against the Bonus Marchers.

Haldeman: -- at Hains Point.

President: They never forgave him.

Mitchell: They're going to technically comply with a, uh, order, court order, by removing all their [unintelligible] and equipment and tents and all the rest of it and they're just gonna mill around there, which is fine.

Haldeman: [Unintelligible] starts to rain --.

President: It's gonna rain today. I can see the rain coming.

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Mitchell: The long-range weather forecast for Saturday is for good weather.

President: Is it? Well, that's a shame.

Mitchell: [Unintelligible] I don't really have a good assessment yet. You never do until you get the final number of buses that are chartered and all that ---

President: Is that right?

Mitchell: -- and the final number of trains and then see their car pick-ups at the drop points and so forth.

President: Hmm. [Unintelligible] have cars, is that the way they do it? They have cars that really pick up people?

Mitchell: What, well, uh, for instance in New York City, the Bryant Park is the, uh, launching place at five o'clock on Saturday morning. Anybody with a car who wants to take someone who wanted a ride, they will all meet at Bryant Park [unintelligible]. In other cities they come at different times, but--.

President: The one next week is then, is more the rat bunch, huh?

Mitchell: Yeah. They're, they are the ones that are, wanna s-stop Washington from functioning.

Haldeman: That, it's really without getting, it's really the week after ---

Mitchell: [Unintelligible].

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Conv. No. 485-4#1 (cont.)

Haldeman: -- they start on May Day and ---

Mitchell: [Unintelligible].

Haldeman: -- go on to Saturday.

President: With respect to the stop of service, do you think they will try it, John?

Mitchell: Got to, if they can get enough bodies, 'cause they need bodies to do it.

President: H-how can they do it? Do they --?

Mitchell: Well, they're just gonna go over and lay down in the traffic circles 'n' ---

Haldeman: [Unintelligible].

Mitchell: -- [unintelligible] bridges 'n' --

President: Of course they'll let 'em in.

Haldeman: They lay down --.

Mitchell: -- lay down in the street --

Haldeman: Lie down.

Mitchell: -- and, uh, they, uh --.

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Haldeman: Plan to get these junk cars. They are gonna go on all the bridges and junk cars 'n' stall 'em in the, in, on the bridges 'n' block the traffic, so that people --

President: That oughta people feel happy --.

Haldeman: -- can't get to work so everybody can pile up there and sit there for a couple hours. That'll make [unintelligible] happy.

President: Fine. I can't --.

Mitchell: Elliot was tellin' [unknown person] this morning that he's, uh, opened up part of the building to them for a reception, 'n' they're gonna have certain spaces and halls and so forth.

President: Oh, Finch did that so, he's gotta follow suit.

Mitchell: Well, as Elliot points out, uh, it's a way to keep 'em, uh, placin' 'em on the inside, blowin' up.

President: Sure.

Mitchell: I guess there's a lot to it, the crowd he has.

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Transcript #2: Part of a conversation among President Nixon, H. R. ("Bob") Haldeman, John N. Mitchell, and Ronald L. Ziegler in the Oval Office between 4:31 pm and 4:38 pm on April 21, 1971.

Conversation No. 485-4#2

Ziegler: The Supreme Court upheld the Burger position on [unintelligible].

Mitchell: I knew they were workin' on it [unintelligible].

President: Fine.

Ziegler: Uh, I'm gonna bounce something into Justice.

President: [laughs] Fine.

Mitchell: Yes, please do, Ron, for th-, for this reason. Uh, what we're, we're doing is gettin' Justice the hell out of it 'n' putting it in the Park Police, uh, uh, but with the understanding that there's gonna be no rousting, no visible contact and, uh --

President: Fine.

Mitchell: -- Ramsey Clark's people are down at Justice Department interpreting what the order said, didn't say, 'n' the effect of it is that, uh, they've taken their sleeping bags 'n' tents 'n' moved them out of there, but they will, uh --

President: Get em out?

Mitchell: -- [unintelligible].

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Conv. No. 485-4#2 (cont.)

President: [Unintelligible]. I know why [unintelligible].

