

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

Part of a telephone conversation from President Nixon in the Lincoln Sitting Room to H. R. Haldeman between 10:13 am and 10:22 am on April 18, 1971.

Conversation No. 1-144

President: Did you see the front page of the Post about the poll they'd taken?

Haldeman: Yeah. Three hundred people or somethin'?

President: Well, in the District. But now --

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: -- point that I make is, uh, uh, I'd leave out, and I think you have, uh, I don't know, did they run, did we run our poll today?

Haldeman: We released, uh, uh, ORC released it, yeah.

President: Yeah, they released it, fine. What did we release? We didn't release on demonstrations, did we?

Haldeman: I think we did.

President: 'S too bad. What I'd rather do is to suck a few of these, uh, left-wing Congressmen into the, well, the Post probably didn't run our ORC --.

Haldeman: Uh, I haven't seen ours run; I haven't been all the way through the paper, but --.

President: Yeah, yeah, it may not be. Well, we ran, but our demonstration thing ran, what?

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Conv. No. 1-144 (cont.)

Sixty-five, wasn't it, or something?

Haldeman: Sixty-five against, yeah.

President: Or somethin= like that. But in any event, you see this is, uh, this is by reporters calling, bo-, I'll tell ya what a phony that it is.

Haldeman: Oh, yeah.

President: Yeah. But o-of course in the District it would be much higher than anyplace else.

Haldeman: Although they claim they did it in the affluent suburbs, but --.

President: Well, and it would be higher there as-, actually --

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: -- you know. You're running into that kind of stu-, well --.

Haldeman: But it wouldn't be as high as they got it. It would --.

President: Oh, no. Bob, there's a hell of a lot of Jews live in the District, see.

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: See, the Gentiles have moved out.

Haldeman: Yeah.

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President: And, uh, I-I'd say with, if they're affluent suburbs, it would tend to be half of it Jewish, and, you know, it's really --

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: -- loaded.

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: But nevertheless, nevertheless, my view is, uh, that=s a good thing to let the Congressmen get a little worried about, don=t ya think so?

Haldeman: Well, [laughs] in any event, they'll see that above, above ours 'cause they gave it, of course, a front-page play.

President: Um-hum.

Haldeman: And, uh --.

President: Ours.

Haldeman: We've got a lot of Congressmen out, out on the demonstration, anyway.

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: An awful lot of 'em that've, they've got, I mean, not a lot, but they've got more than they usually get.

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President: Yeah.

Haldeman: And they've got Muskie and, you know, some of the key candidate types, uh --

President: Right, right.

Haldeman: --- McGovern.

President: Well, fine, then it's just as well, probably, to let ours go, but I'd, uh, I'd be sure ours is ridden. I just wanted to que-, I guess maybe now it's just as well to let it ride 'n', uh, so a few --.

Haldeman: The main point on ours was to get it out, so we could get it to our people on --

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- on the support of the war.

President: That's right, that's right.

Haldeman: Uh, well --.

President: Well, we got that around, 'n', 'n' anyway so that our people don't --

Haldeman: And we may have left the demonstration thing out.

President: -- and so that we, and, and maybe you're right, too. You don't wanna have our people, uh, I mean, even though the Kennedys come out, we don't want to have

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Republicans get the idea, well, everybody's supporting demonstrations here.

Haldeman: Right.

President: And, uh, which, that's probably a good idea, probably a good idea. OK, well, I'd certainly get ours on demonstrations to the, to our, our friends.

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: [Laughs]

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: I think, I think y-, if it wasn't, why, uh, you better put out a little separate one and let the, let the Post have, uh, that'll, that'll be a hell of a good thing for [clears throat] ORC to release probably about Thursday anyway.

Haldeman: Um-hum

President: If they didn't release it this time. What d=ya think?

Haldeman: Yeah, I think it would be --

President: It'll sorta shake these people up --.

Haldeman: -- Thursday or Friday --

President: Um-hum.

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Conv. No. 1-144 (cont.)

Haldeman: -- 'n' get 'em --.

President: What is our s-, the intelligence is still flimsy on the demonstrations, is it?

Haldeman: Yeah. The, uh, there no evidence of any important radical involvement in, uh --.

President: Oh, the radicals are not in it? I thought they were.

Haldeman: Well, they're, they're, they're in it that, some of the radical leadership is, but there's no, no evidence of any --

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- uh --

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- back-up.

