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NIXON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Tape Subject Log (rev. Sept. 2010)

Conversation No. 885-1

Date: March 20, 1973

Time: Unknown between 4:09 pm and 5:39 pm

Location: Oval Office

The President met with John D. Ehrlichman. This recording began while the conversation was in progress.

Watergate

- White House statement
- Judiciary Committee
 - L. Patrick Gray, III
 - Charges
- White House statement
 - Treatment before Congress
 - Double standard
- John W. Dean, III
- Republican Congressmen
 - Edward J. Gurney
 - Hugh Scott
 - Gerald R. Ford
 - Defense of administration
- Leadership meetings
 - Discussion of Watergate
 - Ronald L. Ziegler's view
 - Dangers
 - Advantages
 - Dwight L. Chapin
 - Gordon C. Strachan
 - Charles W. Colson
 - Ehrlichman
 - Relationship with E. Howard Hunt, Jr.
 - Revelations
 - Claims
 - Ehrlichman
 - Dealings of Hunt
 - Edward M. Kennedy
- Campaign funds

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Tape Subject Log
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Conversation No. 885-1 (cont'd)

- Allegations of misuse
 - Maurice H. Stans
 - Statement
 - Herbert W. Kalmbach
 - Statement
 - Use of funds
 - Accountability
 - Existing laws
- Kalmbach
 - Use
 - Polls, hiring of personnel
- Kalmbach
 - Testimony
 - Immunity
- Future problems
 - Subpoenas of White House staff by Ervin Committee
 - Confrontation
 - Contempt citation
 - Court fight
 - Constitutional issues
 - Administration's strategy
 - Justification for immunity
 - Research on legalities
 - Court case
 - Need to provide a record
 - Status of advisors
 - Formulation of administration's position
 - Richard G. Kleindienst
 - Preparation of administration's case
 - Joseph T. Sneed
 - Senate committee
 - Scott's opinion
- Samuel J. Ervin, Jr.
 - Criticism of colleagues
 - Interview by Roger Mudd
 - Questions
 - Television [TV] appearances
 - National Broadcasting Company [NBC]'s "Today Show",

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Conversation No. 885-1 (cont'd)

Columbia Broadcast System [CBS] news

- "Meet the Press"
- Number
- Publicity
 - Impact on Senate colleagues
- Colson's operation
 - Effectiveness
 - George S. McGovern's campaign
- Administration strategy
 - Counterattack
 - Effectiveness
 - A statement from President
 - White House investigation
 - Results
 - Show of concern for issue
 - Dean's efforts
 - Public relations exercise
 - Written interrogatories
 - Release of information
 - Deficiencies of approach
 - Disclosure of information
 - Benefits
 - Disadvantages
 - White House statement
 - Separation of power
 - Ehrlichman's opinion
 - Reasons for involvement by participants
 - John N. Mitchell and Martha Mitchell
 - Weak points
 - Jeb Stuart Magruder
 - Hugh W. Sloan, Jr.
 - Defendants
 - Hunt
 - Knowledge of Committee to Re-elect the President [CRP]'s activities
 - CRP
 - Stans
 - President's knowledge of activities

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Conversation No. 885-1 (cont'd)

- Hunt, H. R. ("Bob") Haldeman, Colson
- G. Gordon Liddy
- James W. McCord, Jr.
 - Reliability
- Magruder
 - Reliability
- Strachan
 - Future job
 - Chapin
- Effect on White House
 - Dean
 - Quality of work
 - President's support
 - Relationship with President
 - Confidentiality of contacts and amount of information provided the
- President
 - President's involvement in case
 - Ehrlichman's views on strategy
 - Richard A. Moore's analysis
 - Full disclosure
 - Statement by President
 - Other possibilities
 - Reasons for withholding information
 - 1972 election
 - Counterattack
 - Problems
 - Public concern about Watergate
 - Growth
 - Role of media
 - Administration strategy
 - Staff testimony before Ervin Committee
 - Problems
 - Ehrlichman's opposition
 - Executive session testimony
 - Press conference
 - Dean
 - Watergate as an issue
 - Tenacity

