

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF

Tape Subject Log

(rev. 10/06)

Part of a telephone conversation between President Nixon in the Lincoln Sitting Room and James L. Buckley between 8:11 pm and 8:12 pm on April 26, 1971.

Conversation No. 2-45

President: I don't want to bother you at your dinner, but I just wanted say that I thought you made exactly the right ruling, that, uh, when you were presiding over the Senate today.

Buckley: Well, thank you very much.

President: I think you, I think you had to do it. I mean these, uh, people were apparently ha, really out of control, huh?

Buckley: Uh, they were out to make a spectacle, and I don't know what you can do except, uh, draw the line.

President: Right. And, uh, uh, [clears throat] the, uh, did they finally clear the galleries? What happened?

Buckley: They cleared, uh, two of the galleries and then ad-, readmitted the people who weren't the troublemakers.

President: That's all right.

Buckley: So, uh, I think the point was made. Then there was another group, uh, which had witnessed this who started, uh, a sort of a whimpering, whining not, not, not yelling, uh --

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Conv. No. 2-45 (cont.)

President: Yeah.

Buckley: -- obscenities, and, uh, there came a point where, eh, eh, ya had to draw the line on that one --

President: Sure.

Buckley: -- and, uh, then they we-went out and of course made their noises crying and wailing --

President: Yeah.

Buckley: -- but, uh, then that was it.

President: Good, good. Well, uh, just, uh, stay firm on it. We'll -

Buckley: Okay.

President: -- we'll try, we'll try to avoid a confrontation but on the other hand you can't allow them to disrupt the business of the Senate.

Buckley: No, no, and, and the lot of them parking in the halls outside of my office and other people's and, and I don't know where you would draw the line there.

President: Yeah. Ha!

Buckley: But it's an experience.

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Conv. No. 2-45 (cont.)

President: Yeah. You, well, you know, you, uh, it's never dull, you know. Once you run for the Senate from New York, you really catch a lot of hell, don't ya?

Buckley: More than I realized.

[Laughter]

President: Okay, fine. Well, have a good time tonight.

Buckley: Thank you very much, Mr. President.

President: Bye.