President: Right, right.

Haldeman: And that, the where, where i-, uh, where there's a chance of that really is more in the, apparently, more in the May first to fifth --

President: I see.

Haldeman: -- period than, than in the --.

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Conv. No. 1-144 (cont.)

President: The big one's the twenty-fourth, isn't it?

Haldeman: Twenty-fourth --

President: Um-hum.

Haldeman: -- is the big --

President: Um-hum.

Haldeman: -- march deal, and they're not --.

President: How're they doin', how're they gettin' the colleges and universities, is that --

Haldeman: Well --

President: -- [unintelligible]?

Haldeman: -- they're, they're tryin' to use, uh --

President: High school.

Haldeman: -- high schools --

President: Well, that might be [unintelligible].

Haldeman: -- as their recruiting thing, which may work --

President: May work.

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Haldeman: -- may get a lotta kids that way [unintelligible].

President: You remember, high schools, uh, well, they'll do, you remember how all the high school kids all go to Balboa 'n' --.

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: They might, this might be their kick: to come to Washington

Haldeman: Well, but that's the way to play it down, too. I mean, if it turns out to be a lotta high school kids, it's, it's not gonna --

President: Um-hum.

Haldeman: -- have as much significance --

President: Um-hum.

Haldeman: -- and we can make the point that it's just a spring vacation outing for --

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- for 'em, instead of a --.

President: High school kids aren't as likely to get rough, are they?

Haldeman: Oh, I dunno, they sti-, they use pot, too, so they --.

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President: Well, I see, I see.

Haldeman: The roughness pretty much gets related to the drugs. They get --

President: Yeah.

Haldeman: -- doped up, you know, 'n' they --.

President: They get doped up, then they bust the windows.

Haldeman: That's when they cut loose.

President: Uh, I want 'em to break those windows up at the Capitol, I think.

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: That=s the best thing that can happen to those Congressmen, >cause the way the *Washington Post* is, uh, well, has really completely submerged the [laughs] the, uh, you know, the damage done in these demonstrations.

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: My God, this'd, this'd really shock 'em, wouldn't it?

Haldeman: Yup.

President: Yeah, OK.

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Haldeman: [Unintelligible] there's apparently no, no interest in this thing in, uh, doing much at the White House. The veterans are gonna come and leave their medals at the White House or somethin', but that's about the only, all the marches are gonna be, um, down, down to the Capitol rather than by the White House, and there seems to be no --

President: Um-hum, um-hum.

Haldeman: -- no focus here.

President: Fine, fine. Oh, we'll see what happens. I don't know, I ca-, I can't believe that they can have that damn much steam in it. Ya know, at this point, that's all there's, this, uh --

Haldeman: Well, they're not --.

President: -- except it's the, except it's a ni-, it'll be a nice time of year. They're, they're at a damn good time of year.

Haldeman: Yeah.

President: That=s the one thing.

Haldeman: But it=s, ya know, it may catch hold, but there=s sure no, uh, like before there were enormous build-ups. There's a lot of activity, a lot of chartered buses, and --

President: Um-hum.

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Haldeman: -- all that, 'n' now there's, they've got one train chartered from, from --

President: New York.

Haldeman: -- New York or someplace 'n', 'n' ten or fifteen buses from New England, but that's, you know, that's --

President: Um-hum.

Haldeman: -- maybe a thousand, two thousand people.

President: I see.

Haldeman: That isn't gonna accomplish anything.

President: There's a lot more than bef-, than that before, wasn't there?

Haldeman: Oh, yeah, there were hundreds --

President: Um-hum.

Haldeman: -- and there may be, you know, maybe they've got --

President: Um-hum.

Haldeman: -- somethin' else going, but, uh, and maybe there'll be more when --

President: Oh, yeah.

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Haldeman: -- they --

President: Well, we don= --

Haldeman: -- come down this weekend.

President: -- don', not gonna worry about it. Let's just be a, um-, I still think people gonna be turned off by 'em, 'cause they'll do somethin', some-. Don't worry, there'll be enough roughness. Uh --.

Haldeman: There usually is. They get, you know, it's just the usual rock concert --

President: And also they look dumb.

Haldeman: -- [unintelligible].

President: They're gonna look bad, too.

Haldeman: Yeah, oh, yeah, they look --.

President: Put them on TV, the press 'll put 'em on TV.

Haldeman: Yep.