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NIXON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Tape Subject Log (rev. May-2010)

Conversation No. 873-1

Date: March 8, 1973

Time: Unknown between 5:01 pm and 5:52 pm

Location: Oval Office

The President met with John B. Conlan, Clair W. Burgener, William M. Ketchum, James P. ("Jim") Johnson, Ronald A. Sarasin, L. A. ("Skip") Bafalis, Steven D. Symms, Robert P. Hanrahan, Edward R. Madigan, George M. O'Brien, Samuel H. Young, William H. Hudnut, III, David C. Treen, William S. Cohen, Marjorie S. Holt, Paul W. Cronin, Robert J. Huber, Thad Cochran, Trent Lott, Gene Taylor, David Towell, Matthew J. Rinaldo, Benjamin A. Gilman, Donald J. Mitchell, Angelo D. Roncallo, William F. Walsh, James G. Martin, Tennyson Guyer, Ralph S. Regula, E. C. Shuster, Edward Young, James Abdnor, Robin L. Beard, Alan Steelman, M. Caldwell Butler, Robert W. Daniel, Jr., Stanford E. Parris, Joel Pritchard, Harold V. Froehlich and William E. Timmons.

Greetings/Introduction of John B. Conlan

-President of House of Representatives' freshmen class

Introductions

-[General introductions]

-Gene Taylor, James Abdnor, Robert Daniel, Ralph Regula
Stanford Parris, David Towell, Samuel Young, Edward
Madigan, Trent Lott, William Ketchum, Robin Beard, James
Martin, James Johnson, Matthew Rinaldo, Robert Hanrahan,

Representative from Alaska

-Donald E. Young
-Photograph
-Recent electoral win

Meeting

-Purpose
-Location
-Oval Office
-Cabinet Room

Leadership of freshmen congressmen

-President's appreciation

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Tape Subject Log
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Conversation No. 873-1 (cont'd)

- Press conferences, special orders, speeches
 - Washington papers
 - Washington Post*
 - Reportage
 - Distortions

Congress

- President's advice
- President's terms in Congress
- Value of work in Congress
 - Effectiveness
 - Washington newspapers compared to home districts
- Important issues
- President's political career
 - Hard times, conflict
 - Benefits
- Lobbyists
- Work
 - Historic time in present
 - Domestic and foreign policy issue
- President's political career
 - Visit to White House
 - Charles Kirchner
 - Wisconsin
 - Harry S. Truman
 - “Buck stops here sign”
- Budget matters
 - Increases
 - Poll results on issues
 - Spending for education, housing, cities
 - Taxes compared to spending on education
 - Inflation compared to taxes and revenue
 - Budget deficit
 - Limitations on spending
 - President's vetoes
 - Reasons
 - Taxes compared to spending
 - Public reactions
 - Difficulties of votes

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Tape Subject Log

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Conversation No. 873-1 (cont'd)

- Great Britain's parliamentary system
 - Importance of budget votes
 - Compared to US party system
 - Caucus
 - Gerald R. Ford
 - Partisanship
 - Need for support of freshman
 - "Golden Rule of Politics"
- US foreign policy
 - Trade policy
 - Talk with Golda Meir
 - Markets
 - Reciprocal trade
 - Henry A. Kissinger anecdote
 - Golden rule of international politics
 - Vietnam
 - 1972 election
 - Conclusion of war
 - Responsibilities of Congress in post-war period
 - Budget cuts
 - Effect of demobilization, defense cuts
 - Relations with the People's Republic of China [PRC], Union of Soviet Socialist Republics [USSR]
 - US bargaining position
 - Visit to PRC
 - Chou En-lai
 - USSR
 - Strategic Arms Limitation Talks [SALT]
 - Trade, space agreements
 - Vietnam War
 - Questions about budget cuts
 - Dialogue with PRC
 - Negotiations with USSR
 - President's meeting with Anatoliy F. Dobrynin
 - Summit
 - Arms limitations
 - Question about tax cuts
 - Defense spending
 - Negotiations with USSR, PRC