Mitchell: [Unintelligible]

Ziegler: The reason I'm, I, I interrupted, I'm sorry.

President: That's all right. That's very good [unintelligible].

Ziegler: I, I, I was pressed quite hard in the eleven o'clock briefing and I said it was a matter before the court and so forth. From the standpoint of law, has the President talked to the Attorney General, is he concerned about violence, and that type of thing, and I wanted to get a posture on that. What I --.

President: What, what'd you, what do you suggest we say?

Ziegler: Well, what I said this morning is that the President is, feels that the appropriate agencies who have been in contact with the, uh, leaders of the, the, the demonstration 'n' that they are handling that according to what they feel is the appropriate way to handle it. They are meeting their responsibilities on it. Then I thought this afternoon I would say the Department of Justice has been engaged in daily discussions with th-th-the Vietnam veterans' lawyers, which I understand [unintelligible]

Mitchell: That's right. Go on.

Ziegler: -- and that Justice is prepared to discuss the order, uh, of what it means.

Mitchell: We offered 'em a dif-, other sites, ya know.

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Ziegler: But that's understood, I understand that.

Mitchell: [Unintelligible].

Ziegler: But, uh, [unintelligible] --

Mitchell: [Unintelligible] to say that around here.

President: Yeah.

Ziegler: Your people are prepared to, to say that.

President: Yeah.

Ziegler: But I'm just wondering what I should say in terms of, uh, the White House. Has, has the President in any way, uh, I think we should probably just keep, not tell anybody about it, sir.

President: Well, how 'bout, how 'bout John just puttin' his name on the, I mean, I see what you're tryin' to get a little tone, uh, added to. Well, it, uh, we, uh, we are, uh, [unintelligible] as, as in the case of previous demonstrations, the President's interest here is to, uh, an' primary interest is to see that, uh, that, uh, he has the right to, uh, express his, uh, uh, uh, opinions, uh, uh, uh, and, uh, [unintelligible] be done so in, in a peaceful and orderly way, and we, we don't want, uh, [unintelligible].

Mitchell: Peaceful and orderly way and in compliance with the standard --

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President: Yeah.

Mitchell: -- regulations with --

President: Yeah.

Mitchell: -- [unintelligible].

President: And that we, uh, that, uh, we, that, that, that the President's, uh, that, that the President's is simply that the, is simply tell everybody that his, his, his home, his instructions throughout, his general instructions, wherever such instances are, to, uh, avoid, uh, uh, violence and, uh, uh, and avoid violence --

Ziegler: And handle it peacefully.

President: -- and, uh, and, uh, to, to allow, uh, peaceful demonstrations. As you know, the President was the w-, had, had made a, made, made a, a space available last year.

Mitchell: Uh-hum.

President: We've needed, and the-then, when the Vice President consulted with him, the President urged him to make the decision that he did with regard to the use of the Capitol, that we, that, uh, peaceful demonstration is the, that's something that we're, that's all we're asking.

Ziegler: Says somethin', that's fine.

President: Is that right? John?

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Mitchell: That's good.

President: If anybody --.

Mitchell: The only trouble is, the networks are going to be awfully mad at you. They've got sixty million dollars' worth of equipment set up down there, waitin' to see if --.

Ziegler: Only they can't wait 'til those guards, they want to see the policemen ridin' in with General MacArthur at the head of the --.

Haldeman: CBS'll probably --

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- hire some policemen to ride in, so there's a loophole.

Ziegler: These, these [unintelligible].

President: Be sure, John, uh, b-be, be sure that the, now, there're not gonna be any policemen ride in there, are there?

Mitchell: That's correct.

Ziegler: Th-that's the, see, that's the other question: "Well, OK, the court has ruled. Now who's going to enforce it?" Now, in talking to Justice people and Dean, uh, they suggest I use as a bridge line: "It's my understanding that from talking to Justice, that the lawyers, uh, with, uh --

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President: Why don' you, yeah, why don', you whyn't you just --.

Ziegler: -- [unintelligible] pull out."

President: Say, you say it is your understanding that this matter is being discussed between the lawyers for the veterans and the Justice Department, period.

