

Telephone Call, Nixon and Colson

April 12, 1973 7:21-7:48 PM.

(Ref Audiocassette #: E-82.Conversation #: 44-158)

Voice: The following is a portion of conversation forty four dash one fifty eight.

(3.1)

1 Nixon: °Good.°

2

3 (0.4)

4

5 Nixon: Good.

6

7 (0.2)

8

9 Nixon: Good.

10

11 Colson: No I didn't.=en ↑I gut (·) nothing on Watergate uh: Mister Pres[ident.

12

13 Nixon: [·hhhh We-:ll<

14

(0.3)

15

16 Nixon: ·pt Basically we hef to face the ↓fa:ct thet it's a,h (·) hv:ery ·h perva↓seev

17

18 W:ashington story? ·h[h h h h

19

20 Colson: [Mm:hm?=

21

22 Nixon: = An' ah media story? but it hezn't reached the ↑country:. But, ehventually

23

24 ¹ iv course if they keep p^hou:nding it will but ·hhhh hhheh! ·hh §somebuddy

25

26 ² told me duhnight thet Je:ck§ Parr hed some: kind iv a johnk 'ee zed yihknow

27

28 I, I c'd understand if theh w'z a r:ape er ↑murder but here this is jist (0.5)

29

30 ↑eve:s↓dropping er some da[mn thing↓]

31

32 Colson: [Mmhm?]=

33

34 Colson: =Thet's right.[(Mmhm?)

35

36 Nixon: [·t·hhh An:d en ↑Liddy:: we've- (·) you've gotta keep the da::mn

37

38 thing in perspecteev. But it's terribly difficult fer people here everybody's:

¹ The [§] symbols bracketing an utterance or utterance-part indicate that it is produced in 'smile voice'.

² (a) Jack Parr, a late-night talkshow host.

(b) In standard orthography, "johnk" would be rendered as "joke".

1 Nixon: ³ im:battl:ed yihknow?=en thinking this is the only story in ↑town.=Yih
2
3 git out ↑iv town ip- fah- yih find it ↑isn't the ↓only story, ·hhHH[HH
4
5 Colson: [No it
6
7 ⁴ [i s n' t]
8 []
9 Nixon: [En yet] it is (·) it is a terrible story fer tho:se thet er ↓in the Go:d damn
10
11 thing.↓=Isn' that the problem?
12
13 Colson: Yes sir<
14
15 (0.3)
16
17 Colson: Thet's right, (·) Thet is the prehble[m
18 []
19 Nixon: [Now let's face it it's: tough fer
20
21 Mi↓tchell. It's tough fer Ma↓gruder.=It's tough yihknow,
22
23 Colson: Oh it's he:ll.
24
25 (0.2) (1.0)
26
27 Nixon: [è-
28 []
29 Colson: [It's hell. [There's no quesh'n<]
30 []
31 Nixon: [y'know Dean=the re]st becuz tho:se gu:ys shuh kno:w they
32
33 ⁵ know thet ·hhhh this uh::h this m:ad ma:n ↑ju:dge is hhhh hh hh

³ The up-and-down arrow [↑] indicates an overtone-undertone occurrence.

⁴ Here and elsewhere, when Nixon overlaps Colson, Colson's voice becomes virtually or totally inaudible.

⁵ Probably referring to Judge John J. Sirica, who, according to Lukas (pp.412-14) "proved worthy of his courthouse nickname, 'Maximum John.' To five of the [Watergate] defendants he gave the maximum terms permissible under the law — forty years each to Bernard Barker, Eugenio Martinez, Virgilio Gonzalez, and Frank Sturgis, thirty five years to Howard Hunt. But he made those sentences 'provisional' and said he would review them after three months and after the defendants had had an opportunity to cooperate with other investigators. Although the crimes they had committed were 'sordid, despicable, and thoroughly reprehensible,' he said, they might mitigate their sentences 'if you testify openly and completely...' before the Ervin committee and the grand jury." In a footnote Lukas adds that "Judge Sirica imposed final sentences in November 1973. He gave Gonzalez, Martinez, and Sturgis each one-to-four-year terms, but later ordered them released after they had served a little more than a year. Barker received an eighteen-month to six-year sentence, but Judge Sirica ordered him released after he had served one year. Hunt was given a thirty-month to eight-year sentence and a \$10,000 fine." In the main text, Lukas goes on: "To warn the five men what might happen if they did not cooperate, Judge Sirica gave Gordon Liddy an extraordinarily severe sentence, this one with no provision for review. [Liddy] had remained impassive and utterly uncooperative throughout the trial and the judge plainly intended the sentence — a minimum of six years eight months and a maximum of twenty years — as a stern example of the justice he was prepared to mete out." Lukas quotes a remark of Liddy's: "I really can't be too critical of John Sirica because John Sirica and I think alike. He believes that the end justifies the means. He puts that into practice. He does what is necessary." Lukas then notes: "Some civil libertarians made

1 Colson: Th[at's right.]
2 []
3 Nixon: [>hhaa-aa<] ·hh
4
5 (·)
6 Nixon: Right?
7 (0.2)
8
9 Colson: If it wer'nt fer ↑that it would be: uh:: buh it (·) be a hell'v a lot less iv thè=
10
11 Nixon: =(grk[k] R i : g h t?)
12 []
13 Colson: [less 'v a prah]blem.=But ehv (·) uh- (·) Sure! En it well iz- en ·hh·hh
14
15 heghh eghhh I think it's a terrible diversion from other things. Thet's what
16
17 Colson: buhthers me (e[t this])
18 []
19 Nixon: [↑Oh::.. Tha]t's the point.che ↓know thethhere wē get (0.3)
20
21 wē:'ve (·) we've ↑done great things wē've got greater things tih do in here
22
23 ther ther talkin' abaht this Go:d damn ↑Water↓ga[:te.
24 []
25 Colson: (I)[kno[:w. T h e t ' s :]
26 []=
27 (Ø): [hh-hh-hYuhh.]
28
29 Colson: =Th[et ()
30 []
31 Nixon: [That is↓(r) disgraceful. (1.5)
32
33 (0.3)
34
35 Colson: Well I hedda(b) uh I hedda(b) (0.2) b-It- it i:s. En I hedda press cahnference
36
37 les' night< (·) buhfore this dīnner en I:'d (·) I talked about ·hhhh all the great
38
39 accaplishmints'v this idministr↓ation.= how [w'n you were up here five=
40 []
41 (([thup))

exactly the same point. Joseph L. Rauh, Jr., former national chairman of Americans for Democratic Action, has found it 'ironic that those most opposed to Mr. Nixon's lifetime espousal of ends-justifying-means should now make a hero of a judge who practiced this formula to the detriment of a fair trial for the Watergate Seven.' Chesterfield Smith, president of the American Bar Association, is 'concerned about a federal judge — no matter how worthy his motives or how much we may applaud his results — using the criminal sentencing process as a means and tool for further criminal investigation of others.' And Monroe Freedman, dean of the law school at Hofstra University, says, 'Sirica deserves to be censured for becoming the prosecutor himself.' To such complaints, Judge Sirica calmly replied, 'I don't think we should sit up here like nincompoops. The function of a trial court is to search for the truth.'