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Tape Subject Log
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Conversation No. 885-1 (cont'd)

- Effect on Presidency
- Staff testimony
 - Mitchell
- Grand jury on Robert L. Vesco
 - Mitchell's testimony
 - Vesco campaign contributions
 - New direction for investigation
 - Securities and Exchange Commission [SEC]
 - Involvement of Mitchell
 - Allegations
 - Culpable intent of contribution
 - Intervention with SEC and Justice Department
 - Administration handling of case
 - Dean
 - Public statements
 - SEC investigation
 - Ehrlichman's meeting with G. Bradford Cook, March 20
 - Civil action
 - Referral to Justice Department
 - Vesco
 - Costa Rica
 - Extradition

[Begin segment reviewed under deed of gift]

- [Dwight] David Eisenhower, III
 - Law school
 - Other career opportunities
 - Possible Congressional race
 - Law school
 - Age
 - Possible Congressional race
 - Qualifications
 - Pennsylvania
 - York
 - Republicans

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Conversation No. 885-1 (cont'd)

[End segment reviewed under deed of gift]

President's schedule

- Meeting of counselors
 - Cabinet
 - Domestic Council
 - Therapy
 - John A. Volpe, Walter J. Hickel, George W. Romney
 - Loyalty.
 - Periodic meetings
 - Value
 - Congressional leadership meetings
 - Value
 - Ford, J. Burt L. Talcott [?]
 - Cabinet meetings
 - Groups of officers
 - Value
 - Topics of common interest
 - James T. Lynn
 - Community development
 - Natural resources
 - Meetings with agency heads
 - Donald E. Johnson
 - Lynn
 - Community development
 - Under Secretaries
 - Floyd H. Hyde
 - Claude S. Brinegar
 - Peter J. Brennan
 - John Pierce [?]
 - Community Development Committee
 - Support for counselors
 - Value
 - Scheduling
 - Domestic topics

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Tape Subject Log
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Conversation No. 885-1 (cont'd)

- Cost of living
- Lynn
- Caspar W. ("Cap") Weinberger
- Earl L. Butz

Watergate

- Members of Cabinet Secretary's staff
 - Boost for morale
 - Watergate statement
- White House staff
 - Involvement
 - Ehrlichman
 - Haldeman
 - Magruder
 - Dismissal of guilty
- Magruder
 - Involvement in Watergate
 - McCord's accusations
 - Perjury
 - Need to refute charge
- Colson
 - Culpability
- Ehrlichman
- Targets
 - Haldeman, Mitchell, Colson
- Chapin, Strachan
 - Position in hierarchy
 - St. Louis Post-Dispatch* story
 - Chapin's ties to Haldeman
- Haldeman
 - Newsweek* article
 - Human interest element
 - Neutral opinion
- Attacks on President
 - Old establishment
 - Harvard, Yale
 - Motives
- Impact of Watergate on administration

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Tape Subject Log
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Conversation No. 885-1 (cont'd)

- Briefing of Cabinet
 - Spiro T. Agnew
 - Dean briefing
- White House staff
 - Need for assurance
 - Skittishness
 - George H. W. Bush
- A briefing on Watergate
 - Dean
 - Value, disadvantages
 - Briefing of Cabinet, leaders
 - Reassurance
 - Problem of separation of powers
 - Use of Patrick J. Buchanan
 - Willingness to testify before Congressional committee
 - Peter M. Flanigan
- Executive privilege
 - Sherman Adams case
 - Chapin
 - Possible charges
 - Haldeman
 - Magruder charges
 - Problems
 - Accessory to case
 - Possible sources of problems
 - Flanigan's Congressional testimony in International Telephone and Telegraph [ITT] case
 - Attempt to differentiate between Watergate and ITT case
 - George P. Shultz
 - Role in White House
 - Status
 - Claim to executive privilege
 - Kleindienst
 - ITT case
 - Charges against
 - Colson
- Vesco case
- Executive privilege

