

Nixon and Haldeman, Telephone

April 13, 1973 5:48-5:58 p.m.

1 Voice: Conversation number thirty eight dash (·) nine. (0.3) ↑Portion of a [1.8]
2
3 telephone conversation between the President, ·h en H. R. Haldeman.
4
5 (0.5) This portion was recorded on April thirteenth ·h nineteen seventy
6
7 three, ·hh between five forty eight, ·h en five fifty eight pee em.
8
9 (5.0) ((dead tape))
10
11 Nixon: ·hhhh Colson's in with Ehrlichmin apparently, he: sid 'ee hed sum'n
12
13 ur:gent'sih t[alk ab]out ah d'n know what [the hell i]t's abou[t b']t uh]
14 [] [] []
15 Hald: [Yeah.] [Y e a h .] [Ah don'] kno]:w.
16
17 Nixon: ·nhheyah °↓[mn]Y h e h.]↓°
18 []]
19 Hald: [En] he came] over with his
20
21 (0.6)
22
23 Nixon: °ah:ttor[ney°
24 []
25 Hald: ¹ [Jewish friend,hh
26
27 (0.5)
28
29 Nixon: ↓hHm hm:~?<
30
31 (0.4)
32
33 Nixon: ·pahhh
34
35 (·)
36
37 Nixon: That's one thing I'm,hmh^h little disturbed abhhout hhi[(h)i(h)m?]
38 []=
39 Hald: [Y e a h .]
40
41 Nixon: =·he-ah Arn'tchu?

41

¹ Both references are to David Shapiro. According to Lukas (p.378), Colson left the White House on March 10, 1973 to set up the law firm of Colson & Shapiro. On April 13th, Ehrlichman met with “Chuck Colson and his new law partner, David Shapiro”. They told him “...that [Howard] Hunt was going to testify before the grand jury the following Monday...and would deeply implicate Mitchell, among others, in the planning of Watergate.”(Lukas, p.420).

1 (·)
2
3 Hald: Yu:p?=
4
5 Nixon: =Yah, [-hahh[hhh
6 [(0.3) [
7 Hald: [I am.
8
9 Nixon: _____ hI yis' don' know what the hell ther up to: half the time.
10 |
11 (Ø): (0.6) hhh=hhh
12 |
13 Nixon: _____ ·tah Colson thinksh he's s-s- He ↑is ↓smart. But(·)t yih know ·hhhh sometimes
14
15 _____ you just,hh Colson °↑talks° pretty freely yel yih neve[r ↑kno]h.
16 | []
17 Hald: | [Yeah?]
18 |
19 | (0.2)
20 |
21 (Ø): (2.0) (·hmhhhh [-khhh[hh
22 | []
23 | (([tk)) []
24 | []
25 (Ø): | [((tchohoo))=]
26 |
27 Nixon: _____ =>Whatever't is?<
28
29 (·)
30
31 Nixon: _____ ·p·hahhh ↑Whaaduh youu uh hmhhhh [2.6]
32 |
33 (): (1.2) (hmhhh)
34 | °°((tikkih kek))°°
35 |
36 Nixon: _____ ·hhh (0.3) analyzing this Dean thing in so forth uh:m?
37 |
38 | (0.2)
39 | (0.9)
40 | °hmhh°
41 (): |
42 Nixon: _____ ·pt It's sher view thet Dean.=
43 |
44 (): (0.3) =°hmhh°=
45 |
46 Nixon: _____ =probably::didn't kno:w.h ·hhh the ti:me after the election they met<
47 |
48 (Hald): °°(Nuh u[h]°°
49 | []
50 Nixon: ² [what the tru:th really was.>hheh=hhehh=hheh< hez that right?
51

51
² Nixon's "hheh=hhehh=hheh" is not laughter; it's a (0.5) three-pulse outbreath.

