

Ehrlichman and Gray, Telephone

April 15, 1973 10:16?-11:15? pm (b)

1 Voice: ·plu Conversation number thirty eight da:shu (·) sixty two.uh ·h Por:tion [17.9]  
2  
3 of a telephone conversation between Jo:hn D. Erlichmin? ·h en L. Patrick  
4  
5 Gray. (0.4) This porshin uwas recorded on April fifteenth, ·hh nineteen  
6  
7 <sup>1</sup> sev'ndy three, ·hh at en unknown ti::me between ten sixteen, ·hh en eleven  
8  
9 fiftee:n p.m.  
10  
11 (4.8) ((dead tape))  
12  
13 Ehrl: ...llo:, [18.2]  
14  
15 Op: Mistuh Gra:[y,  
16 [   
17 Ehrl: <sup>2</sup> [·Than[k yeu.]  
18 [   
19 Gray: [Hello.]  
20 (·)  
21  
22 Ehrl: P·a:t John [Ehrlichmin a[↓gai:n.]  
23 [ [ ]=  
24 Gray: [(Yah) [Y e a h]  
25  
26 Ehrl: =p·hhh ·Listen I've been giving some thought to ar: conversay↓shin.  
27  
28 (·)  
29  
30 Ehrl: ·t·hh·hh ·I jis' do:n't thi:nk,h there:'s ↑any wa↓:y. (0.4) ·k·hh ·to:: uh-nm: ·do  
31  
32 anythi:ng but l:evel on this if yer a:sked.  
33  
34 Gray: Mmhm,= ((laconically))  
35  
36 Ehrl: =-ptch (·) Uh::m m-theh jest- (·) too minny coll:ateral fa:cts:.  
37  
38 Gray: Mmh[m, ((laconically))  
39 [   
40 Ehrl: [·hhh·hh·hh (·) ·and uh:: eh:: if it's uh it if it's a fa:ct thet that wuuz

40

<sup>1</sup> Gray, in his testimony at the Watergate Hearings (p.628), says that this call took place “shortly after 11 P.M.” According to Emery (pp.330-1), it was recorded in Nixon’s office, with Nixon and Haldeman present. Their discussion of the prior call from Ehrlichman to Gray was not recorded. (Emery, p.318, remarks that on Sunday, April 15, “There were so many comings and goings that . . . because of the overload and because it was Sunday, the secret presidential recording system ran out of tape at one key location, or so Nixon later said.”)

<sup>2</sup> The bullet indicates a ‘pop!’ in the recording.

1 Ehrl: jest full of: i-stuff eerelevant tuh any business a' the □Bureau why:: yihknow?  
 2  
 3 (·) that's: (·) that's reas'n enou:gh.  
 4  
 5 (·)  
 6  
 7 Gray: <sup>3</sup> Well that's what I was to:ld but I didn' look et it °John°,  
 8  
 9 Ehrl: • Right.uhh ·huhh •(W'l) (0.3) ·hhh h•Uh::,hh ↑hu- I just don't see  
 10  
 11 hHO:w, you kid <sub>mg-m-mghmm</sub>:(↓(m<sub>gh</sub>ove) •yerself crossway:s in thê(v) in the  
 12  
 13 testimony in this thing, <sub>mgmih</sub>• fer f<sub>gh</sub>ear you git caught ↑up ↓in it.  
 14  
 15 Gray: Mm ↓↓hm.  
 16  
 17 (0.2)  
 18  
 19 Ehrl: ·hh·hhh S•o I: uh,hh u- I: 'd just- (0.2) incourage you duh jist- (0.2) state  
 20  
 21 the fa:cts.  
 22  
 23 (0.3)  
 24  
 25 Gray: \_\_\_\_\_ Y•eh w'l I've state:d uh (0.3) straightaway yihknow thet thê: uh  
 26 |  
 27 Ehrl: | °°hmh hmh hmhhh°°  
 28 (1.4)  
 29 | (0.3)  
 30 |  
 31 Gray: \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>4</sup> het no ti::me did 'ee indica•te thet this wiz from: Hunt's:: ma•(tchih<)  
 32  
 33 (·?)  
 34 Ehrl: <sup>5</sup> Yah.  
 35  
 36 (2.2)

36

<sup>3</sup> In his opening statement at the Watergate Hearings, on August 3, 1973 (p.625), Gray says that he burned the materials “during Christmas week [1972] with the Christmas and household paper trash . . . . To this point I had not read or examined the files. But immediately before putting them in the fire I opened one of the files. It contained what appeared to be copies of ‘top secret’ State Department cablegrams. I read the first cable. . . . [T]he text of the cable implicated officials of the Kennedy Administration in the assassination of President Diem of South Vietnam. I had no reason then to doubt the authenticity of the ‘cable’ and was shaken at what I read. . . . I merely thumbed through the second of the two files and noted that it contained onionskin copies of correspondence. I did not absorb the subject matter of the correspondence and do not today, of my own knowledge, know what it was.”

