

Nixon and Ehrlichman, Telephone

April 13, 1973, 7:26-7:30 pm

1 Voice: Co:nversation number thirty eight da:sh (·) fiftee:n. (0.2) Portion of a [27.0]
2
3 telephone conversation b'tween the President? ·hh en Joh:n D. Ehrlichmin.
4
5 (·) ·hh This porshin? was recawrded on April thirteenth ·hh nineteen sev'ndy
6
7 three, ·hh b'tween s:even tw:enty six, ·hh end seven thirty pee ↓em.
8
9 (5.8) ((dead air))
10
11 ((tk-kuh))
12
13 Nixon: hm: Hello,hmh[h
14 [
15 Op: [Mister Presidin' I have Mister Ehrlichmin ↓askin[g ()
16 [
17 Nixon: [A'right?hhmh
18
19 Nixon: ·pwuh
20
21 ((tk tk))
22
23 Op: Ready sir?=
24
25 =(p[eep])
26 [
27 Nixon: [H'Igho:i
28
29 Ehrl: Yes↓sir:.
30
31 Nixon: Hi Jghohn=
32
33 Ehrl: =Well we've been chewin' this thing over in chewing it over in I can't say
34
35 thit wu'r id et any kinclu↓sion.
36
37 (·)
38
39 Ehrl: Ah: we'd like eh- (·) chance tih guh duh dinner in talk about thi:s
40
41 i[n : eh- e n :]:d w:u(l)[-er just (·) [m:ull it tihni:ght, an::d and [hit it]
42 [] [] [] []
43 Nixon: [Thet's good,]hmhh [] [] [] []
44 [] [] [] []=
45 [((dnk)) [((dp dip)) [] []
46 [] [] [] []
47 Nixon: [Good.]
48

- 1 Nixon: =M[hm
2 []
3 Ehrl: [ih-wi'll (·) wi'll be in early in the morning en [(0.2) be ready d'talk t'you=
4 []
5 Nixon: [mhhhhh
6 []
7 Ehrl: ='bout ten thirty er eleyen [↓I c'd guess ·hha::[:gh ·he::[:h
8 [] [] []
9 Nixon: [Yah. [Fine. [mgh:m=
10 []
11 Nixon: =_h↑Q:kay?=
12 []
13 Ehrl: =There're (·) all: kinds'v< [(0.3) [of (·) interesting possi↓bil'dies here.
14 [] []
15 Nixon: [°gmh[h°
16 []
17 (·)
18 []
19 Ehrl: _uWē:'ve got some new: (·) input thet (·) _mwill be coming in dih John Dean
20 []
21 duhnight thet we wanna add to it
22 []
23 (0.3)
24 []
25 Nixon: Th_{gh}et's with regard dih the gran' ju[r y?]
26 []
27 Ehrl: [Right.]
28 []
29 Ehrl: Ri[ght.
30 []
31 Nixon: [↑Mgh-hm-hm,
32 []
33 (·)
34 []
35 Ehrl: ·t His i-his folks er in touch with the U.S. Attorney duh[↓night.]
36 []
37 Nixon: [M m h]m?
38 []
39 (0.3)
40 []
41 Ehrl: ·t·hhh So:, wi':ll (·) be atche in the morning.
42 []
43 (·)
44 []
45 Nixon: ffWhell. ·h[hh
46 []
47 Ehrl: ¹ [Okay.=
48 []

48

¹ Ehrlichman may be hearing Nixon's "ffWhell." as "Swell".

1 Nixon: =B't there'a couple a' poi:nts [t h i]t uh:,hh have in mind in yer (-)=
2 []
3 Ehrl: [Yep]
4 []
5 (([squeak])
6
7 Nixon: _____ =discssio[ns i s] et uh
8 []
9 Ehrl: | [Right]
10 (1.3) |
11 | (0.6) ((dup)) (0.5)
12 |
13 Nixon: _____ hhhuh:: (0.8) iyer bayshin::g part'v this on the fac' thet uh:huh ·hh·hh (0.5)
14
15 huh::,hmhh (1.7) thē: (-) m_{gh}h o:n: thet uh:: thet hHunt (-) is goin:g t'testify:
16
17 tihmah- uhr too- eh:[:
18 []
19 Ehrl: [Monday.
20
21 Nixon: Mondee it two uh'clo[:ck right?=
22 []
23 (([tp])
24
25 Ehrl: =Right. Unless we do somethin:g,h (-) thet uh (-) would (0.3) force that cal'nder
26
27 _____ duh change en wi'rv been working with s'm ideas a[bout that.]
28 []
29 (Ø): | (([wh_whh]))
30 |
31 (1.1) | (0.2)
32 |
33 Nixon: | grk (0.2) ·kl·k
34 |
35 Nixon: _____ hho- What c'dje do on that though John (will y[ih c'n]) h[h
36 [] []
37 Ehrl: [We:ll?](·)[eh: wi-h ih we c'd do
38
39 sev'ral ↓things, tuh move that up (-) uh::: if there were a more a[tttractive witniss=
40 []
41 Nixon: [mhh
42
43 Ehrl: =er a more conclusive witness or:: uh something a' that kind er if we drew the
44
45 U.S. Attorney off [tuh do something else ·hhhh hwi'r w[i'r looking at sev'ral=
46 [] []
47 Nixon: [mhh [hmhh
48
49 Ehrl: =po[ssibil']dies
50 []
51 Nixon: [Right.]
52
53 Nixon: ·p·tlk Thē uh:: hmh ·h (0.3) the thing about that thet (-) mus:t iv course concern