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Tape Subject Log
(*rev. Sept. 2010*)

Conversation No. 885-1 (cont'd)

- Adams
- Shield laws
 - Precedents
 - Testimony of journalists
- Adams case
 - Charge of criminal actions
- Alger Hiss case
- "Five percenter" case
 - Harry S Truman
- Administration's strategy
 - Public statements
 - Public denials
 - Bush's concerns
 - Contributors' responses
 - Need for an explanation
 - Past statements
 - Ziegler
 - Statements
 - Timing
 - Watergate sentencing
 - Weaknesses
- Watergate burglars
 - Sentences
 - Anticipation of harshness
- John J. Sirica
 - Sentences
 - McCord
 - Harshness
 - Reaction of McCord
- McCord
 - Dislike of jail
 - Bail revocation
 - Danger of statements
 - Work with CRP

President's schedule

- Ehrlichman's schedule
- Trip to West

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Tape Subject Log
(rev. Sept. 2010)

Conversation No. 885-1 (cont'd)

- Ehrlichman's plans
 - Veto message
 - President's speech
- President's plans
- Andrews Air force Base
- Meeting with Shultz
 - Arrangements
 - Congressional relations
 - Time, Length
 - William Simon

Shultz

- Meeting with Ehrlichman
- Meeting with President
 - Labor Management Advisory Board
- Meeting with Ehrlichman
 - Phase III
 - Taxes
 - Trade
- Report for President
 - Deadline
- Meeting with President
 - Camp David
 - Preparation
 - Henry A. Kissinger's return from trip
 - Georges J. R. Pompidou, Leonid I. Brezhnev

Watergate

- Dean
 - Encouragement
 - Recommendation of L. Patrick Gray, III
 - Mitchell
 - Kleindienst
- Kleindienst and Gray
 - Problems
- Targets of attack
 - Dean
 - Haldeman, Colson

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Tape Subject Log
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Conversation No. 885-1 (cont'd)

-Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI] directorship
-Nominees

Ehrlichman left at 5:39 p.m.

Conversation No. 885-2

Date: March 20, 1973
Time: 5:39 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President talked with the White House operator.

[See Conversation No. 37-171]

Conversation No. 885-3

Date: March 20, 1973
Time: Unknown between 5:39 pm and 5:40 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President talked with Tricia Nixon Cox.

[See Conversation No. 37-172]

Conversation No. 885-4

Date: March 20, 1973
Time: Unknown between 5:40 pm and 5:45 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President met with Stephen B. Bull.

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Tape Subject Log
(rev. Sept. 2010)

Conversation No. 885-3 (cont'd)

President's meeting with Gen. Brent G. Scowcroft

Bull left before 5:45 pm.

Conversation No. 885-5

Date: March 20, 1973

Time: Unknown between 5:40 pm and 5:45 pm

Location: Oval Office

The President met with Manolo Sanchez.

[Begin segment reviewed under deed of gift]

President's schedule

-Executive Office Building

-Dinner

-Bacon and eggs

-Refreshment

[End segment reviewed under deed of gift]

Sanchez left before 5:45 pm.

Conversation No. 885-6

Date: March 20, 1973

Time: Unknown between 5:45 pm and 5:59 pm

Location: Oval Office

The President met with Gen. Brent G. Scowcroft.