1 Colson: =years ago et this [dinner you ·hh·hh the country wiz in flames 'n civ'l ↓war.=
2 [
3 (([thup-pup])
4
5 Colson: =The spirit 'v the country wuuz dep[()
6 [
7 Nixon: [W'z I: there five yearss a↑go:?
8
9 (·)
10
11 Colson: Yes sir. Five yirs ago you did the<
12 |
13 (0.4)
14 (0.5)
15 (Ø): hw[hhhh hwhhhh hmh [pwh °°pt°°
16 [
17 Colson: [uh:(b) [
18 (0.5) [
19 Nixon: ((thoughtfully)) [°↑H_a:h.°
20
21 (0.4)
22
23 Nixon: Where was it- (·) where'd they hold it.=
24
25 Colson: =Et the Statler?h
26
27 (·)
28
29 Colson: è-An:d eh:::<
30
31 (Ø): ·t
32
33 [(sk))
34 [
35 Colson: [yo[u
36 [
37 [((t[k))
38 [
39 Nixon: [↑Qh [yes yes [yes.
40 [
41 Colson: [(y o u : [f_{illed}) the place, en that's when you said I'd rethuh
42
43 be sto:ned it the (Middlesex) Club then stoned in Caracas.=°h_u°
44
45 (·)
46
47 Nixon: hhY_a::h yah >yah yah.<] (2.0)
48]
49 Colson: (w'z) a g]reat spee:ch.=I,
50
51 (0.6)
52
53 Nixon: hhH_a:h,h

1 (·)
2
3 Colson: I wiz with you ind eh:b Charlie Warren my law partner (0.2) now wuuz eh
4
5 (I th[ink)
6 [
7 Nixon: [Yah.
8
9 Colson: the bastard [(with thè)
10 [
11 Nixon: [So you told 'im tha:t?
12
13 (·)
14
15 Colson: [hhhh
16 [
17 Nixon: [En what 'app[↓en:::.=
18 [
19 (Ø): [mhhh [hhhhh
20
21 Colson: =Well (anyways)- I- went ↑through all this les' night.=en: en all the things
22
23 thet'v hepp'n in this country.=the depression in the national spirit.=The way
24
25 you've lifted that thè ·hhh ending of the wa:r. The ending of the ar- uh mean
26
27 slowing of the arms ↓race.=[The r:ecogn[ition of (China)
28 [
29 [((tk)) [((sliding noise))
30
31 (0.6)
32
33 Colson: A different ↑world ↓we live in dihd_{ay}.
34
35 (·)
36
37 Colson: And je[r
38 [
39 Nixon: [°↓Right°
40
41 (·)
42
43 Colson: Yo[u ()
44 [
45 Nixon: [Tha:t's the thin:g th:at's a' way duh tal[k °now°.
46 [
47 Colson: [W'l uh went through ↑awll of
48
49 ↓this:: in the press cahnference.=I did it'n a speech b'd I git- when it (·) I
50
51 did it'n the press cahnference è-an' [(0.2) ·kh (0.4) an' then (et the ensihd)=
52 [
53 (Nixon): [°°hmhh°°

1
2 Colson: =some queshtions on Waterga:te en aa course what's on television las' night (2.5)
3
4 night Watergate. Thehhhh khhihh hheeh ·hh ↑That's what ma[kes yih sɔ med]
5 []=
6 (Nixon): [°hmh-hm-hm°]
7
8 Colson: =yih'd like tih be able? ·hhhh ·k·t tih git out en [en
9 []
10 Nixon: [I kno:w,
11 (·)
12
13 Nixon: hh[mhhhh
14 []
15 Colson: [hammer a↑wa·y et uh:
16
17 Nixon: ·tl· yhhey[awhhhh
18 []
19 Colson: [et- what ik- wuu-ih [dis wuu
20 []
21 Nixon: [Ah ↑wonder if youu would sit down I: to:ld
22
23 uh,hhhhmhhh Bob Hal'uhmun Ehrlichmin this tuhday thet I,h (·) Chuck
24
25 it'd be good fer everybody ih do it ·hhh id din ih giss I'd let uhr:write yer
26
27 precis ez tuh (·) ·hhhh (0.3) what the hell: how you see this thin::g (·)
28
29 unfolding en how we should handle ↓it che know i[f (it eh)]
30 []
31 Colson: [Yes sir] (3.0)
32
33 Nixon: ·hhhh
34
35 Colson: [()
36 []
37 Nixon: [(ehd juh) I'm sure you've th:ought abaht it becuz you see (0.2) ·pt·h
38
39 with everybody going off in iz own direction that's (0.2) that's not ↓good
40
41 bu[t ·hhh whatchu really gotta come down to is t 'say nowh (0.2) hwhat=
42 []
43 Colson: [No,
44
45 Nixon: _____ =in the hell duh we ↑do ↓here. °°·hhh °° Yih see?
46 |
47 (Colson)(0.6) °°hn nygh.°°
48 |
49 Colson: _____ [·khh
50 []
51 Nixon: [Becuz uh[: ↓ : : : :] ah=I uh< mghh:m·t·hhh ah I think (·) I think,=
52 []
53 (Colson): [(Aabsolutely).]

- 1 Nixon: =thet the w:ors' ↓thing.=is fer us all duh get so ob↑sessed with it thet
2
3 we think it's the only story in town.=That's what the press wa:nts?=it's
4
5 what the deh ·t·hhhh 't's w't Er::vin wa:↑:nts?=in the part'v the
6
7 nD↑emo↓cra:t[s.=b u t]
8
9 Colson: [That's r]igh[t.
10
11 Nixon: [t good ↑God it's ↓a: (0.2) terrible mistake
12
13 (0.3)
14
15 Colson: ·hnh[h
16
17 Nixon: [Ha[h? (3.5)
18
19 Colson: [Weh-
20
21 (·)
22
23 Colson: I[t is (wuh)]
24
25 Nixon: [Wuh dih you] think it the _bmoment.=
26
27 Colson: _____ =No thet's precisely (h)wh(h)at I think.=My view is thet it's a
28
29 (·)
30 (0.9)
31 (Ø): _____ ·p ·t t-t[u
32
33 Colson: _____ [↑My view ↓i::s that we should (0.8) deci::de on what
34
35 (0.4) °°((dup-p dup))°°
36
37 Colson: _____ the [p la : : n :] oughta ↓be:. ·h Everybuddy follow it,
38
39 ([klak dluk])
40
41 (0.7) (0.4)
42
43 (Ø): _____ mhhh [wh
44
45 Colson: _____ [and
46
47 (0.7) ((°°bzt°° thhp))
48
49 Colson: _____ ((liquid swallow)) gWhatever it ↓is. Whatever the decision i:[s thet has tih=
50
51 Nixon: [°_{gh}M_{gh}hm,°
52
53 Colson: =be made I feel a decision hastih be made.=I think thit (0.7) thet uh (·) th't

- 1 Colson: wir **thist-** ↑wir this (0.2) Watergate is hurting us Mister President is not with
2
3 the man in the street 'ee jis doesn' give a damn.
4
5 (0.2)
6
7 Colson: ·khhhh
8
9 Nixon: °U[h huh?°]
10 []
11 Colson: [I n h e] really fr[ankl]y doesn't see much wro:ng with eh
12 []
13 Nixon: [W'l]
14
15 Nixon: Well it's the elite.hhhh: (4.0)
16
17 Colson: It's with the elite but it eh but the- the(p) the ↑wors' place it i:s is with the
18
19 ↑Party people.
20
21 (·)
22
23 Colson: (n[a a w a h n i v t h e])
24 []
25 Nixon: [At's what uh mean ↓thè] mBy the elite (·) I: [mean ·hhuh the finnance::=
26 []
27 (Colson): [(hhh/hhknow)
28
29 Nixon: =contri**bu**tor::s 'n all tho[se ↓ass'o:[les:.
30 [] []
31 Colson: [That's (·) [Precisel[y
32 []
33 Nixon: [That's right.
34
35 (·)
36
37 Colson: That's right.
38
39 Nixon: ·t·hhh
40
41 Colson: That's [right,
42 []
43 Nixon: [I: sometimes think it dhh'zn't ↓ma:tter enehwee cuuz ther:: never,h
44
45 very strong anyway
46
47 Colson: °·hhh° Well: that's right except theh-eh-ih- i-ixceh-
48
49 Nixon: ⁶ That's why the Armstro::ngs en ·hhh an' the Gol'wahters pop off.h

⁶ (a) Armstrong??

