

Nixon,Haldeman, Higby Telephone

April 13, 1973 btwn 9:16 -10:47 a.m.

1 Voice: Conversation number thirdy eight dash u-one.h (0.2) Po:rshin of a [0.0]
2
3 telephone conversation between the President? (·) Joh:n D.
4
5 Erhlichmin? (0.2) en Lawrence M. Higby.(0.6) ↑This portion uwas
6
7 recorded on April thirteenth ·hh nineteen sev'ndy three, ·hh at en
8
9 nunknown tsime between nine sixteen ·hh en tsen for:dy seven āyem.
10
11 (5.3) ((dead tape))
12
13 (1.0)
14
15 Op: ([])
16 [
17 Ehrl: ¹ [Yeh Lerry Higby please,h[h
18 [
19 Op: [Yes si[r
20 [
21 Ehrl: [hmhh-hmh
22
23 (3.2)
24
25 Ehrl: ((sniff, swallow)) *mhhhhh*
26
27 (1.2)
28 (17.8)
29 Ehrl: ·*hmhhhhhh hmhhhh bwhhhow whoo*
30
31 (0.7)
32
33 Ehrl: ·*hmhhhh hmhhwhohhoo*
34
35 (2.7)
36

36

¹ Lawrence M. Higby, Haldeman's assistant, one of the very few people who knew about the taping system. According to Lukas (p.509), in February 1971 Higby told Alexander Butterfield, who'd been brought in by Haldeman to be Nixon's assistant chief of staff, "that the President wanted a tape-recording system set up in the Oval Office and the Cabinet Room", requesting that the Secret Service take care of the matter, and not the Army Signal Corps "which normally handled most communications and electronics matters at the White House (they had installed and dismantled Lyndon Johnson's system)." In his book, *An American Life*, Jeb Magruder (hired on as Special Assistant to President Nixon in 1969, and in 1972 becoming deputy director of the Committee to Re-Elect the President) remarks that "in honor of Haldeman's right-hand man, we had begun calling any perfect staff man 'a higby.'" (p.192).

1 Ehrl: | *hmwhoo::*
2 |
3 | (1.6)
4 |
5 Ehrl: | *·hmhh*
6 |
7 Nixon: |_| ((from a distance)) You sa:w ↓Mitchell's statement.↓
8 |
9 | (0.4)
10 Ehrl: | Yah.
11 | (0.5)
12 |
13 (Ehrl): | *·kah phh °·hhh° [°Har-°*
14 | [
15 Nixon: | [God almighty.
16 |
17 Ehrl: | *·h Har:d li:ne*.
18 |
19 | (1.0)
20 |
21 Nixon: | 'f I ed known I woulda °stopped im.°
22 |
23 | (2.0)
24 |
25 | ((dlk dk-dk))
26 |
27 (Ø): | °()°
28 |
29 Op: | He be right with you?
30 |
31 Ehrl: | Thank you,
32 |
33 Op: | Y'r welcome.
34 |
35 | (1.1)
36 |
37 | ((dlk))
38 |
39 Higby: | Yessir
40 |
41 Ehrl: | John Ehrlichm'n Larry=
42 |
43 Higby: | =Yessir,[h
44 | [
45 Ehrl: | ² [Did ↑Gord'n go back yesterday,hhhhhh

45

² G. Gordon Liddy a former FBI agent, worked with the White House "Plumbers", and as counsel to the Committee to Re-Elect the President. Directed the June 17th Watergate break-in. Refused to cooperate in any investigations. (*PresTrans*, p.xxxviii and Jaworski, p.352). Convicted January 30, 1973 on six counts of conspiracy, burglary, and wiretapping. Sentenced March 23, 1973 to a prison term of six years and eight months to 20 years, and fined \$40,000. (Jaworski, pp.352-3). In April 1977 President Carter commuted Liddy's sentence to eight years, which made him eligible for parole, which he received in September of that year. (G. Gordon Liddy, *Will*, pp.464, 469).

1 Higby: ³ Uh: t'my knowledge no he kaw-he did contact Silbert dough
2
3 Ehrl: En wot-wuh- Dihyih know what they said?=
4
5 Higby: _____ =·hh Uh:: n-
6 |
7 | (0.2)
8 (0.6)
9 Nixon: | ((bkg)) (Ask 'i[m]) [_____
10 | [_____
11 Higby: _____ [W'l they were gunnuh- theh w'r theh w'r: thehr gunnuh make
12
13 arrangements tuh correct it.=I don' know: the details on ho:w.
14
15 Ehrl: ⁴ Ah: (·) kinyih find out en: have Steve: give me a note here in the Pres'nt's
16
17 ahviss,
18
19 Higby: ee::Yessi:r.
20
21 Ehrl: Thank↓you.
22
23 Higby: ↓Bye.
24
25 (1.2) ((shuffling noises))
26
27 ((dk))
28
29 ((woooeep))
30
31 (5.0) ((dead tape))
32
33 Voice: This concludes the abuse of gover'mint power segmint, (0.2) fer
34
35 conversation number thirty eight dash u-↓one. [1.6]

35

³ In *Blind Ambition* (pp.235) John Dean tells how Watergate Prosecutor Earl Silbert told him “ ‘Liddy’s been talking to us privately. Now, nobody knows about that, but your story is going to have to square with his’.” And in a footnote (p.236) remarks “Later I discovered that G. Gordon Liddy had never talked to Silbert on or off the record. This was a prosecutor’s ploy.”

⁴ Stephen Bull, special assistant and appointments secretary to President Nixon.