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Tape Subject Log
(rev. Sept. 2010)

Conversation No. 885-6 (cont'd)

Vietnam settlement

- Infiltration from North Vietnam
 - US responses
 - Provocation
 - Reduction
 - Reasons
 - Seasonal weather
 - Annual rate
 - Effect of cease fire
 - Decline
 - US message from Henry A. Kissinger
 - Delays
 - Signals
- Laos
 - G. McMurtrie Godley
 - New government
 - Formation date
- Prisoners of war [POW] release
 - Timing
 - Provisional Revolutionary Government [PRG] statement
 - Air strike
 - Effect
 - Kissinger's opinion
 - Second thoughts
- Laos negotiations
 - Godley's statement
 - Air Strikes
 - North Vietnam's reactions
 - POW release
- Air strikes
 - Timing
 - POW release
 - Effectiveness
 - POW release
 - Public support
 - Cease-fire
 - Laos

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Tape Subject Log
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Conversation No. 885-6 (cont'd)

- Congressional Objections
- South Vietnam
- Cambodia
- Laos
- Infiltration from North Vietnam
- Public and Congressional resistance
- Value
 - Symbolism
 - Military Effect
- Timing
 - POW release
- Public objections
 - Laos
- Purpose
- Congressional and public reaction
 - End of war
 - Perception of escalation
- Kissinger
 - December 1972 bombing
 - POWs
 - Settlement agreement
- Guarantee for settlement
 - Promise to Nguyen Van Thieu
 - South Vietnams capabilities
 - Air Force
- North Vietnam testing
 - US reaction
 - Deterrence

Kissinger

- Return From Trip

Vietnam settlement

- US responses
- Second thoughts

Scowcroft left at 5:59 pm.

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Tape Subject Log
(rev. Sept. 2010)

Conversation No. 885-7 (cont'd)

Conversation No. 885-7

Date: March 20, 1973
Time: 6:00 pm - 7:10 pm
Location: Oval Office

The President met with H. R. ("Bob") Haldeman and Stephen B. Bull.

President's schedule

- William P. Rogers [?]
- Haldeman
- National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse
 - Raymond P. Shafer
 - John D. Ehrlichman's recommendation on meeting
 - Publicity
 - Ronald L. Ziegler
 - Shafer
 - Submission of final report to President
 - Photographs
 - Press
 - Oliver F. ("Ollie") Atkins
 - Meeting with Gen. John B. Flynn
 - Postponement
- Labor Management Advisory Board
 - George P. Shultz
 - Withdrawal of request
 - Consumer Price Index [CPI] release
 - Meeting with President
 - Postponement
- Meeting with Flynn
- Congressional Campaign Committee
 - Mrs. Bruce Bedford
 - Announcement
- Carlos Sanz deSantamaria

Bull left at an unknown time before 7:10 pm.

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Tape Subject Log
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Conversation No. 885-7 (cont'd)

John B. Connally
-Return from Europe

[Begin segment reviewed under deed of gift]

George Christian
-Harry S. Dent
-Party switch
-Timing

[End segment reviewed under deed of gift]

Terry L. Decker
-Job change
-New York
-Lucy A. Winchester
-Julie Nixon Eisenhower's executive assistant
-Competence
-Knowledge of First Family
-Bull

President's meeting with Ehrlichman
-Meetings with counselors
-Organization
-Cabinet involvement
-Earl L. Butz
-Cabinet meetings
-New cabinet
-Loyalty
-George W. Romney, John A. Volpe, Peter G. Peterson
-Value
-Topics
-Economics

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Tape Subject Log
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Conversation No. 885-7 (cont'd)

- Economics
 - Quadriad
 - Number at meeting
 - Ehrlichman's role
 - Kenneth R. Cole, Jr.
 - Purpose
 - Harry S. Truman's meetings with Congress members
 - Meetings with Cabinet, Congressional leaders
 - Number
 - Purpose
 - Presence of staff members
 - William L. Safire, Raymond K. Price, Jr., Thomas C. Korologos
 - Meetings with staff
 - Value
 - Haldeman, Ehrlichman, Ronald L. Ziegler
 - John W. Dean, III
 - Scheduling
 - Cabinet meetings
 - Ehrlichman's role
 - Earl L. Butz
 - Agriculture Department
 - Natural resources
 - Value
 - Purpose
 - Counselor meetings
 - Value
 - Roy L. Ash
 - Meetings with President
 - Assistants to President
 - Haldeman, Ash, Shultz, Ehrlichman, Kissinger
 - Common issues
 - Value
 - Cabinet meetings
 - Value
 - Decision making
 - Haiphong
 - Bombing
 - Disagreements and recommendations