(b) Barry Goldwater, Republican Senator for Arizona, ran for President against Lyndon Johnson in 1964; considered an 'extremist', one of his campaign slogans was "In your heart you know he's right." By the time of

1 (0.2)
2
3 Colson: Well- it's nut- they're not stro:ng for iss but
4
5 (·)
6
7 Nixon: ·t=
8
9 Colson: =but it's a [(t)it's a hell iv a depressint when they're not with iss. I mean=
10 []
11 Nixon: [·pup
12
13 Colson: =it's eh (0.7) I agree with yih thet theh not [worth a hell iv a lot,h
14 []
15 Nixon: [°°·t°°
16
17 ((thu[p])
18 []
19 Nixon: [°I know.°=
20
21 Colson: =Perfic'ly [hones'. But] But th[ey ()
22 [] []
23 Nixon: °[Right. Right.]° [I: know I know butchu gotta have'm I
24
25 know. ·h[hhi]oh (4.5)
26 []
27 Colson: [Yeh. Ther bed tuh [hev a- gains[t ('ss)
28 [] []
29 (([thup)) (([thup))
30 []
31 Nixon: [That's a' very thing thet deestroyed
32
33 ⁷ Adam:s yuh know.=It was[n't thē]: ih wuuz it wasn't thē ·hhhhh 'mean poor=
34 []
35 Colson: ([])
36
37 Nixon: ⁸ =Adams didn' do a damn thi↑:ng?=but gmBridges? (0.2) plus the party elite?=
38
39 knocked his ↑ass ↓o:ff.
40
41 (0.2)
42
43 Colson: ·khh Well I go ba(·)ck I: heftuh go ba:ck I'm afrai:d uh (0.2) Mister President

the Watergate affair, Goldwater “had come to be regarded as the Republican elder” and “the leading right-wing voice” (Emery, p.411 and p.438). In none of my resources do I find reference to anything that might be called ‘popping off’ until much later; e.g., on November 12, 1973, when some of the subpoena’d tapes turned up missing, Goldwater “...said that Nixon’s credibility ‘had reached an all-time low from which he may not be able to recover.’” (Emery, p.411).

⁷ Sherman Adams had been White House chief of staff under President Dwight D. Eisenhower until 1958 when Eisenhower sent his Vice President, Richard Nixon, and then Attorney General William Rogers to tell him that he was fired. He’d been accused of accepting gifts in exchange for influence from textile manufacturer Bernard Goldfine (sources: Lukas pp.426 and 584, and Dean p.110 n).

⁸ Bridges?

- 1 Colson: to thè (0.9) tuh the point thet I've- I've made tih you: (0.4) back in January.=en
2
3 that is thet (·) ·t·hh (·) ↑if theh was someone (0.2) invu:lved. En I don't (0.2)
4
5 tI've never kno:wn. uh:::
6
7 (0.3)
8
9 Nixon: °Mmh_hm?h° (5.0)
10
11 (0.5)
12
13 Colson: °↓euh: I- uh ehh↓°
14
15 Nixon: He oughta come forward.h=
16
17 Colson: =Et this point 'ee needs ↓to.=Becuz
18
19 ((thip))
20
21 Nixon: [Th't's ri:ght,]
22 []
23 (Ø): [hmhh hmhh]hmh[hh-hh
24 []
25 Colson: [What's gunnuh hhappen ↓i:s thi<
26
27 (0.6)
28
29 Colson: Ap[parentl]y he's gunnuh be
30 []
31 Nixon: [Right?]
32
33 Nixon: t [hmhhhh
34 []
35 Colson: [ih-he's gunnuh be found out.h (end thit)
36
37 Nixon: 'T's right.h
38
39 Colson: B't in the prociss. though- uh-it's guhnnoo:: it's gunnuh t̩:r (0.4) thin:gs fih
40
41 you:, ən' it's goyn to
42
43 Nixon: hmhh[hhh
44 []
45 Colson: [·tch (0.3) uh: (0.3) frankly it's ih ih: theh'll be ↑othuh thin:[gs falling=
46 []
47 Nixon: [hmhh
48
49 Colson: =out thet'r perfic'ly (0.2) innocint 'n harmliss but u[h
50 []
51 Nixon: [hmhh ↓Mm:hm.
52 []
53 Colson: [viewed in

- 1 Colson: the contex' ↑nɔ:w my: God theh'll put 'em up before a ↑firing squohd.=
2
3 Nixon: =That's right.
4
5 Colson: ·hh The ↑thing you wanna do is >·h-·h-·h< hē-e_{gh}hh it seems tuh me[:. (5.5)
6 [_____
7 Nixon: [Yeah<
8
9 Nixon: all of the lih- [(—0.4—)] all: of a' perfic'ly legitimate but hhhard ↓li:ne?
10 [_____
11 (([tleek kluh]))
12
13 Nixon: ·t[·h h h an:d campaign activities?=appear duh be: uh:: °mhh° espionadge=
14 [_____
15 Colson: [Right.
16
17 Nixon: =er ↑sabo↓ta:ge.=Well God dammit they're ↑not
18
19 Colson: Butche see thet'll (0.2) That'll [b e t h e case-]
20 [_____
21 Nixon: [That's the point.]
22
23 Colson: Uh that's [wuuz th'[c a s e t h e t]
24 [_____
25 Nixon: [·hhhh [But the point i]s somebuddy's gotta step up but who the
26
27 hell's gonna ↑do ↓thet.=ikhh hh[uh heh huh] ·hhh
28 [_____
29 Colson: [Well that was the case theh thet w'z the
30
31 9 point thet Dave Shapiro made eh (·) couple a' months ago ā: (·) ā
32
33 (0.2)
34
35 Nixon: °hAhyah°
36
37 (0.2)
38 Colson: brilliant trial lawyer he said look youhh ·hhhhh There's a thime in every case
39
40 win you: uh(b) (·) simply iv gutta cut cher lawsiss.=he sid 'n you
41 |
42 |
43 (Nixon) (0.7) °°·hhhhhh°°
44 |
45 Colson: othuhwise zher gunnuh get (6.0)

⁹ David Shapiro, Colson's partner in the law firm Colson and Shapiro. Barry Sussman in his book *The Great Cover-up* (p.151n), describes Shapiro as "a successful attorney in his own right, and one who had defended civil rights causes and people who were the subject of witchhunts in the early 1950's during the era of McCarthyism. After Colson joined him, Shapiro became deeply involved in trying to extricate his new partner from the Watergate mess." And it seems that Shapiro had become Colson's "new partner" very recently. Lukas (p.396), recounting a meeting between Hunt and Shapiro on or about March 16, 1973 (as part of Hunt's quest for money he felt had been promised him), refers there to Shapiro as "Colson's new law partner".

