

Nixon and Petersen, Telephone

April 15, 1973 8:25-8:26 pm

1 Voice: Conversation number thirty eight dash-u fifty five. ·h Portion of a [10.6]  
2  
3 telephone conversayshin (·) between the Presidint? ·h en Henry E.  
4  
5 Petersin. ·hhh This porshin-u was recorded on April fifteenth ·h  
6  
7 nineteen sevendy three, ·hh between eight twunty fi·ve ·h en eight  
8  
9 twenty six p.m.  
10  
11 (6.3) ((dead tape))  
12  
13 ((whh whh))  
14  
15 Nixon: H'llo:. [10.8]  
16  
17 (·)  
18  
19 Op: I have Mister Petersen.  
20  
21 (2.3) ((various soft clicks))  
22  
23 Nixon: H'llo;  
24  
25 (·)  
26  
27 Peters: Yessir Mi[st' Pres'nt?=  
28 [ ]  
29 Nixon: [hmhh  
30  
31 Nixon: =h·I'm trying duh reach Dea:n I think I c'd (·) m:ay be able dih get 'im I  
32  
33 hope bef(hh)ore [·he::hh ]  
34 [ ]  
35 Peters: [Mmhm,] Well ([hI]  
36 [ ]  
37 Nixon: [ah hhHe seems tuh be in t<sup>h</sup>ransit ↓fr' mhmh  
38  
39 someplace tuh someplace. ·hhhhh[h  
40 [ ]  
41 Peters: [Well (I mi·[ats pvoo)]  
42 [ ]  
43 Nixon: [B u t I]z will uh <Ah: 'll  
44  
45 report tih you efter I see hi↓:m.  
46

1 Peters: Very good.  
2  
3 Nixon: ·hhh  
4  
5 ((ukkeh))  
6  
7 Nixon: (Stay awake) <·hh[h In the mean]time on Liddy,  
8 [ ]  
9 Peters: [ A w : k a y ]  
10  
11 (0.2)  
12  
13 ((tkuh))  
14  
15 Nixon: ah-I don't know ↓the ma:n of course en have no control over eem but ·hhh  
16  
17 hit·'ll help<sup>h</sup> ihyou were duh te:ll hi↓.m. ·hmhh·t·hiyahh th·et ↓uh:↓::: the  
18  
19 President wants (·) everybody involved in this tuh s:::- (0.3) to:: ·hhhh (0.2)  
20  
21 ·mp tell everything they know.uh [·p·hhh] h•Okay?  
22 [-(0.4)-]  
23  
24 Peters: Indeed so.=hAh'll get in [touch [wiz lawyer firs'>thing in the morning<  
25 [ ] [ ]  
26 Nixon: \_\_\_\_ °([ ] )° [ha-u-  
27 |  
28 (0.3) ((kh-kh))  
29 |  
30 Nixon: \_\_\_\_ °Uh:(b) mkhMigh' ↑do it tuh↑night.°  
31  
32 Peters: Very good,  
33  
34 (·)  
35  
36 ((thak))  
37  
38 Nixon: °Don' wanna fart arou:n' o↑kay?°  
39  
40 (·)  
41  
42 Peters: Very good:d,=  
43  
44 Nixon: =Don'tche think that's the bes' thing dih do?  
45  
46 Peters: Indeed ↑so  
47  
48 (0.2)  
49  
50 Nixon: ·t Fi↓:ne. And uh: ind uh, but ·hhh one thing I wanta be sure is uh-eh thet-thet  
51  
52 (·) Henry understa:nd ·hhhhh ( ) ·h ez far iz Liddy c'ncerned I: ·h I don'  
53

- 1 Nixon:           kno↓:w. I: *hnh* have no control over him,  
2  
3                   ((kh[h]))  
4                   [  
5 Nixon:           [don't know the m[an et ALL ·hhh en I jes' want<  
6                   [  
7 (Peters):           [(                    )]  
8  
9                   (0.2)  
10  
11 Nixon:           •uh it but since he iz rai:sed the queshion that maybe ·hhhh he zoo- (0.3) ↓uh:::  
12  
13                   ih-not tahlking because of me:h I-[er  
14                   [  
15 Peters:           [Oh- oh no:. No. 'n I din' wanna leave that  
16  
17                   impression ·h  
18  
19                   ((tk))  
20  
21 Nixon:           Because of Mitch↓ell:·uh?hh=  
22  
23 Peters:           =Eh he: t- he's takin' orders from higher author:ity.  
24  
25                   (0.3)  
26  
27                   ((*thuh*))  
28  
29 Nixon:           <sup>1</sup> Wel by [God ih]  
30                   [                    ]  
31 Peters:           [And it] staysh in iz mi:nd thet sinz yer the highest uhtority,  
32  
33 Nixon:           Fi:[ne.  
34                   [  
35 Peters:           [thet yihknow he: 'll staynd in lah:n.=  
36  
37 Nixon:           =A' right. ih You [ jus' ]  
38                   [                    ]  
39 Peters:           [(It'II)] be handled discretely.  
40  
41                   (0.3)  
42  
43 Nixon:           ↓Oh. You just (·) yih- I jus' wan'im duh be (·) sure duh understa:n', ·hhh  
44  
45                   th·et (as) far iz the Presidint is c'ncern' (·) everybody in this case is tuh  
46  
47                   talk ·hhh hen tell the truth.h  
48  
49                   (0.2)  
50  
51 Nixon:           N•ow that- ee-yer duh tell everybody yih don' even haftuh call me on that

51

<sup>1</sup> The “F” in “Wel” here is to notice a strongly retroflexed tongue.

1 Nixon: with anybody y'jus'say those er yer orders.  
2 (·)  
3  
4 Peters: •Very good  
5  
6 Nixon: Fair enough?  
7  
8 Peters: Yes sir.  
9  
10 (·)  
11  
12 Nixon: ·tch Okay.=  
13  
14 Peters: =A[right thank you sir. [12.3]  
15 [  
16 Nixon: [hmhhh  
17  
18 ((whuffling noises))  
19  
20 ((wrrr:::::p))  
21  
22 (5.9) ((dead tape))  
23  
24 Voice: This conclu:des the Abuse, of Gover'min' Power segmints, (0.2) fer  
25  
26 co:nversation number thirty eight dash, (·) fifty five. [12.5]