1 Hald: ³ I don't think 'ee knew fer su:re,
2
3 Nixon: Tha[t's w't 'ee] hhe guessed it might be [(e t seh- ettuh b]ut)=
4 [[] []
5 Hald: [I think'ee] [I think he hed s'm]
6
7 Hald: [Well we ↑a[: l l guessed]
8 =[[]
9 Nixon: [m- [En didn't ·h]hh Didn't theh- didn't think he had any choice.h
10
11 (0.2)
12
13 Nixon: ·hhhh Well we ↑didn' really ↓did we did ↑We thought it w'z some screw↓ba::lls.=
14
15 uh mean ↑that w'z my- an' fact if I thought'v abut it all 'n ah'm afraid ey didn'
16
17 think enough about it but ·hhhh y'remember I seh thet ↑Oh this is jus' nuts. hey'
18
19 know end ·hhē:hh< (0.2) 'course I ^khou^{ld}dn:'t ah didn:'t drea:m thet ↑Mitchell
20
21 w'z doin' enning about it.[hh
22 []
23 Hald: [Yah?
24 |
25 Nixon: | ·hhhh
26 | (1.0)
27 | (0.3)
28 |
29 Hald: | uNo: I'm tawg'n about after the election.=Back et the be↑ginning I **think** that's
30 |
31 | ri:ght.
32 | (0.5)
33 (): | hmhh
34 |
35 Hald: | But as [zhu (wuh-)
36 []
37 Nixon: [Oh- >uh no no no< I mean[: I mean when we firsht °hert° a↓bout it.=
38 []
39 (Hald): [(↑I mean)
40
41 Nixon: =-h[hhh
42 []
43 Hald: [Oh yah.
44
45 (0.4)
46
47 Hald: [The't's right.]
48 []
49 Nixon: [D e h gh-ih] weh- when Dean had iz conver°sation.°=No ↑after the e↑lection
50
51 ↓we all knew↓ yeh. ·t·hhhh Ah mean we all had a pretty good idea but↓ I mean

51

³ Unless otherwise marked, words like 'knew', 'due', etc., are pronounced "noo", "doo", etc.

- 1 Nixon: ·t·hh eh:: eh-ur- u-right after in Ju:ne ↓fer examp'w'n we firsht heard a↓bout it
2
3 'n Dean had iz meeting ↑I don't think any of us rilly thought thet (0.2) thet uh
4
5 Mitchell could possibly be in uh be in↑vo:lve[d.=Did we?]
6 []
7 Hald: [I (ik) that's] ri:ght.
8
9 Nixon: ·hh (·) hē Or ↑Magru↓der fer that m/hatter.
10
11 (0.5)
12
13 Hald: Thet's right,
14
15 (0.5)
16
17 Nixon: Meandime we thought theh-weh these guys jush went off on a ↑caper.h=
18
19 Hald: _____ =Yup,
20 |
21 (0.2)
22 |
23 Nixon: (1.8) ·hmhhhhhhhhhh.
24 |
25 (0.4)
26 |
27 Nixon: _____ hhHm.hhhhhhh Whell, [3.8]
28
29 (Hald): ·mpt·h
30
31 (0.5)
32
33 Hald: Ah tey yih though I've jus' listen'duh this Magruder ta:pe, ey:m (0.3) pulling
34
35 the stuff [o u t of ut]
36 []
37 Nixon: [Ja:h tell me] what you think iv it.mh[hh
38 []
39 Hald: [There's no(h)ot ·hhēhhhh
40
41 Hald: _____ There's- (·) It's all there,
42 |
43 (Nixon) (0.5) hmhhhh
44 |
45 Hald: _____ It's uh: extremely valuable (0.7) thing dih ha:ve.
46
47 (·)
48
49 Hald: Cuz he< (1.1) he: (0.2) flatly says thet he (0.2) did it? 'n:: (·) in yihknow thet he
50
51 wiz [·t·hhhhhhhhhh] he says eez, t-got a,h hundred years' worth hundred duh
52 [—(1.1)—]
53 hunderd'n twunny five years' worth a',h< (0.8) jail sent'nce ahead iv 'im on (·)