1 Nixon: | °°Yhhahh°°
 2 (0.7)
 3 | ((pt))
 4 |
 5 Colson: | ih-ih thih- (0.2) in the eɹ:n:d. (·) the real ↓problem.
 6 |
 7 Nixon: (0.4) mhhhhm[h
 8 |
 9 Colson: | [it will be the fallout from a lot of othuh thin:gs thet cher not even
 10
 11 antici↓pating ri[ght now]
 12 |]
 13 Nixon: [hhhYha]:h?
 14
 15 (0.2)
 16
 17 Colson: End ih
 18
 19 Nixon: 'T's ↓true.
 20
 21 Colson: I'm a[fraid thet's::hhh [-hheehh hhhh
 22 []
 23 (([krrrk)) (([krllrk))
 24
 25 Colson: That's wher I would haftuh come out if::[
 26 []
 27 (([thup))
 28
 29 Nixon: Well *the* finger et the present ti:me,mh[h hon°fortunately puh-°[(- 0.2-)]
 30 []
 31 (Ø): (([gmhh)) (([gmhh:~?]))
 32
 33 Nixon: =puh- [(-0.2)-] ·k goe:s tuh the: campaign c'mmittee doesn' i[t,°
 34 [] []
 35 (Ø): (([↓mghh])) []
 36 []
 37 Colson: | [Yes sir
 38 |
 39 Nixon: | ·p·k
 40 (1.0)
 41 | ((pk k-p))
 42 |
 43 Colson: | Very much so.
 44
 45 Nixon: °Yih think thet's a:ccur't?t'hh°
 46
 47 Colson: There's just a hell iv a lot of (0.2) c:ircumsteantial evidence.=thet's building
 48
 49 Colson: | awfully fa:st, e[nd eh
 50 []
 51 | (([pt-t))
 52 |
 53 (0.7) (0.4)

1 | ((duup))
2 |
3 Colson: | | they're all (0.3) jumping ship over there yihknow the lower levels er all
4 |
5 | tawking dih [different reporter:ss in it's
6 | [|
7 | °((([dup dipip]))° |
8 | [|
9 Nixon: | [h-Are they? (6.5)
10 |
11 | (0.3)
12 |
13 Colson: Ye[s↓s i r.]
14 | [|
15 Nixon: [Mhm?]
16 |
17 Colson: ·t·h·h (0.2) An' i[t('s)
18 | [|
19 Nixon: [Whuh they saying.hh
20 |
21 | (0.2)
22 |
23 |
24 Colson: ↑Oh:: (·) they're poin'ing fingers everybuddy'ss ixcept thet,h (0.3) yihknow
25 |
26 | whoever is (·) tawking dih the puticular reporter (0.2) isn't pointing it
27 |
28 | 'im↑se:lf, but othuhw(hh)ise (h)he's p(h)oi'ng (h)et everybuddy else·hhhh
29 |
30 Nixon: ¹⁰ hmhhhh
31 |
32 Colson: ¹¹ Uh(b) (0.2) dI've (0.2) developed, since I lef' the [White Heus=s'm (0.2) ·tch=
33 | [|
34 Nixon: [hmhh
35 |
36 Colson: ¹² kinda new in
37 |
38 | (0.6)
39 |
40 Nixon: mh[hhh
41 | [|
42 Colson: [useful: in[telligence]
43 | [|
44 Nixon: [contac's] ri[ght,
45 | [|
46 Colson: [(lines), thet I didn::'t (·) know ex↑isted in Washington
47 |

¹⁰ Here and elsewhere, Nixon's "mh" is not laughter; it's an outbreath with his mouth close to the telephone.

¹¹ Colson joined the White House staff as a special counsel in November 1969, left in February 1973 to take up his private law practice half a block down Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House, and was appointed an unpaid White House consultant. (Emery, p.242).

¹² Unless otherwise indicated, words like 'new', 'due', etc. are pronounced "noo", "doo", etc.

- 1 Colson: e[n 't's very interesting I (0.6) [know everybuddy who walks in in out'v=
2 [] []
3 Nixon: [mh^{hh} []
4 []
5 (([dipdup))
6
7 Colson: ¹³ =Jack An[duhsin's ↑awffice ri[ght]
8 [] []
9 Nixon: [mh^h []
10 []
11 []
12 Nixon: [Good
13
14 Nixon: hnhThat's good?hnh
15
16 (0.4)
17
18 Colson: This is fr'm:: (0.3) cooptin:g a few people like eh (0.7) Shapiro end eh
19
20 Nixon: g↑Mhm?= ((sounds hollow, as if, e.g., he's got a cup or glass raised to his lips))
21
22 Colson: =one er two iv his [friends? °↓heh°
23 []
24 Nixon: [°pteep°
25
26 Nixon: °klp [p l e e-d e e p°]
27 []
28 Colson: [They're now on] ar [team (h)'n hnh [cuz a'] this we (·) we find out=
29 [] []
30 Nixon: [°pluup° [Good?]
31
32 Colson: =a lot thet [we didn' knowh buhf(h)ore he[h heh ·hhh ·h]h
33 [] []
34 []
35 []
36 Nixon: [Ri:ght, well,]
37
38 Colson: But uh(b) (·) e^{kh}h ↓ay the↓ My only (·) my olih ↓ih wuh↓ yI'm gunnuh geh-
39
40 ¹⁴ uh John ↓called me duhnight'n told me he wannid a preceee yihknow I=
41
42 Nixon: _____ =That's right.
43 |
44 (Nixon) (0.5) °·t·hh kl[uh°
45 | []
46 Colson: _____ [I've: gutche(t) (0.3) three of'em,=

¹³ Nixon's communications director Herb Klein, in a Memorandum to the President of September 22, 1969, suggested that Nixon consider including columnist Jack Anderson in their "media meetings" even though he was among those "who have sometimes criticized us in the past", because "this guy also needs sources desperately to make a living, and his column is still the largest in the country." (Safire, p.347). Ehrlichman (p.25) refers to Anderson as one of Nixon's "deadliest foes".

¹⁴ Probably John Ehrlichman

- 1 Colson: =h[uh::(b)mhh (0.5) ↓guh (·) thet ah'm gunnuh come over en see [John=
2 [[hh
3 Nixon: [hmhhh [·hh
4
5 Nixon: [hhh
6 =[
7 Colson: [with tihmorrow they're=
8
9 Nixon: =nYah [·hhh See wih wanna get (·) ih-hi::s in yerss-
10 [[hh
11 Colson: [they
12
13 (·)
14
15 Colson: Right.=
16
17 Nixon: =Apart fr'm ↓me.=Begiz I em not s'p- ·hhhh hhI've ↓really gotta ten'duh
18
19 the business a' the country yih know.=I[: j i s t c a]n't git ·hhhh (7.5)
20 [[hh
21 Colson: [Qh no you]
22
23 (·)
24
25 (Colson): [()-
26 [[hh
27 Nixon: [I duh- I'm tryin' tih keep people from:: keep'n me out a' the God damn
28
29 ↓thing yuh know becuz I know nothing about it.hhgh ·hh<
30
31 Colson: No?=thet's [r i [:ght,]
32 [[hh
33 Nixon: ['T's [part] a' the ↑probuhm.
34
35 (·)
36
37 Colson: No?=thet's exac'ly right I (·)dI sh[ould]
38 [[hh
39 Nixon: [So the]y all: (·) c-come: crowding in in
40
41 say look what'll we ↑do ↓en I sid ↑well (·) God dammit find ↑out.
42
43 (0.2)
44
45 Colson: Mm:hm
46
47 (0.4)
48
49 Colson: Thet's right.=
50
51 Nixon: =Don'shu 'gree,
52
53 Colson: Yes sir I think you should- (1.1) mean I, tuh-I'm the one fellow thet c'n

