

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

Transcript #1: Part of a telephone conversation from President Nixon in the Lincoln Sitting Room to Charles W. Colson between 7:45 pm and 7:57 pm on April 20, 1971.

Conversation No. 2-21#1

President: Have ya found out, uh, who these veterans are that are coming in, ya know, uh --.

Colson: Yes, sir, we had some reports today that, uh, uh, there's a, uh, well, I had two reports from two people who are infiltrated. Uh, one is that there are three to four hundred veterans and the, the balance, which is maybe six or seven hundred, are nonveterans and, uh, kids who have bought, uh, fatigue uniforms, military su-, uh
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President: Huh?

Colson: -- jackets. I've had another --.

President: Could you find one that had 'n' get, will any, will any press man play the fact that one guy bought a fatigue uniform to look like a veteran?

Colson: We arranged, uh, Mr. President --.

President: God, that would be great, if just one, just one did.

Colson: Well, we arranged today for AP, uh, an AP reporter to go in and we identified some people for him to talk to. We also did the same thing with a Baltimore Sun reporter --

President: Right.

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Conv. No. 2-21#1 (cont.)

Colson: -- and, uh, hopefully if these fellas are honest, they'll, uh, they'll start picking some of this up. We've also got a couple of kids on the inside who are going to, uh, go up to the cameras and say, ya know, "This is a phony deal and I'm leaving there." Now whether --

President: Um-hum.

Colson: -- whether the media picks it up or not, we've, uh, we've done the things that 'll at least encourage 'em --

President: Good.

Colson: -- uh --

President: Um-hum.

Colson: -- and so I, I, uh, I'm hoping that'll come out. There has been some, there's been a little bit of this. E-every now and then one of the wire stories will talk about, uh, the fact that the, there's a large gathering of nonveterans included. Both, uh,, veterans' organizations are coming to Washington Thursday, the --

President: [Unintelligible].

Colson: -- the VFW and the American Legion to have a, uh, joint press conference, which they've only done once before in their history.

President: Wha' d'ya think they're gonna say?

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Conv. No. 2-21#1 (cont.)

- Colson: Disavow this completely and say that, uh, these veterans wanna turn in their medals, that, uh --.
- President: Why, why don't they say that half, m-more than half these people are nonveterans?
- Colson: Well, they plan to. Uh, Don Johnson is briefing them, uh, tomorrow, Mr. President, on this.
- President: Who is?
- Colson: Don Johnson.
- President: Yes.
- Colson: He's giving them the intelligence --
- President: Good.
- Colson: -- and, uh, both of the, both of the commanders will say that, uh, these are not veteran organizations, they don't represent veteran sentiment and that they're heavily infiltrated --.
- President: Boy, TV's givin' 'em quite a play, aren't they?
- Colson: Yeah, they have. I've, I must say I've been a little a, it's bothered me. I've, uh, everybody else that I've talked to today it hasn't bothered them, uh --.

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Conv. No. 2-21#1 (cont.)

President: Yeah.

Colson: Dick Moore didn't think it was getting much play, uh --.

President: Well, he doesn't know.

Colson: Uh, my own reaction was that they've gotten more, more press than, uh, than they deserve, that's for sure.

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Transcript #2: Part of a telephone conversation from President Nixon in the Lincoln Sitting Room to Charles W. Colson between 7:45 pm and 7:57 pm on April 20, 1971.

Conversation No. 2-21#2

President: One thing you gotta emphasize in the morning is that they've gotta really stand up against these demonstrators. They must not, ya know, run with those folks --.

Colson: The demonstrators.

President: Yes, sir.

Colson: Right.

President: Don't run with 'em.

Colson: Ya know, it's, it's interesting, Mr. President, we can't get, uh, Kennedy to, uh --.

President: Say what he thinks?

Colson: [Unintelligible] about it. We can't get, uh, Humphrey to --.

President: Humphrey, really?

Colson: They're being amazingly quiet and, uh --.

President: An-and you have tried, I noted a memo that, to the effect that you'd tried and they wouldn't say, huh?