- 1 Hald: perjury a↑lɔ:ne, [·hhhhhhhhh (·)] en: uh he says I'm gonnuh when I talk?=I'm
2 [——(1.1)——]
3 gonnuh tell the tru:th? (0.3) en:d uh
4
- 5 Nixon: _____ So he's gontuh git off the perj'ry.
6 |
7 (0.2) ((hp))
8 |
- 9 Hald: _____ Yup?
10
- 11 Nixon: °hmhh° ·hɛ·hehh Well theh- uh that's rut- (·) Ehrlichmin ↓tol' me that
12
13 _____ hɛ: hɛ wiz gonnuh tɑ:lɔ.↓so: that's ↑that.
14 |
15 | ((tk))
16 (0.5)
17 | (·)
18 |
- 19 Hald: _____ °Nao:°?
20
21 (0.2)
22
- 23 Hald: If- (·) 'ee he=aa- said 'ee hasn' decided yet whether eez gonnuh ta:lɔ er (·) or:
24
25 [s-
26 [
27 Nixon: [↓Oh]:.
28 |
29 Hald: [say nothing he might go (f) the Fi'th I s'poze in say ↑no↓thing. ·hhh[h
30 |
31 Nixon: [Ya:h,
32
33 (·)
34
- 35 Hald: Uh: but (0.3) it would app↑ea:r thet eez thought through en perpared for en en:
36
37 (0.3) [his lawyers i-are edvising 'im tuh tɑ:lɔ. ·hh[h
38 | |
39 Nixon: [(Mm- (·) mhh) [Mmhm:,
40
- 41 Hald: End uh (·) hɛ says when I ta↑:lk?=ih wɔn't [(0.2) uh:] (0.6) in inny way=
42 | |
43 Nixon: [hmhhhhh]
44
- 45 Hald: =implicate 'aldemɪn?=en ni:n <eh abso↑lu'ly no way implicate the °↑Presidin'.°
46
- 47 Hald: ·hh[h
48 |
49 Nixon: [°Mmhm-hm°
50
51 (·)
52

1 Nixon: [Hm
 2 [
 3 Hald: [En there was no (0.8) i-no involvement? 'n no knowledge iv ēither
 4 |
 5 Nixon: | ((swallowing noises))
 6 (1.4) |
 7 (0.4) |
 8 |
 9 Nixon: [t·hh[hhhh
 10 [
 11 Hald: [En:d uh= [5.0]
 12 |
 13 Nixon: =W'l in this respect [Bob 'ee- 'ee is] telling the truth=h[h
 14 [[
 15 Hald: [()] [But 'ee siz it will
 16 |
 17 heyng Mitchell.
 18 |
 19 (Nixon) (1.2) °·hhhyaeeeahhh°
 20 |
 21 Nixon: ↓hHmhm?
 22 |
 23 (2.2) [5.1]
 24 |
 25 Nixon: hmhh ·pah·hheyahh What< the hell dih you think ↓thi::s hhwel a' course
 26 |
 27 we,hh hwi'll see what Colson's latest vignette ↑i:s. bu[t·hhh
 28 [
 29 Hald: [nYeh we've jis' gotta see,
 30 |
 31 Nixon: what< in the name a' God is is è-is this: (·) iss this (0.5) thing that gez (·)
 32 |
 33 brought in ↓here et thi[s point.]hI mean: uh [·h h h<]
 34 [[
 35 Hald: [I don't](↓know) [I dun'know]
 36 |
 37 Nixon: What's yer gue:ss though uh mean it's a,hh curious [thin:g ah mea:n]
 38 [
 39 Hald: [Self defense?] I mean:
 40 |
 41 just (0.4) part iv [the game] [gamesm'nshi]p?
 42 [(·) [
 43 Nixon: [I mea:n] [a : n d u h :] en almost making it °↑up°
 44 |
 45 though Bob=
 46 |
 47 (∅): =((mh))=
 48 |
 49 Nixon: = because I: do[n't
 50 [
 51 Hald: [He may [be victimized on it?
 52 [
 53 Nixon: [°°a-°°