- 1 (Nixon): hhhhh
2
3 Colson: attes' tuh ↑that I remember (0.2) tawking t'you the week ↑efter.=You
4
5 were iz (0.2) you were horrified ah min this it (0.2) [This is something thit
6 [(Thess not thē)
7 Nixon:
8
9 Nixon: ·khhhh [hhYhhah]
10 []
11 Colson: [should no]t [be (8.0)
12 []
13 Nixon: [Well I
14
15 (·)
16
17 Colson: shou[ld not kincern you any↓way [ah mean
18 []
19 Nixon: [ih- [Look-uh- (0.2) diss is disn' a quesh'n
20
21 15 whether I w'z horrified=not ah didn' know abaht i[t.=But uh,]h[h
22 [] []
23 Colson: [No I mean] [suhpri↓:sed
24
25 ess è-[(ess)
26 []
27 Nixon: [sudbiddinly [tsit wiz u]n: unbelievable thet uh:,hahh that such stupidity=
28 []
29 Colson: ([tshuuriss])
30
31 Nixon: =k- (·) coulda been committid but [·t·hhh [all of us felt that weh?
32 [] []
33 Colson: [Well, [it
34
35 (·)
36
37 Colson: It wiz all (·) it was['v (·) cour[se
38 [] []
39 (([dk)) []
40 []
41 Nixon: [·hhheyehh
42
43 Colson: I uh think you should keep outta this b'd I thee: thē (·) the biggest negative.=tih
44
45 Wautuhgate, (·) in my mi:n[d, ihyuhee uhventually, (0.2) it's gunnuh come ou'=
46 []
47 Nixon: [hmhhhmhhh
48
49 Colson: =uh ih thez jes' too dem many peeple invu:lved.
50
51 (0.5)

¹⁵ In standard orthography “whether I w’z horrified=not” would be shown as “whether I was horrified or not”.

- 1 Nixon: Oh sure. The whole God damn ↑story's gunnuh ↓come out.
- 2
- 3 Colson: The whole story's gunnuh come out. (8.5)
- 4
- 5 (·)
- 6
- 7 Colson: An(·)d therefore I come dih the c'nclusion thet [(we)
- 8 [
- 9 Nixon: [get it out fast.=
- 10
- 11 Colson: =Get it out 'n get it get it owuh with en: cut off these hearin:gs 'n stop
- 12
- 13 this=
- 14
- 15 Nixon: =h^{mh}[h^{mh}
- 16 [
- 17 Colson: [this: farce th'ts going on ·hhhhh en ↑let's start reminding the American
- 18
- 19 people of thē (0.2) ix[:↑trordinary accamplishmints [thitchu]
- 20 []
- 21 (([dup)) []
- 22 Nixon: ([Th'ts r't?])
- 23
- 24 (0.9)
- 25
- 26 Colson: thetchu performed in this country: yih know I hed s:↑o many ↓people. come
- 27
- 28 up tih me les' night eftih the dinner in say yihknow thank God. that's it's it's
- 29
- 30 great tuh put it all back in pers↑pective. Becuuz they ·hhhhhh hē-eghh hend
- 31
- 32 (·) en ↑that's awl thet [er
- 33 [
- 34 (([dup))
- 35
- 36 Nixon: They tend dih get all ↓tied up with this ↑cr_{gh}ap h^{mh}[h^h
- 37 [
- 38 Colson: [Exac'ly. En ar fellas
- 39
- 40 should be out in ar(p) (0.3) people should be out eh (0.4) beingk (0.2) damned
- 41
- 42 ↑upbeat [I:, I think i[t's]
- 43 []
- 44 (([dup)) (([tdl[p))
- 45 [
- 46 Nixon: [Becuz after a:ll ·hhuh (0.2) sure ↓we got s'm infla:tian.=
- 47
- 48 but there's a< (0.2) this is (·) the God damn ↑boo:m is unbe↑lievable. (9.0)
- 49
- 50 (·)
- 51
- 52 Nixon: hYihknow it's m:ovih- this country's ↑movin' ↓right now.↓
- 53

- 1 Colson: kQh I hed a meeting with awl the bankers in Bawston tihday. [This wiz one=
2 [
- 3 Nixon: [hhmyahh
- 4
- 5 Colson: =iv the reasons I stayed up?=en I'd (·) never heard anything like it.
- 6
- 7 Nixon: °°hhOh[hya[h^{°°}
- 8 [[
- 9 Colson: [·t·hh [They're (0.4) they're p-course thehr concern' with inflation.=
- 10
- 11 but th[ih
- 12 [
- 13 Nixon: [Well of ↓course but the[y↓ they preFE]R a BOOM with inflation,
- 14 [[
- 15 Colson: [°(but many)°]
- 16
- 17 Nixon: ·h^{mh}·HAHH the[n in-]
- 18 []
- 19 Colson: [(d e]e[d]
- 20 [
- 21 Nixon: [then in:flation an' depreh- de↑pression.
- 22
- 23 Colson: °↓Yeh.°=They don't see any recession ahead<
- 24
- 25 (0.5)
- 26
- 27 Colson: at awl.
- 28
- 29 (·) (9.5)
- 30
- 31 Colson: Ne[xt year er the year after they jus' think wi'r in one a' the great (·) uplifting=
32 [
- 33 (([dihdonk))
- 34
- 35 Colson: =cycles?=They think you've im (0.8) increase' productively like uh:: hez never
36
- 37 happened be[fore:?=thetchu [uh ·p·hhh (0.3) innuhnation'l monetary ection:s=
38 [[
- 39 Nixon: [·p [tp
- 40
- 41 Colson: =were (0.2) very hel- (·) healthy internally: thet uh
42
- 43 (0.3)
- 44
- 45 Nixon: ↓hMmh[h^m.↓
- 46 [
- 47 Colson: [thih the (·) puhriod ev sestai:ned ixpansion hed ↑I think the country's
48
- 49 in (0.3) °eh in:° great ↑shape.h end eh ·hhh< ·t·h That's what kills me about<
50
- 51 (0.3) sitting arou:nd

- 1 Nixon: khmkh[hh
2 [
- 3 Colson: [wɹɪŋɪŋ ar [hɛndz en (pre)h-)
4 []
- 5 Nixon: [g r o u s i n : g] That's right everybuddy i:s sɔrt'v in a
6
- 7 Nixon: bo:mb ↓shelter et the present ti[me en then] s:: yih know: sorta?h ·hahhh
8 []
- 9 Colson: (Mm[hɪm en then]) (10.0)
- 10
- 11 Nixon: Well I duh- I-I- eeyihh kn(h)ow what ah mhhean.·t·hhh they kinda say oh
12
- 13 good Gɒd wudduh we gunnuh ↑dɒ=↓Wɛ:ll. u-u-u- ·hhh (0.2) hhuh-↓uh:::
14
- 15 ¹⁶ we mʌsn't ↑dɒ that. We just it's li(·)ke it's like I.T.T.: it-look we tuu(0.2)k
16
- 17 three months worryin' ↓about it.↓=Didn't mean a ↓Go:d da:mn θɪŋ [·hh
18 [
- 19 Colson: [Nɒ?
20
- 21 Nixon: Watergate is ↓wor::se. becuz it inyo:lves some ɒf ar- closiss ↓people.
22
- 23 ·wh[h h h h h h
24 [
- 25 Colson: [Thet's right,
26
- 27 (·)
28
- 29 Nixon: But,h what the hell we ↑dɒ about 'em I don' ↑knɔ:w,
30
- 31 Colson: Well,h lee (·) ɛkhh hI think<
32
- 33 (0.3)
34
- 35 Nixon: ____ ↑Cɔ:rsɪ (·) I.T.↑T in↓vo:lved Mɪtʃəl?
36 |

¹⁶ International Telephone and Telegraph: According to Lukas (pp.247-48) "On February 29 Jack Anderson's column quoted from a confidential ITT interoffice memo admitting that the \$400,000 it had committed for the Republican convention had been part of a deal for settlement of the Justice Department's antitrust suit against it. The memo was allegedly written on June 25, 1971, by Dita Beard, an ITT lobbyist, to William Merriam, head of the corporation's Washington office. . . . Anderson charged bluntly that the antitrust case had been 'fixed,' and 'the fix was a payoff for ITT's pledge of up to \$400,000.' Mitchell and ITT immediately denied this, but the furor it and subsequent Anderson columns caused led to renewed Senate Judiciary Committee hearings on the confirmation of Richard Kleindienst to replace Mitchell as attorney general." (Emery's account (p.101) adds detail to this: "Kleindienst, who had just been through sticky nomination hearings as Mitchell's successor, demanded that they be reopened to clear his name. That, as Nixon admitted later, was a mistake. It fueled the flames.") Lukas continues, "The President's men regarded Anderson's revelations as the most serious threat yet to Nixon's re-election, and responded with all the single-minded determination that they had brought to such threats in the past. A 'task force' — including Ehrlichman, Colson, Dean, Mardian; Fred Fielding, Dean's assistant; Richard A. Moore, a special counsel to the President; and Wallace Johnson, special assistant to the President for legislative affairs — began meeting regularly in Ehrlichman's office to monitor the resumed Kleindienst hearings, coordinate activities with ITT, and generally try to limit the damage caused by the disclosure."