1 Nixon: Colson is that uh (0.9) uh::: (·) 'n I s'pose he's working on that too is that uh
2
3 what Hunt will say with regard duh him.=
4
5 Ehrl: =Right
6
7 (0.2)
8
9 Ehrl: uhRight.=
10
11 Nixon: ·pl Or- wha' does he say ababt that e[r: (d'z 'ee say ihne)y[ng)
12 [] []
13 Ehrl: [W e l l h e :] [studiously avoided
14
15 that.
16 |
17 (Nixon) | [(whh h_uhh)
18 | [
19 (0.8) | [(squea:k)
20 |
21 (0.3)
22 |
23 Nixon: | He did uhh?=
24
25 Ehrl: =Yeah.
26
27 (·)
28
29 Ehrl: Theh i-the only thing th[et uh ·hhh uh: he: had dih say about his involvement=
30 []
31 Nixon: [mhh
32
33 Ehrl: =w'z that Ha:nk Greenspun thingk.=
34
35 Nixon: °yhheah rhh[i'°
36 []
37 Ehrl: [which::
38
39 Nixon: h_uhhh=
40
41 Ehrl: =came through MuhCord.
42
43 (·)
44
45 Nixon: °peh-↑heh° ·hh·hh Unbelievable [that] one,
46 []
47 Ehrl: [Yeh,]
48
49 Ehrl: Yeh,
50
51 (0.4)
52
53 Nixon: Yeah. ·hheyuh The uh< mgh::m The other thing thet occurs is thet uh (0.4)

- 1 Nixon: ·p-t-p we've gotta put erse:lves in the puhsishin of: uh,^h John Mitchell in::d
2
3 ·hh·hh (0.2) I think thit uh:
4
5 (Hald): (0.7) ((in the bkg)) (ahm ohmoa[stuhf poineh]
6
7 Nixon: ___² [·pt-pt ehf-ah er- If I were in iz place uh mean thē
8
9 insanity thing is sort'v ridiculous of course but ·hh[hhh (0.3)]thē::: thē::: thē=
10 []
11 (([twangy noise]))
12
13 Nixon: =mo:re,h (0.5) plausible thing is fer Mitchell t- (·) whin eez k- (·) ca:lded?=or
14
15 even voluntarily=says look ·hh·hh been too much uh: stuff (0.2) thrown out er
16
17 ³ 'ee says look ·hhh hI didn' a↑pprove thi:s[:↑
18 []
19 Ehrl: [Mh[m
20 []
21 Nixon: ['n all that sort[a thing,]
22 []
23 Ehrl: [M h m],h
24
25 Nixon: ·hh Nobody in the White 'ouse's invo::lved, [it wen' uh] forward?=but I ez,=
26 []
27 Ehrl: [M m : h m]
28
29 Nixon: =campaign man'ger assume the respo[n s i]↑bidity.
30 []
31 Ehrl: [Yah?]
32
33 Ehrl: Yah
34
35 Nixon: °hh ·t· hAn:d uh: I really think [t h a t's]
36 []
37 Ehrl: [He c'do] it'n good gra:ce.
38
39 Nixon: ·pw En 'ee should do it in good gra[ce?=in s]ay I:: just whantche duh know ↑this?=
40 []
41 Ehrl: [Y a h]
42
43 Nixon: =that's the situayshin?=en that's it. ·t·hhh (·) hYet (·) on the other hand 'ee c'n
44
45 sto::ne, uh-stonewall it?['n:::
46 []
47 Ehrl: [↓Nao way.↓
48

48

² In standard orthography, “ehf-ah er” would be shown as “If I were-”.