1 (0.6)
2
3 Hald: I'm not sure he's (ma[kin' any?])
4 []
5 Nixon: [Y'mean by] iz lawyer.[hhmhh[Mm hm?]
6 [-(0.4)- []
7 Hald: [Y a h e r]
8 (·)
9
10 Hald: _____ somebuddy else [·hhhhhhhhh] ↑Or by the ↑press
11 | [—(1.0)—]
12 (0.6)
13 (): (1.0) ·hhhh
14 |
15 Hald: _____ ·k Yuh know this [(0.5)] that was ↑my first ↓impression wuuz thet this wiz a=
16 []
17 (Nixon): [tk p']tk
18
19 Hald: =press maneuver?
20
21 (·)
22
23 Hald: nYih know they: (·) [they ca]ll you in say:: uh
24 []
25 Nixon: [>Mhm<]
26
27 Nixon: Ah gyah yah.=
28
29 Hald: =the other (guy's stuff) uh: you bette[r,hh le[t's let's] us talk abaht it. [5.8]
30 [] []
31 Nixon: [Yah [↓Ya:h.]
32
33 Nixon: 'N so:: m-ah Mihgru^hder i:s goⁱng dih-g-eh: hez aw^riddy ·hhh he's he's ↓ta:lked
34
35 in::d he's gonna s- ee^z guh eess 'm p- ee- gi^ven a sta:temint yih see ·hhh ↑thi^s
36
37 thi^s went so fa::r thet ·hhhh thet wun you: ih- exami:ne: Chuck.=he said ee'd (·)
38
39 i-he-he:: backed off the ta^pe en then ba^cked o:ff the traⁿscript.=hu[h?
40 []
41 Hald: _____ [That's ↑ri:ght,
42 |
43 (0.2)
44 |
45 Nixon: (0.9) °hheeyah°
46 |
47 (0.2)
48 |
49 Nixon: _____ Well °God damn hi:m.° He shouldn't ↑do that with ↓you:. Uh mean ↑really
50
51 no[t- I mean- I under]stand with ↑oth↓er:s. But not with ↑you:.
52 []
53 Hald: [But 'ee ↑d o e : s]

- 1 Hald: No but he jis' dog:s. He- (0.2) he i:s< (0.6) compulsively unable duh
2
3 ·hh[hhh
4 []
5 Nixon: [↓Hm:[: hm?
6 []
7 Hald: [l̩imit 'imself tuh thè: (·) tuh the basic< (0.3) t[ru:th. H]e hass to=
8 []
9 Nixon: [Ri:ght?]
10
11 Hald: _____ =embellish.
12 |
13 | (1.9)
14 |
15 Nixon: | ·t
16 | (5.0)
17 | ((pwp))
18 |
19 Nixon: | °·mpt° (0.3) °·pt° ((swallow)) °°yhehh°° [6.4]
20 |
21 Nixon: _____ Well yuh know the frea:l problem is Joh:n:. G^hod da:mn I: feel fer him ·h[hh
22 | []
23 Hald: | [Yup?
24 |
25 | (0.2)
26 |
27 Nixon: hAnd uh:,h ·hh< (0.3) tcheez if hI were idv:ising 'im I'd idvise 'im dih come
28
29 forward en say gee I hhh ·hhahhh yuh know.hhl've to:ld the truth all alo::ng
30
31 ↓en ·hhhh but I take the responsi↓bility fer this thin[g yih] know.ahhhI=
32 []
33 Hald: [Yu p]
34 |
35 Nixon: =mea[n-
36 []
37 Hald: [That['s that's i:[z way you:t.]
38 [[]
39 Nixon: ['ee- [(ee ↑steeking)]
40 |
41 Nixon: ·hhhfsss He: really oughta ↑do that rether then go: the[n har:d line] this damn=
42 []
43 Hald: [That's (all)]
44 |
45 Nixon: =thing. ·hhh He siz I didn't ↑know about it? ↓I didn't approve it? but I take the
46
47 _____ responsi↑pility ↓for it.
48 |
49 | (0.4)
50 |
51 | (0.9) ((dup))
52 |
53 | (0.3)