1 | (·)
2 (0.5)
3 (Ø): | hmhhh
4 |
5 Nixon: |¹⁷ Flannigin:?
6 |
7 (0.2)
8 |
9 Colson: Yup, hh
10 |
11 (0.6)
12 |
13 Nixon: Who else. °huh[h^h°
14 |
15 Colson: [·hhhh (·) ↑Well thez ehp Mitch[ell
16 |
17 Nixon: [Kleindienst? (10.5)
18 |
19 (·)
20 |
21 Colson: ih Kleindienst(·)tuh:: (0.5) (uh[thuz could free]ze) [a lot'v ↑othuh ↓peo[ple.=
22 | [(h e e w u f f?)] [·hhh [·hh
23 Nixon: [·hhh
24 |
25 Colson: [(which eh)
26 =
27 Nixon: [Huh!
28 |
29 (1.1)
30 |
31 Colson: An' they, en that wiz a hell iv a sensa:tion front page every day eh eh- i-it (0.2)
32 |
33 it (·) it jus(·)t, hhh! (0.6) °°it°° [y'know it just doesn't effect the: è-[how the=
34 | [()-
35 Nixon: [khhh
36 |
37 Nixon: [Yeah<
38 =
39 Colson: | [everage guy is living iz life en that's eh
40 |
41 ((dp dup))
42 (0.9)
43 | (0.4)

¹⁷ Peter M. Flanagan, assistant to the President for international affairs (source: The White House Transcripts, 'Who's Who', p. 807). Lukas does not mention Flanagan by reference to the ITT affair; describes him as "the White House official directly charged with screening ambassadorial candidates" and recounts his involvement in dealings with various ambassadorial candidates (pp.185-85). Emery doesn't mention Flanagan at all. Ehrlichman describes Flanagan as an early Nixon loyalist (p.21), does not mention him in his fleeting reference to the ITT affair (p.295). Safire (p.27) describes him as "a hard-working investment banker and Old Nixon Hand from the '60 campaign".

- 1 Colson: ____ That's *what's* import'nt.h uh mean that's *what they*< (0.4) th[ehr not g'nna (want)]
 2 []
 3 Nixon: [Yeh a h : I t h i n k]
 4
 5 there's a (0.2) tendency °fer ever'body ih get obsessed with Wahtergate iz being 'et
 6
 7 this sut'v thing is gonna destro:y the presidih↓cy yihknow this is the sort a' the ·h·h
 8
 9 ¹⁸ view of the·h hhahhRay Pri:ce en::d ·hhh that kinda group yihknow what ah mean.
 10
 11 him en it- Oh[: they] say↓ this is this this gun' destro:y the presidency >so wut<
 12 []
 13 Colson: [Well-]
 14
 15 (0.2) (11.0)
 16
 17 Nixon: They may be ↑right.[·hhhh
 18 []
 19 Colson: [No it isn't goyna [Mister Presid'nt.
 20 []
 21 Nixon: [h h h h
 22
 23 Nixon: ·hhh But ih but if they (h)are (h)right (0.2) the (·) country's in a hell iv a
 24
 25 ↑shape.=
 26
 27 Colson: =That's right.
 28
 29 (·)
 30
 31 Colson: eydih but, yih but theh [not right [()
 32 [] []
 33 Nixon: [·hhh [When you stop tuh think a' the fact thet
 34
 35 ·hhhhh thet thet thet (0.3) thet (·) the Adams thing, which involved- p^hers'nl

¹⁸ Raymond K. Price, introduced by Safire (p. 10) as formerly a New York *Herald Tribune* editorial writer, became one of Nixon's "three senior writers (along with Safire and Patrick Buchanan), working on his speeches, messages, and remarks (p.99. Safire goes on to describe Price as "the liberal" of the three; "introverted", with a "lyrical" style of writing (p.100). It was Price who drafted the statement that accompanied the release of the (June 23, 1972) 'smoking gun' tape (see, e.g., Emery pp.464-65 and Lukas, pp. 746-47, 748-49, 756-57). Lukas (pp 746-47) recounts Price's reaction to the transcripts: '..."when I saw the actual conversations on Friday evening I thought they were even worse than [Alexander Haig, Nixon's new chief of staff, had] told me. I knew the case was lost. I thought the President ought to resign as quickly as possible. . .It would be nice to claim great moral outrage but I didn't feel it. In fact, I felt the President had done me a favor in not telling me about this. Not — as some people have suggested — because it was easier for me to write his speeches for him, but because I think that if the President had told me what was really going on, I might have joined the cover-up and gone to jail. Like others at the White House, I felt that Nixon was engaged in a very delicate process designed to establish a new structure of world peace. I thought it was very important that he prevail. And I might well have concluded that obstruction of justice was a lot less serious than nuclear war.'" Price also drafted Nixon's resignation speech (see, e.g., Lukas, pp. 762-63, 768).

- 1 Nixon: vinalidy m- uh-did[n't (0.2) nobody even re↑members ↓Adams tuhda:y, ·hh[hhh=
2 [[Yah,
3 Colson: [M↑hm
4
5 Nixon: =hh But this (0.3) which involves buhlit'ic'l:: crappin' arou:n',
6
7 ((dup))
8
9 Nixon: hAh duhknow.
10
11 Colson: ·kh Yihknow the damnable part about this is it has a ketchy name like Teapot
12
13 ¹⁹ Dome.=
14
15 Colson: =En so every[(body's) saying it's,h ·h [Watergate'n Teapot Dome.=
16 [[Yah,
17 Nixon: [eYah
18 [[(([tllok))
19
20
21 Colson: =now- ·hh·hh (·) I pI esst a whole- (0.2) group a' people: earliuh this ↑week,h
22
23 who c'n tell me th[e fa:c's a' the Teapot Do:[me case.=Nobuddy cant.
24 [[(([kank))
25 [[[mkhhmhhh
26
27 Nixon: [mkhhmhhh
28
29 (0.3)
30
31 Colson: But they remembuh that na:[me. En they will reme]mber the Go:d damn=
32 [[[↓T h a : : t ' s right↓]
33 Nixon: [↓T h a : : t ' s right↓]
34
35 Colson: =Wohter↓gate name.↓ Adams uu:h,h ·h [hh! ·h] yihknow he's one fella.=
36 [[[neYah.]
37 Nixon: [neYah.]
38
39 Colson: =so thet sawt of (0.3) it [c'n be pa:ssed awf<·hhh But the(p) (0.2) m t- I=
40 [[Ri:?'?
41 Nixon: [Ri:?'?