Mitchell: But then [unintelligible].

Ziegler: And how we will comply --

President: Yeah.

Ziegler: -- with the --.

President: And that we, and that we, and that we believe that, uh, we, we trust it'll be worked out peacefully, period.

Ziegler: That's right. The last thing we have in mind is, is Chicago.

President: We have [unintelligible].

Ziegler: [Unintelligible] to motivate the demonstration will lead to violence in any way.

President: That's right.

Mitchell: You can go further than that 'n' you can say that it's anticipated that the veterans are gonna to comply with the court order --

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President: Yeah.

Mitchell: -- which --.

President: The reports, reports are that they're, uh, they're, uh, from their attorneys, from their attorneys that the reports are that they will comply with the full court order.

Haldeman: You can start on the case then.

Ziegler: Right.

President: Fine.

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Transcript #3: Part of a conversation among President Nixon, H. R. ("Bob") Haldeman, and John N. Mitchell in the Oval Office between 5:02 pm and 6:13 pm on April 21, 1971.

Conversation No. 485-4#3

Mitchell: I've got to get some time to talk, Mr. President, about this antitrust business because this is political dynamite --

[Whip]

President: McLaren, uh, --

Mitchell: I'm talking about the whole picture of, of, uh, this ITT, uh, watching the development of this Senate investigation and so forth, and we don't need it, we don't need it for these bastards up there [unintelligible]. Uh, I don't know who's, who's giving you the information, but it's a bad political mistake and I'm not talking about the merits of it either.

President: John, probably got is this we've got a, uh, that, uh, [whip] I don't give a damn about the merits either, uh, but, we have a situation where, uh, and, ah, Connally's spoken to me about it, uh, ya know, where the business community, where, where, believes that we're a helluva lot rougher on them on the antitrust, than our predecessor did.

Mitchell: Alright [unintelligible]

President: And they don't think you are, they think McLaren is.

Mitchell: Well, the, the reason [unintelligible]

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Conv. No. 485-4#3 (cont.)

President: Be--because he believes this.

Mitchell: It wasn't McLaren, though, that started all this, it was your Council of Economic Advisors and Arthur Burns, and it was done in order to help cool this economy and the stock market and I could go on with a lot of other things. [Coughs] And, uh, the things that they're accusing McLaren of were just, uh, uh, made out of whole cloth, it's just not true. There are antitrust cases here. But what I want to talk about is the political aspects of it and if, uh, if this thing should be turned off, if, I mean general concept of it, you've got a review going now, intergovernmental, well, it's time to do it, but you just can't stop this thing up at the Supreme Court because you'll have Griswold quit, you'll have a Senate investigation apart from and we don't need it. There are other ways of working this out.

President: Okay.

Mitchell: But I'll go on.

President: Well, go ahead.

Mitchell: Do this --

President: Yeah, I understand that, if that's the problem, politically, go ahead --

Mitchell: The point --

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Conv. No. 485-4#3 (cont.)

President: I one thing I want to say is that I do feel that we, that we've got to sit down and, and solve it. It seems to me that you've got to get Connally, uh, Stans, Stans also wrote, he wrote this damn long memorandum to me

Mitchell: I know it.

President: But if you can sit down and convince them, I don't want to hear anymore about it.

Mitchell: All right, now we have a, uh, intergovernmental study group --

President: I know about that.

Mitchell: -- on the antitrust policy. This, this is fine, but you don't just cut this thing off at the top and then get up before that Hart Committee over there and get yourself chewed to pieces --

President: Alright, fine, you handle it. But if you, would you do this without my being present, get Connally and Stans. Those guys to do it. And tell 'em [unintelligible] McCracken [unintelligible] he's catching hell on.

Mitchell: McCracken, for Christ sakes, he was the one that basically started it.

President: I know. He says, I said, well it's a business committee. He goes, when I go to New York [unintelligible]

Mitchell: Now, well, what we ought to do to change policy, I'm not, and we can get rid of

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this ITT thing, I think --

President: I don't care about that, John [unintelligible].