

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

Part of a telephone conversation between President Nixon in the Lincoln Sitting Room and Henry A. Kissinger at an unknown time between 6:13 pm and 7:45 pm on May 5, 1971.

Conversation No. 2-95

Kissinger: Uh, out here these, uh, television pictures of these rioters are [unintelligible].

President: What, what's the reaction of people out there?

Kissinger: [Unintelligible]. Frankly, I think --.

President: Is it really? Good.

Kissinger: Oh, yeah, and people come to me and --.

President: Even the liberals?

Kissinger: Yes, well, the liberals are confused, but the, uh --.

President: How 'bout, well --.

Kissinger: Other people here are asking what they can do and why don't you have Honor America Day and why do we give [unintelligible] to these, to these bastards.

President: They approve of our arresting 'em, do they?

Kissinger: Oh, yes.

President: Good.

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Kissinger: They want us to get a pro-America demonstration going.

President: Um-hum.

Kissinger: I was last evening at a dinner with some businessmen -- I didn't catch their names

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President: Yeah.

Kissinger: -- one of them was one of the [unintelligible] --

President: Oh, yeah, I know him well. He's a good guy.

Kissinger: [Unintelligible].

President: They thought we were doing the right thing.

Kissinger: Absolutely.

President: Being firm.

Kissinger: They are big admirers of, uh, of what you, uh, of, of the, uh, of the central, uh --.

President: Teddy Kennedy announced today he's gonna have an investigation of police arresting people that were out, were not really [laughs] guilty. [Laughs]

Kissinger: I think he's on the wrong side, uh --

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Conv. No. 2-95 (cont.)

President: I thin' he is, I really think he is.

Kissinger: -- he's absolutely on the wrong side of, uh --.

President: Playing to an audience that, uh, well, maybe he's just tryin' to grab the left. That's grabable.

Kissinger: I don't think he's still on the [unintelligible] absolutely over the [unintelligible] but, uh, and he hasn't shown any guts, [unintelligible].

President: But in any event the reaction of people you run into is that the, sort of outrage, huh?

Kissinger: Actually the reaction is one of absolute outrage. They can't, you take somebody from the Eastern Establishment, Bennett Cerf, as I told you, has been out here --

President: Right.

Kissinger: -- and I've been running into him at various dinner parties --

President: Good.

Kissinger: -- and, uh, he and his wife last year were [unintelligible] dinner party on behalf of the Cambodians. They were very much in support --

President: Yeah.

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Conv. No. 2-95 (cont.)

Kissinger: -- of it. It's interesting now, that the Government, that they think was [unintelligible] doing was essentially right. And they said this a [unintelligible] political attack led by this May Day break. And every day this week it seems the think-, is becoming more positive.