- 1 Nixon: ___ Ri:ght?
 2
 3 (·)
 4
 5 Hald: ___ Yup?
 6 |
 7 | (0.4)
 8 (0.9)
 9 (): | °p·t·hiee°
 10
 11 Nixon: ___ [(↓Yeghh)
 12 [
 13 Hald: [Then they'd let 'im ↑o:ff they'd say well you know this: great man wuuz (·)
 14
 15 [being screwed u]:p in ill served by ·hhhhhh his people'n thass too bad 'n=
 16 [
 17 Nixon: [↓That's ↑right.]
 18
 19 Nixon: °°·Yhheah°°
 20
 21 (0.3)
 22
 23 Nixon: °°T's ri:ght,mhhh° [7.0]
 24
 25 Hald: Obviously 'ee had other (·) pressures on 'im?=
 26
 27 (0.6)
 28
 29 Nixon: °hHmh[mhm°
 30 [
 31 (Hald): [·tsk
 32
 33 (0.2)
 34
 35 Hald: Yihknow one a' those things.=
 36
 37 Nixon: =But 'ee really oughta do thet but whho the hhhell ken ↑talk t' ↓Joh:n.ehh [·hh
 38 [·hh
 39 Hald: [We:ll?=
 40
 41 Nixon: ___ ⁴ =More is the only o:ne en: nI don'know whether he'ss got much influence any more.
 42 |
 43 (): | ·hmhhhh
 44 (1.2)

44

⁴ Richard A. Moore, "a Nixon advisor and sometime speechwriter" (Ehrlichman, *Witness to Power*, p.104). According to Lukas (*Nightmare* p.376), When the Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities (i.e., the Ervin Committee) was formed on February 7th, 1973 "Haldeman, Ehrlichman, Dean, and Richard Moore met in California to develop their 'game plan' against the select committee." According to Dean (*Blind Ambition*), Moore, who "had recently come into the hush-money business as an extra White House courier to Mitchell" (p.196), coined the 'cancer' image of the cover up in a conversation with Dean on March 20th, 1973 (p.196), and helped him in his attempt to put together a 'Dean Report' (p.230).

1 | (0.4)
2 |
3 Nixon: ___|___ °Well,° hI think ah gget More in dihmorrow en talk to 'm a lid'l about that,
4 |
5 | (0.4)
6 |
7 Nixon: Think that would be helpful?
8 |
9 Hald: I don' kno:w.
10 |
11 | (·)
12 Hald: I:
13 | (·)
14 |
15 Nixon: ___|___ Or is that ba(h)ad.hh!
16 |
17 (Ø): (0.4) (hhh)
18 |
19 Nixon: ___|___ eYah,
20 |
21 | (0.3)
22 Nixon: ___|___ I guess it's ↓bad,
23 |
24 | (·)
25 (3.3)
26 Nixon: | °hm-hm-hm ·hmh hm-hm-hm<°° (0.3) °·hahhh° huhhh
27 |
28 Nixon: ___|___ I really oughta stay away ↓from ut chu know buhcuuz[: ↑ba]sically ·hehhhh
29 | []
30 Hald: [Yep]
31 | (0.2)
32 |
33 Nixon: uh:::uu-uu- (0.3) tis'n just a- (·) thet c'd eh consumption 'v t^{hi}:me in the res'?=
34 |
35 but ·hehheh hI reelly do:n't know what the hell: ↑↑°did° ↓happen yuh know hI=
36 |
37 Hald: =Ya[h
38 | []
39 Nixon: [I yI dohh_n'reall(h)y ↑kno:w. ·hahhh ↓yuh know end uh::: nen I'd I (·) feel
40 |
41 fer ↑all these people?=I'd like tuh,h ·hehh·hehh do: somethin:g duh ↑save them
42 |
43 ↓a:ll but there isn' ih Go:d da:mn thing you c'n ↑do is ↓thur.h Dih you think iv
44 |
45 anything?
46 |
47 Hald: No?
48 |
49 | (0.4)
50 |
51 Hald: I do:n['t.
52 | []
53 Nixon: [umean you say w'don' let Dean: ↑go ↓like Joh:n says well fer Chri'sakes