³ “...a↑pprove thi:s[:↑” is produced with a sing-song ‘listing’ intonation

1 Nixon: ·h[h
2 []
3 Ehrl: [↓Nō[: : :]°° w a y. °°]
4 []
5 Nixon: [And the]y're: gunnuh], bring eem dow:n.
6
7 Ehrl: Theh- wih thih- u-one'n a' those gr[a'd jur(ies)]
8 []
9 Nixon: [But the poi]nt is, who is going dih ↑talk
10
11 ↓to um.↓=
12
13 Ehrl =hm ·t·hh Well, (·) wi'r wor^{kin}' on that too.=We **th**ink Rogers is the **best bet**,
14
15 (0.3)
16
17 Nixon: ⁴ ↑Bill Rogers?↑=
18
19 Ehrl: =Mhm?<
20
21 (0.6)
22
23 Nixon: Tih talk tuh who:m. Tuh Mitch↑ell?
24
25 Ehrl: Yep,
26
27 (1.8)
28
29 Nixon: hOh he doesn'=Mitchell doesn' trust him a[? t a l l]
30 []
31 Ehrl: [I know,]
32
33 (·)
34
35 Ehrl: I know 'ee doesn'.=
36
37 Nixon: =·pw What would Rogers sa:y to 'i[m
38 []
39 Ehrl: [We:ll, (·) uh-ih-luu-hhh! i-That's one=
40
41 **th**ings (h)wi'r w[or^{kin}' on.=It m_bay not be a good **idea** but uh ·hh·hh=
42 []
43 Nixon: [Yah
44
45 Nixon: =No[t with Mō:re.[uh?⁵
46 []
47 Ehrl: [w i ' l l : : [wi'll try in work it out=No si:r.

47

⁴ William Rogers, Eisenhower's Attorney General and Nixon's Secretary of State until he was replaced by Henry Kissinger on August 22nd, 1973.

⁵ Richard A. Moore, one of Nixon's advisors, and Nixon's candidate to talk to Mitchell (see, e.g., call (2) in this series, between Nixon and Haldeman 5:48-5:58 pm, where Nixon says, "More is the only o:ne" who can talk to Mitchell (page 9, line 41).

1 (0.2)
2
3 Ehrl: N_{gh}0,
4
5 Nixon: No,h[*mh*
6 []
7 Ehrl: ⁶ ['T's gotta be somebuddy prestigious.=Maybe it's: uh:: Elliot uh::w theh may
8
9 wi'r jus(·)t wi'r gunnuh come atche with a number a' possibil'die[s.
10 []
11 Nixon: [Right.hh
12
13 Nixon: ↓Ri::ght, right↓ ·h_{hm}h_h·h_{hm}h ·kl WELL yihknow on the plus si:de with all this?=all
14
15 the prob'ums?=in,hhh so forth, ·hhh hYihknow in a sense Joh:n it's: the best thing
16
17 is tih get the God da:mn thing in duh p-prick the boi:l.=I[t's the]re?=
18 []
19 Ehrl: [Right]
20
21 Nixon: =D'[you-] d'you 'gree?] ·h[hh
22 [] []
23 Ehrl: [No q]u_{esh}'n abaht it] [No: qu_{esh}'[n 'baht it.]
24 []
25 Nixon: [↓End uh::]: no use tuh try duh, (0.3)
26
27 ·t (·) hhm in view a' this ↓uh (0.3) ·t En they think if-if Liddy is gonna testify: if
28
29 H_{unt} is gonna testify e_{gh}n i_{gh}f Mihgruder is gonna testify, that's ↑it.
30
31 Ehrl: tSure
32 (0.2)
33
34 Ehrl: That's ['a ballgame.
35 []
36 Nixon: [(aa-)
37
38 Nixon: 'hAt's the ga:me. Y_{up}? hA::nd uh,hh that uh °·huh·h_{uh}h° (0.2) h_heh-eh-eh ·h
39
40 hIt'll screw the Ervin Committee it lea[st,hh
41 []
42 Ehrl: [That's fer su:re.
43 (0.2)
44
45 Ehrl : That['s part of] the strate↓gy here.↓
46 []
47 Nixon: [°Uh h_{uh},°]
48

48

⁶ Elliot Richardson, Secretary of Defense. He replaced Richard Kleindienst as Attorney General on April 30th, 1973, when the resignations of Haldeman, Ehrlichman, Kleindienst and John Dean were announced by press secretary Ronald Ziegler. According to Lukas (p.458), Nixon chose Richardson "to personify vigor, honesty, and integrity to a deeply suspicious press and public".

1 Nixon: ff:R:i:g^ht ·h[h ·hh
 2 [
 3 Ehrl: [Wil wi:’ll gwi’ll [()
 4 [
 5 Nixon: [Awright ↑ah’ll see yih dihmorru[h (I aftuh g]o=
 6 []
 7 Ehrl: [g i v e yuh]
 8
 9 Nixon: =dih the dennist [’n the morning]
 10 []
 11 Ehrl: [full run down.] Right.=
 12
 13 Nixon: =↓Fine.
 14
 15 Ehrl: hQ↓kay. [31.1]
 16
 17 ((receivers down))
 18
 19 (6.3) ((dead air))
 20
 21 Voice: This c’ncludes the Abuse, of Gover’mint Power segmints, (·) fer
 22
 23 conversation number thirty eight da:sh (·) fifteen. [31.3]