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Tape Subject Log
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Conversation No. 873-1 (cont'd)

- Self interests
- PRC opening to US
- Soviet détente with US
 - 1972 summit
 - SALT agreement
- Congress's role
 - Antiballistic missiles [ABM] vote
 - Militarists compared to pacifists
 - Spiro T. Agnew's deciding vote
 - Impact on SALT agreement
 - US goals
 - US concessions
- Negotiations
 - Self-interest
 - Need for strength
 - Incentive
- Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction [MBFR]
 - North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO]
 - Impact of US troop withdrawals
- Negotiations
 - Congress's role
 - Defense budget
- Need for respect
- June 1972 summit in Moscow
 - President's May 8, 1972 decision
 - 1972 election
 - Senate criticism
 - Communist offensive in Vietnam
 - Press coverage
 - “Specter of defeat”
 - Mining, blockade
 - Television [TV] announcement
 - Reaction
 - Editorial writers
 - Impact on USSR, summit
 - Respect for President's decision
 - Leonid I. Brezhnev
- US policy of strength and respect
 - USSR, PRC

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Tape Subject Log
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Conversation No. 873-1 (cont'd)

- US economic aid to North Vietnam
 - Controversial decision
 - Compared to Marshall Plan
 - President's experience in Congress
 - Opposition in California, US
 - Japan, Germany
 - Harry S. Truman
 - Vote on issue
 - Reason
- Agreements
 - Compliance
- Source of funds
- Congressional vote
 - Parochial interests
- Source of funds
- Peaceful development
- Continued war
 - Thailand, Philippines
 - treaty obligations
- US trade policy
 - Post-World War II
 - President's experience in Congress
 - Reciprocal aid [trade agreements]
 - President's constituency
 - Opposition
 - Trade imbalance
 - US, Europe, Japan
 - General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs [GATT]
 - Geneva round
 - Kennedy round
 - Impact on Japan, Europe
 - US Congressional-Executive agreement [Reciprocal Trade Agreement Act]
 - Trade legislation
 - Tariff rate negotiations
 - Tariff barriers
 - Reciprocal trade
 - Germany, Japan, Great Britain
 - President's role

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Tape Subject Log

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Conversation No. 873-1 (cont'd)

- President's conversation with Wilbur D. Mills
 - Executive power
 - Trade lobbies
 - Tariff rates
- Balance of trade
 - Imports compared to exports
 - Benefits to US labor
 - President's conversation with George Meany
 - Labor's support for President's foreign policy
 - Meany, Frank E. Fitzsimons, Peter J. Brennan
 - Imports, exports
 - Impact on jobs
 - US auto industry
 - “Big three” manufacturers
 - Chrysler dealers
 - Detroit
 - Imports compared to exports
- Congress's role compared to President's role

President's accomplishments

- Compared to freshman's achievement in 1972 election
- Contrast with Lyndon B. Johnson
 - Legacy
 - President as fatalist
- Progress toward world peace
- US strength
 - Private enterprise
 - Compared to USSR
- National greatness
 - Character
 - Sources of decline
 - Wealth
 - Source of softness
 - Prisoners of war [POWs] return
 - Sense of pride, patriotism

Letter to President from a POW

- President's reading
- Capt. Jeremiah A. Denton, Jr.

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Tape Subject Log
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Conversation No. 873-1 (cont'd)

- Remarks on US
 - President's leadership, B-52 bombing
 - Pride in US
 - Decline of authority
- Gratitude to President
- POW's ordeal
 - Lessons

Congressional relations

- Narrow compared to broad goals
- Denton's experiences
 - Meaning
- Work with Congress
 - Restoration of national spirit, faith
- Meeting with Freshmen Representatives
 - President's thanks
 - Benefits
 - Communication within Republican Party
- Congressmen's support for President
 - Problems
 - Constituents' demands
 - Vote of confidence
- President's experience in Congress
 - Congressional leadership
 - Charles Halleck, Joseph Martin
 - Voting record
 - Party line
- Reelection of freshmen
 - Support for President

President's birthday plaque

- President's friend from New York
- Inscription

Kissinger

- Secret mission
 - Boston [?]