1 Nixon: ⁵ we don' leeym theh somebuddy ↑else is gunnuh ↓go.
2
3 (·)
4
5 Nixon: Isn' that it?
6
7 (0.5)
8
9 Hald: _____ Yap?
10 |
11 Nixon: | °hmnhhehhyehh° (0.3) °hh hh°
12 |
13 (3.2) (0.5)
14 |
15 (Hald): |____ ·heyahh
16
17 Hald: | hI think [8.0]
18
19 Nixon: | Yer sure [yih
20 | [
21 Hald: | [I think yee jis' cannot uhbscure thè: (·) ↓th[è::
22 | [
23 Nixon: | [the truth.
24
25 Hald: _____ thè: elementary truth. Yiv jus' got tuh
26 |
27 Nixon: | ·heyahh
28 (0.5)
29 | ((tlok[uh])
30 | [
31 Hald: |____ [whatever it i:s? we've got tuh: (·) preh- be prepared duh live with it
32
33 (0.7)
34
35 Nixon: ((swallow)) khh ↑A:n:d (·) we will ↓live with it.↓=
36
37 Hald: =<A[n' i f i t]
38 []
39 Nixon: [Let me say]: do[n't be]
40 []
41 Hald: _____ [carves]
42 |
43 Nixon: | ·huhh
44 (0.5)
45 (·)
46
47 Hald: |____ [ca:ves uh]
48 []
49 Nixon: [don't be too] da[mn worried] about it]
50 []
51 Hald: [some 'v u s] ↑W e l l] then we guttuh live with that too:.
51

⁵ In standard orthography, “we don' leeym theh” would be rendered as “if we don't let him then”.

1 (0.4)
2
3 Nixon: °Do:n't, pee too damn kincerned about it f'm they say Mitchell:: the Attorney
4
5 General'n the President's campaign meneger
6
7 Nixon: ·hh[hh
8 []
9 Hald: [It's gonna [(beet mee)]()]
10 []
11 Nixon: [uh let me te]lyuh-
12
13 Nixon: °·hh°
14
15 (0.2)
16
17 Nixon: Ye:s< (·) that's tough.
18
19 (0.3)
20
21 Nixon: Any tougher then A:↑dams?
22
23 (0.3)
24
25 Nixon: ↑↑No:.
26
27 (0.4)
28
29 Nixon: My: ↑Go:d.=Ada:ms wuuz ah- ei-Eisenhower'ss a:ltér ↑eg↓o. He wiz with
30
31 him it the heart ittek=he wiz ↑↑Presi↓dent ac'shlly.↓
32
33 Hald: °Et's ri:ght?h°
34
35 (0.2)
36
37 Nixon: _____ Yihknow let's fa(h)ace i(·)t.
38 |
39 (): | °·hha:ya_hh°
40 (1.0) |
41 | (0.3)
42 |
43 Nixon: _____ h↓An:d it w'z (·) pers'nal venalily.
44 |
45 (): (0.6) ·hghuh,
46 |
47 Nixon: _____ hEn not jist a ca:per. This is: just a caper yihknow like yer:: ↓poll showed.↓
48
49 (0.2)
50
51 Hald: Yah
52
53 ((tape cuts)) [8.6]

1 (5.8) ((dead tape))
2
3 Voice: This c'ncludes the abuse? of government p^hower segmint, (0.2) fer
4
5 co:nversation number, thirty eight dash (·) nine. [8.8]