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Tape Subject Log
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Conversation No. 885-7 (cont'd)

-Record

Vietnam settlement

- President's decisions
 - Bombing of Laos
 - Alexander M .Haig, Jr.
 - Doubts
 - Kissinger's trip to Mexico
- Bombing resumption
 - Value
 - Public reaction
 - Press
 - North Vietnam
 - Laos
 - Ho Chi Minh trail
 - Prisoners of War [POW] release
 - Kissinger
 - Risks
 - Signal
 - Infiltration from North Vietnam
 - South Vietnam
 - Nguyen Van Thieu
 - US commitment
 - POW release
 - Risks
 - Ho Chi Minh trail
 - US public reaction
 - Kissinger's recommendation
 - POWs
 - Rashness
 - Haldeman's call to Kissinger
 - Risks
 - Public Reaction
 - P.O.W. Reaction

Kissinger

- Vacation
 - Discussion with President

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Tape Subject Log
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Conversation No. 885-7 (cont'd)

- Place
 - Mexico
 - California
 - Thieu
- Arrangements
 - Departure
- State of the world message
 - Thieu
 - Preparation

Leaks

- Julienne L. Pineau
 - Newsweek* reporter
- John A. Scali
- Hugh Sidey
 - Time*
- Kissinger
 - Conversations with reporters

Theodore H. ("Teddy") White

- Deadline on book
 - Memorandum
- Book
 - Last Chapter

Heads of State visits

- [Shah of Iran] Mohammed Reza Pahlavi
 - Scheduling
 - Dinner
 - Dress
 - Scheduling
- Giulio Andreotti
 - Agnew
 - Golf Game
 - Francis A. ("Frank") Sinatra
 - Cancellation
- Shah of Iran
- California

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Tape Subject Log
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Conversation No. 885-7 (cont'd)

- Golf
- Andreotti
 - Activities
 - Golf
 - Precedent
 - Sinatra
 - Takeuei Tanaka
- President's meeting with Ali Bhutto
 - National Security Council [NSC]
 - Arrangements
 - Dinner
- Meeting with Tanaka
- Ivory Coast
- Meeting with William R. Tolbert, Jr.
 - Kissinger's recommendation
 - Thelma C. ("Pat") Nixon
 - State Department
- Tolbert visit to US
 - Prayer breakfast
 - Office call
 - Commencement address
 - San Francisco State University
 - Grambling College
 - Dinner
 - Scheduling
 - Leonid I. Brezhnev
- Andreotti
- Sulman Franjeh
 - Lebanon
 - Rogers's recommendation
 - Kissinger
- Fall Of 1973
 - Union of Soviet Socialist Republics [USSR]
 - Iran
 - Japan
 - Thailand
 - Poland
 - Frequency

NIXON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

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- Franjeh
- Travel
- Tolbert
- Informal basis

President's schedule

- California trip
- Topeka, Kansas
 - Distance
 - Veterans Vocational Skills Training Center
 - Value of visit

[A transcript of the following portion of the conversation appears in U.S. v. Mitchell, Government Ex. 11A, 00072-00097 (1-26).]

The President and Haldeman left at 7:10 pm.

Conversation No. 885-8

Date: March 20, 1973

Time: Unknown between 7:10 pm and 9:27 pm

Location: Oval Office

Unknown men met.

President's location

- Executive Office Building [EOB]

The unknown men left at an unknown time before 9:27 pm.