[General conversation]

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Conversation No. 873-1 (cont'd)

Andrew Henshaw [?]

Support for President's vetoes

Conlan et al. left at 5:52 pm.

Conversation No. 873-2

Date: March 8, 1973
Time: Unknown between 5:52 pm and 5:55 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President met with an unknown Navy Chief.

[Begin segment reviewed under deed of gift]

Refreshment

[End segment reviewed under deed of gift]

The Chief left at an unknown time before 5:55 pm.

Conversation No. 873-3

Date: March 8, 1973
Time: Unknown between 5:55 pm and 6:22 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President met with H. R. ("Bob") Haldeman.

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Tape Subject Log
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Conversation No. 873-3 (cont'd)

Malcolm E. Smith

- Talk with Haldeman
- Age
- Residence
- Occupation
- Candidacy for Congress
 - Otis G. Pike
 - Visit with President
- Conservatism
 - Criticism of President's of Family Assistance Program [FAP]
- Haldeman's telephone call
 - Smith's book on John F. Kennedy
 - Publication difficulties
 - Advertisements [Ads]
 - Response from Crown Publishing
 - Distribution
 - Robert F. Kennedy's assassination
 - Victory Lasky
 - Copies for Haldeman
 - Republication
 - [Unintelligible name] Robert H. Abplanalp
 - Research
 - Errors
 - Copper in Chile
- Current activities
 - Conservative citizens' lobby
 - John N. Gardner
- Book on John F. Kennedy
 - Acquisition
 - Reprinting
 - Editing
 - Patrick J. Buchanan
 - Hobart D. ("Hobe") Lewis
 - Clement W. Stone
 - Publishing
 - Lewis
 - Editing
- Criticism by Pike in election campaign
 - Federal prosecution

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Tape Subject Log
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Conversation No. 873-3 (cont'd)

- Advertisements
 - Federal Trade Commission [FTC]
- Political office
 - Mayor of Misinquoag [?]
- Residence
- Support for President
 - 1970 election
 - Pike's response
 - Long Island

Newbold ("Newby") Noyes, Jr.

- President's meeting
- Haldeman's viewpoint
- Compared to Buchanan's theory [of electoral possibilities]
 - Letters to President
- Assessment of President's administration
 - Vindictiveness, meanness
 - Concern
 - 1972 election victory
 - Public perception
 - Inside Washington, DC
 - Nationwide

Melvin R. Laird [?]

- Vacation
 - Mexico
- Residence
 - Washington, DC
- Wolf Trap Concert
 - Chairmanship
 - David Packard
 - C. R. Smith
 - Packard's investment
 - Kay Shouts [?]

[Begin segment reviewed under deed of gift]

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Tape Subject Log
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Conversation No. 873-3 (cont'd)

David Packard

- Qualities for office
 - Governorship
- Haldeman's telephone call
 - Meeting
 - Robert H. Finch
- President's encouragement to run for governor

[End segment reviewed under deed of gift]

- John B. Connally
- Deal with People's Republic of China [PRC]
 - Henry A. Kissinger
- Governorship

Congressional relations

- Congressmen's meetings with White House staff
 - Impression of authority
 - Administrative assistants
 - Bryce N. Harlow
 - Jerry Persons
 - Clark MacGregor
 - William E. Timmons
 - Thomas C. Korologos
 - Problem
 - Timmons
 - Talking paper
 - Compared to MacGregor

House of Representatives' Freshmen Republicans

- Strengths
- Support for President's policies
- John B. Conlan
 - Leadership ambition
- Votes for President's policies
- Dependence on President
 - President's 1972 landslide victory

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Tape Subject Log
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Conversation No. 873-3 (cont'd)

- Donald E. Young's victory in Alaska special election
 - Credit to President's policies
 - Telegram
 - President's telephone call
 - Telegram's content
- Donald W. Riegle, Jr.
 - Democrats [?]