¹⁹ Teapot Dome was a scandal involving high government officials in the Warren Harding Administration (1921-23), Albert B. Fall, secretary of the interior, persuaded President Harding to transfer the administration of the U.S. naval petroleum reserves from the secretary of the navy to Fall's department. In secret negotiations without competitive bidding, Fall issued leases which granted certain companies exclusive right to oil and gas at the Teapot Dome reserve, Wyoming, and the Elk Hills and Buena Vista Hills reserves, California. A Congressional investigation and resolution (1924) revealed that Fall had received more than \$200,000 in Liberty bonds from companies benefiting by the leases. The Supreme Court ruled the contracts fraudulent and in a criminal actoin Fall was convicted of bribery. (*The New International Webster's Dictionary of the English Language, Deluxe Encyclopedic Edition*, 1995)

1 Colson: _____ =↑think thẽ *i*-[i- uuh- the [t^herribly import'n ↓point i:s,
2 | [|
3 Nixon: [°°k^hm<°° [|
4 | [|
5 | (([dk))
6 (0.9)
7 |
8 (0.3)
9 |
10 (Ø) *ghu^hh*k-
11 |
12 (·)
13 |
14 Colson: _____ Wohtergate is not gunnuh destroy the Presid'ncy becuuz evensh'lly the fa:c's
15 |
16 w'l come ↑ou:t.=They heftuh
17 (0.6)
18 (Nixon) °·Yehhright°
19 |
20 Colson: _____ Once they ↑come out, (0.8) ez long iz, hh (0.7) someone takes action.
21 |
22 (Nixon) °°(howey)°°
23 (0.9)
24 (0.4)
25 |
26 Colson: _____ Then it's g'nnuh be fs- then it's gunnuh be: (0.8) mean yih can't keep the:n
27 |
28 taw↓king about the↓ God ↓damn thing.↓ (12.0)
29 |
30 Nixon: ·hhhh Someone takes action.=You mean against uhhh whhho:. ·hh
31 |
32 Nixon: [Who-]
33 []
34 Colson: [Well] whoever (·) whoever
35 |
36 Nixon: ·h Whoever did it?
37 |
38 Colson: Yep,
39 |
40 (0.6)
41 |
42 Nixon: eyYghah?
43 |
44 (1.2)
45 |
46 Nixon: ²⁰ [W'l that's [pree tough.hh]
47 [[]
48 Colson: [(Don't see [any other gidz)]
49 |
50 (0.8)
51 |

²⁰ In standard orthography “pree tough” would be shown as “pretty tough”.

1 Colson: Thet's::: (0.2) yihknow when (·) when that happens? well then: (·) then: (·)
2
3 thet's the end a' the s- thet's the end a' the story.
4 |
5 (Nixon) (0.6) °°·Yhhe-·hhh°°
6 |
7 Colson: | hè-eghh Then yi'd have a complete defense ↓to: uh
8
9 Nixon: ·hhh Course they're not jus: ' gunnuh stò:p ↓there. They're gunnuh go on dih
10
11 21 Sigretti,h which is jus' crap.hh hEz you knò:w. ·h[hh
12 |
13 Colson: [(Who the k_i[d.h)
14 |
15 Nixon: [But we
16
17 oughta be defens- u-we oughta just take the atta:ck on that'n say fer Chri:' (12.5)
18
19 sakes what about burning down ar head ↓quarters in all that sorta thing
20
21 ·h[hhh
22 |
23 Colson: [Oh ebs'[l u t e l y]
24 |
25 Nixon: [And and] appara'tely ·hhh uh:: gb kh'n I've tò:ld a:lso yer (·)
26
27 ↓er (·) deh- them dih get't °eh- 'nd° eh-eh-en touch with you: cuz ·hhh
28
29 22 Bucha:nan was working on this 'n 'ee sid we don't ↑have anythi:ng.
30
31 Colson: Oh hell we edda lot[ta
32 |
33 Nixon: [And uh-I said well God damm_it Colson's office uz
34
35 workin' on this fer ↑months so they've got ↑something.
36
37 Colson: ·hhh Well I'd sent them ole (·) I've sent them ole back innuh the f_i:les.=lee
38
39 I saw them ole Wednesdee. En ↑then uh-uh, hmh
40
41 (0.3)

²¹ Donald H. Segretti, in June 1971 a lawyer serving as a captain in the Judge Advocate General Corps at Fort Ord, California, who had recently asked an old friend, Gordon Strachan, about the possibility of a job in the executive branch, was approached by Dwight Chapin, another old friend, with the offer of a job in “the ‘black advance’”, a program of harassment of the Democrats. (Lukas, p.207). In 1973-4 he served four months in prison (of a six month sentence) for three counts of distribution of illegal campaign literature. (Jaworski, p. 350).

²² Patrick Buchanan, along with Raymond Price and William Safire, one of Nixon's three top writers. Safire (pp.99-100) describes Buchanan as "the conservative", with a "hard-hitting" style of writing.

1 Nixon: ·puh [Good.
2 []
3 Colson: [it-it w'z yestihdee. ·hhh Ent- <eh: (·) day before yestihdee.=Sent 'm
4
5 awll [intih the f i l e s.]
6 []
7 Nixon: [Yih see it's t e r r]ibly import'nt ·hh thet et the hhighes' priority put
8
9 23 not only (roy) in the files but ·hh get it cha::pter in ver:se. in put out a God (13.0)
10
11 damn white paper thet'll s:cour **thum** a little becuz °they (·) ↑did they did°
12
13 a hell iv a lotta ba:d things. at [t h e k-]STARTING with the con[↑vention.
14 [] [] []
15 Colson: [Not only] t h a t [] [ekhh
16
17 Colson: 24 Not o'ly that Mister Presid'nt but (0.2) but eh (0.2) MuhGovern. tihda:y. (0.5)
18
19 is eh (·) using,hh lists::.
20
21 Nixon: mkhh[m
22 []
23 Colson: [thet were prepared.
24
25 (·)
26
27 Colson: Mailing lists thet were prepared with political fund.
28
29 (0.6)
30
31 Colson: eh- leasing them out, people c'n buy th'm or rent th'm fr'm'm.
32
33 (0.5)
34
35 Colson: 25 W'l ↑et's the same thing thet (·) Tam ↑Dodd ↓did. It's taking political money
36
37 en:d converting it (·) tih yer personal profit?
38
39 ((dap))
40
41 Nixon: ·t:hh

²³ If there was a gun to my head, I'd translate "(roy)" as "already", and in full standard orthography I'd show "not only (roy) in the files" as "not only what'r already in the files".

²⁴ George S. McGovern, Democrat presidential candidate in the 1972 election which Nixon won by a landslide -- McGovern taking only the state of Massachusetts and the District of Columbia (Safire, p.653).

²⁵ Lasky (p.127) refers to Senator Thomas J. Dodd, as an “old crony” of Lyndon Johnson, and (p.327) recounts a Senate campaign in which “the incumbent Tom Dodd...had been censured by his peers on charges most people by now have forgotten.” Eric F. Goldman, in *the Tragedy of Lyndon Johnson* (p.250) describes Dodd as “a Communist-chasing nonentity from the small state of Connecticut . . . a loyal trooper of Lyndon Johnson in the old Senate days”. A brief internet search yields that in 1967 the U.S. Senate voted 92-5 to censure Senator Thomas Dodd of Connecticut for “conduct contrary to the accepted morals” — using public funds from political testimonials and campaign contributions for his own personal expenses.