<sup>4</sup> In standard orthography I'd show “ma•tchih<” as “(materials)”.

In his August 3, 1973 opening statement at the Watergate Hearings (p.624) Gray says that at their meeting on July 28, 1972 John Dean told him that “these files contained copies of sensitive and classified papers of a political nature that Howard Hunt had been working on”.

<sup>5</sup> It was in Ehrlichman's office, with Ehrlichman present, that Dean's meeting with Gray on July 28, 1972 took place. In his testimony at the Watergate Hearings on July 25, 1973 (p.526) Ehrlichman says “[Dean] said, Pat, I would like to give you these. The sense of it was that these [were] contents of Hunt's safe that were politically sensitive, and that we just could not stand to have them leaked.”

- 1 Ehrl: ·ptch=Oh I sey-I: sih you didn' know wher it came ↓from.  
2  
3 Gray: No-:,  
4  
5 Ehrl: • see.  
6  
7 Gray: °Yu[h.°  
8 [ ]  
9 Ehrl: [°·h<sub>m</sub>h Wh•(at) (·) du-uh: just thet it w'ss [- (0.7)-] ·t (0.2) papers thet=  
10 [ ]  
11 ( Ø): [mghmgh]  
12  
13 =i-he wannid duh turn over dih you?  
14  
15 Gray: Yeah,  
16  
17 Ehrl: I: ↓see.  
18  
19 Gray: \_\_\_\_\_ °Yeah?°  
20 |  
21 Ehrl: (0.6) °°·h<sub>m</sub>h·h<sub>m</sub>h°°  
22 |  
23 Gray: \_\_\_\_\_ Thet th•(ey were) purely:: uh: puhlitic'l things?=en ha•d no:: bearing o:n  
24  
25 the subjict (et all)=  
26  
27 Ehrl: =Mmh<sub>m</sub>,h  
28  
29 (0.3)  
30  
31 Ehrl: Mmh<sub>m</sub>? •Q↓kay  
32  
33 (0.2)  
34  
35 Ehrl: \_\_\_\_\_ ·mpt Well, ·hhuhh h•Ah think if I were you I:'d stick tih tha:t.h  
36 |  
37 | (·)  
38 |  
39 ( Ø): (1.4) °°(h<sub>m</sub>h<sub>m</sub>)°°  
40 |  
41 | (0.7)  
42 |  
43 Ehrl: \_\_\_\_\_ •( ) I can't ee-o'viously can't tellyih what tuh do: but (on thē)- I w'z=liddle  
44  
45 troubled by ar conversation en I didn't ↓<sub>m</sub>ggm pick it up< (0.2) fast'nuff.  
46  
47 ·h[h h h h ]h h h h  
48 [ ]  
49 Gray: [Mmh<sub>m</sub>]  
50  
51 Ehrl: Wh•(ile) you said tha:t. So I jis:t I jis' thought I better call yuh back.h  
52  
53 Gray: Yah I ↑don' know all the other collaterals there are thet er in•volved in this: uh

1 (1.0)  
2  
3 Ehrl: •Well eh:uhwuh uhhh ·hhh •the thing is moving so fa:st I wuh I'm f:rank tih  
4  
5 confess I don't either. But I jist ·hhh •I jist hesita:te to: git crosswise on  
6  
7 ↓something a' that kind.↓  
8  
9 Gray: M-hm-hm.  
10  
11 (0.4)  
12  
13 Ehrl: °·t·hhh°  
14  
15 Gray: •( ) [  
16 [   
17 Ehrl: [Ah: 'll talk tih yih later.  
18  
19 Gray: Okay,=  
20  
21 Ehrl: =Bye ↓Pat. [20.0]  
22  
23 ((receiver down))  
24  
25 ((wrrr:::p))  
26  
27 (6.2)  
28  
29 Voice: This conclu:des the Abuse, of Gover'mint Power segments, (·) fer  
30  
31 co:nversation number thirdy eight dash, (·) sixy two. [20.2]  
32  
33  
34 <sup>6</sup> ((duration of call: ca 1 minute 50 seconds))