[Begin segment reviewed under deed of gift]

Connally

- Change of political party affiliation
- Press conference
 - George Christian
 - Location
 - Washington, DC compared to Texas
 - Network story
 - National attention
- Stature in politics

[End segment reviewed under deed of gift]

House of Representatives' Freshmen Republican meeting

- Introduction, photographs
- Value
- Topics covered
 - Trade bill, aid to North Vietnam, budget
- Strength of group
- Conlan
- Timidity [?]
- Age
- Robert C. ("Bob") Wilson
- Conlan
 - Qualities as leader

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Conversation No. 873-3 (cont'd)

Economy

- Wholesale prices
- Food and non-food prices
- Meeting
 - [Unintelligible name]
 - George P. Shultz's attendance

President's meeting with Noyes

- Value
- Noyes's strong feelings
 - Support for administration
- Weaknesses of administration
 - Coldness, indifference
 - Sammy Davis, Jr.
 - Management skills
 - Image of dullness, lack of charisma
 - Claude Brinegar

President's meeting with Prisoners of war [POWs]

- Capt. Jeremiah A. Denton, Jr.
- Private

Presentation of President's policies and philosophy

- President's meeting with Freshmen Republicans
 - Conlon's speech
 - Big picture compared to particular votes
- White House staff
 - Weaknesses
 - Speechwriters
 - Domestic Council
- Programmatic approach
- Image
 - Television [TV]
 - Image making

Haldeman

- Newsweek* article
- Criticism
- New York

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Tape Subject Log
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Conversation No. 873-3 (cont'd)

- Criticism
 - Requirements of job
- Henry Trehitt
 - Concerns
 - Information and research
 - Results
 - Search for bad information
- Past article
 - Time*
- Newsweek* article
 - Rejection
 - Trehitt

President's public image

- Meeting with Noyes
 - Show of concern
 - President's press conference
 - Question
 - Blacks
 - Appearance of answer in press conference
 - Transcript
- Crosby S. Noyes
 - Agreement with Newbold Noyes
- Newbold Noyes's concern
 - Raymond K. Price, Jr.
 - Compassion
- President's use of gimmicks
 - John D. Ehrlichman's suggestions
 - Black students
 - High school, trade school
 - Nursing homes, homes for incurables
 - Press coverage [?]
 - Dick Barkette [?]
- Ronald L. Ziegler
- Constance M. (Cornell) ("Connie") Stuart
- President compared with John F. Kennedy and Franklin D. Roosevelt
 - Role of press in image making
- John F. Kennedy
 - Relations with Blacks

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Conversation No. 873-3 (cont'd)

- President's attitude toward Blacks compared to Lyndon B. Johnson
 - President's experience in school, sports
 - White House servants' opinion
 - Political constituency
 - Buchanan's viewpoint
- Press interviews
 - Show of concern [?]
 - Human interest stories
 - Hard news
 - Compared to John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson
 - Staff release of stories

Coat [?]

Haldeman left at 6:22 pm.

Conversation no. 873-4

Date: March 8, 1973
 Time: Unknown after 6:22 pm
 Location: Oval Office

The President met with an unknown person.

[Begin segment reviewed under deed of gift]

Return of someone

[End segment reviewed under deed of gift]

The unknown person left at an unknown time after 6:22 pm.

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Tape Subject Log
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Conversation No. 873-4 (cont'd)

Conversation No. 873-5

Date: March 8, 1973
Time: Unknown after 6:22 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President met with an unknown person.

[Begin segment reviewed under deed of gift]

Request for someone [?]
-Item [?]

[End segment reviewed under deed of gift]

The unknown person left at an unknown time after 6:22 pm.