- 1 Colson: I [guess thet's]
 2 []
 3 Nixon: [Wellp? I :']m- é-o- [who'dju give that to, i[h w i z]
 4 []
 5 Colson: [() [Well I gave] th[a t t o :]
 6 []
 7 Nixon: [hany- uh s]ome:
 8
 9 ²⁶ stupid a:ss?=er somebø[dy thet kun do sump'n abaht] aht.
 10 []
 11 Colson: [(Q h, g a v e i h d u h)] (13.5)
 12
 13 Colson: I gave it tuh Adams tuhday dih research. He's a bright young [fella,
 14 []
 15 Nixon: [mhhhh
 16
 17 Nixon: Mm hm?=
 18
 19 Colson: =hekhh eh Wi'll get it out, (·) uh: (·) if: if we c'n hang it on [um, ()
 20 []
 21 Nixon: [w'l geh=out er
 22
 23 Nixon: (0.2) pu[t it ahht
 24 []
 25 Colson: [(It's it's the) kinda stuff but what the hell that's (0.8) i-mean that's
 26
 27 personal: uh
 28
 29 Nixon: °mhhhh°
 30
 31 Colson: profit (0.2) from politi[cal (properties) 'n thet's [w't the hell they hung=
 32 [] []
 33 Nixon: ['T's ri_{gh}ght.h [Ri_{gh}ght
 34
 35 Colson: [(tha:t on)
 36 =[]
 37 Nixon: [-tlkhh Selling iz ↑fū:nds.hhuhhrh[ight theh- eh-iss i:s 'at's right.
 38 []
 39 Colson: [Sure.
 40 (·)
 41
 42 Colson: Yeh ↑theh not his lists they belong tih the
 43
 44 (0.4)
 45
 46 Colson: [(parties)
 47 []
 48 Nixon: [Thesh ri'.
 49
 50 (·)

²⁶ words such as 'new', 'due', and here, 'stupid', unless otherwise marked are pronounced "noo", "doo", "stoopid", etc.

- 1 Colson: who
2
3 (·)
4
5 Nixon: [-khhhhh[hhh
6 [[]
7 Colson: [(its) (·) [(distributed). (14.0)
8
9 Nixon: Well'n any event(·)t uh: (0.5) ↓gl do yer study en:d ↓uh:: tell the people di
10
11 git the hhell off thē uh uh thefenseev but ·hhh ↑I pers'nally yihknow ↑I'm not
12
13 ²⁷ uh:,h ·hh (0.2) °'t's ari'.° (0.6) I'm not a bit ↓uh:: (b) (0.6) khhm: aa-ih
14
15 depressed about the thing, I think thet there is a tendency though fer most iv
16
17 ar people tih get (·) ·hhhhh
18 |
19 (): (0.6) °°(hOhyah.)°°
20 |
21 Nixon: | | ·p sort iv in thur:: hē- (0.4) their:: uh-uh-their:: ↑bomb ↓shelters in: sorta
22
23 hunker dow:n in say oh: Christ everything's coming ↑do:w-↓uh:part.=Well
24
25 ·hhh °↑↑we've° gotta few ↓things. thet we: should be: proud ↓of.=yihknoh?
26
27 Colson: Oh:. Mister President yihknow I wiz: (·) thinking of that las' night (·) ih: ↓ip
28
29 ²⁸ ih-ih Cambodiaer. ↑I remember aftuh Cambodia we were awl:: cowering.
30
31 Well we shoulda been out< (0.2) proud iz hell=
32
33 [((pt))
34 =[
35 Nixon: ['T's right.
36 []
37 Colson: [b't uh ·hhhh it's ↓ee-dih↓ this thin:g ih: thet thet the most import'nt

²⁷ Nixon's "'t's ari'." sounds like an aside to someone in the room with him.

²⁸ On April 30, 1970, Nixon announced "the 'incursion' into Cambodia by American and South Vietnamese troops, for the purpose of destroying what had been enemy supply sanctuaries." (Safire, p.181) in which he made his 'I would rather be a one-term President and do what I believe is right...' pronouncement. (Safire, p.187). Safire (p.188) quotes "a mild criticism" made by Chuck Colson in a meeting on May 1st with Haldeman and various 'old pros', that 'Wall Street loves us for the President saying "Buy stocks", just before going into Cambodia.' Haldeman cut off the negative thinking with 'Let me assure you, he's weighed all the minuses.'" Safire goes on to report (p.191): "On May 4th, there was a demonstration at Kent State University in Ohio at which four students — two girls and two boys — were shot to death, and eight other students wounded, by National Guard troops. . . . I watched the television rept of the Kent State killings with [Secretary of Labor] George Shultz in his office at the Labor Department. The network played the tape of the tragic moment twice; the first time, Shultz, a former Marine, said of the sound of gunfire from the national Guard, 'Did that sound like a salvo to you?' After the rerun, with great sadness, Shultz answered his question: 'That was a salvo.' The government, in an organized fashion, had executed some demonstrators on a command."

- 1 Colson: thing if I ·t·hhhh hed any idvice it aw:l fih you: thē most import'n thing is not
2
3 tih let. (0.3) the deyum thin:g dI:vertchu from: (0.3) fr[om thē]
4 []
5 Nixon: [hmhhh] 'putting othuh
6
7 thi[↓:ngs. Right.]
8 []
9 Colson: [the ma:g↑nif]icint thin:gs thet er ·p·h ih in the ↑difference in this country
10
11 dihdai in when you became Presid'nt is is every one of us [°who° (0.6) °hez°=
12 []
13 Nixon: [hmhh
14
15 Colson: =(·) hez 'ed any part a' this hez, he[v (0.2) so much tih be proud of (let's)=
16 []
17 Nixon: [hmhh
18
19 Colson: [tawk about i[t,
20 =[[]
21 Nixon: [·huhhh ['A:t's the poin[t.h
22 []
23 Colson: [Just not God deymmit[() (15.0)
24 []
25 Nixon: [Yah 'n they 'n the
26
27 Nixon: who:le da:mn White House staff 'n erbuddih else gotta be prou:d rathuh then::
28
29 uh [whining arou:n[d in bitching, ha]bout ↑this ↓thing.
30 [[]
31 Colson: [() [I x a c t l y]
32
33 (0.2)
34
35 Colson : eh-ih-Well? iv [That's ↑ri]ght.=end eyand uh this:: this thing is going do:: one=
36 []
37 Nixon: [Y h h a h .]
38
39 Colson : =way er anothuh th[is thing (w'l)
40 []
41 Nixon: [↑It'll pass,
42
43 (0.2)
44
45 Colson: It hasstuh ring out'n ↓pe:ss. An' then so it's=
46
47 Nixon: =↓Right.
48
49 (0.4)
50
51 Colson: So it's [uh
52 []
53 Nixon: [Butchu belie:ve thet thih quicker th-↓uh: thi-ihh ·hh (put some rushes)

1 Nixon: hy: how do you get i(0.2)t uh ·hhhh braht ↓to a c'nclusion naa[h- nobuddy]
 2 []=
 3 Colson: [W e l l I]
 4
 5 Nixon: [↓know[s.
 6 =[[]
 7 Colson: [uh- [Ah'll give yih s'm ideas on that.=I [think I kn]ow how that kin=
 8 []
 9 Nixon: [Aa'right.]
 10
 11 Colson: =be [done.
 12 []
 13 Nixon: [Aa'right ['n bring- ['n ·p give me a paper on that ↑will yih?h↑=
 14 [[]
 15 Colson: [(T h a n k [you)
 16
 17 Colson: =Ah'll hev one for yihz.
 18
 19 (0.4)
 20
 21 Colson: Ye[s (sir)
 22 []
 23 Nixon: [O:kay.
 24
 25 (0.6)
 26
 27 Colson: Thank you Mist' Pre[sident]
 28 []
 29 Nixon: [Aa'ri]ght.h
 30
 31 (·)
 32
 33 Colson: <Eht'[s: good tih talk tih yih [sir.
 34 [[]
 35 (([hollow dragging noise)) (([krrk-kk))
 36 |
 37 (0.2) ((dead air))
 38 |
 39 | ((↑vwee:::p)) (15.5)
 40 |
 41 ((tape cuts))