

Petersen and Silbert, Telephone

April 15, 1973 4-5:15 pm

1 Voice: Conversation number thirty ei:ght dash (·) fordy ↓eight. (0.2) Po:rtion
2
3 ¹ of a telephone conversation b'tween hHenry E Petersen ·hh en Earl J
4
5 Silbert. (0.3) This portion, was recorded on April fifteen ·h nineteen
6
7 sev'ndy three, ·hh at en nunknown ti:me between fou:r? ·h en five
8
9 fifteen: pee em.
10
11 (5.1) ((dead air))
12
13 Silbert: Hello?
14
15 Peters: Ear:l?
16
17 Silbert: Yeah?=
18
19 Peters: =Yeh how yih coming.
20
21 Peters: [-hhhHHH
22 [
23 Silbert: ² [(·) wi'r uh, hokay Shaffer wuuz in the middle'v summari:zen
24
25 eh his pihzishin.
26 |
27 (0.4) ((tk kuh khk khh))
28 |
29 Peters: |_|_| Uh hu:h?
30
31 (Ø): ·HHH
32
33 Silbert: •()
34
35 (Ø): [-HH
36 [
37 [((tk tk))
38
39 Silbert: His pihzishin is hardening ↓a liddle.↓
40

40

¹ Earl Silbert headed up the prosecution of the Watergate break-in. Henry Petersen, John Mitchel's replacement as Attorney General, was Silbert's "boss" (Emery, p.293)

² John Dean's attorney, Charles Shaffer, "a hard-nosed criminal lawyer" (Lukas, p.416), who had been one of the prosecutors of Teamsters Union leader, James Hoffa (Emery, p.293). John Dean began meeting with Shaffer on March 30, 1973 (Emery, p.293).

- 1 Silbert: y'know hHunt git out iv uh:: [(0.4) •() he: in Haldemin ur in on=
2 []
3 (Ø): [hmhhh
4
5 Silbert: [the ↑money]
6 []
7 (Ø): (0.5) [((snff snff))] ((hmf))
8 []
9 Silbert: I mean uh Ehrlichmin en Haldemin are in on the money.
10 []
11 ((shmff))
12 (1.0)
13 (): ((bkg)) (Okay)
14 []
15 Silbert: 4 Uh clihly. Ah mean [a' three [hundred fifty thou:s'n dolluhs comes f'm=
16 [] []
17 [((thk)) []
18 []
19 (Ø): [HHH-HH-HH
20
21 Silbert: =↑Hal^{dem}i[n.
22 []
23 Peters: [hmhhHmhm?
24
25 Silbert: En he's putting in thet 'aldemin told'm d'git it back ↑ovuh ↓there en thet • they
26 knew thet the: ↓thè ·hhh (they knew thet) the money w'r coming i:n ah mean the
27 demands w'r being ma:de?=en finally they adda give thiz money ↑up
28
29 []
30 (Ø): (0.7) hmh hmhh
31 []
32 Silbert: (w'z) Hal^{dem}in's decision d'sind it ↑all ↓back tih thih c'mmittee in↓ ['ee told=
33 []
34 (Peters): [°(Hm)°
35 []
36
37 Silbert: 5 =John nuh do it?='n that's w'n John call' Straw:n.
38 []
39 (): (0.4) ·hhhh
40 []
41 Silbert: •Strawn yuh ↓know:.
42 []
43 (): (0.5) ·hh·hh·hh
44

44

⁴ In standard orthography, "clihly" would be shown as 'clearly'

⁵ Gordon Creighton Strachan, described by R.W. Apple, Jr., in his prefatory 'narrative' to *The Watergate Hearings* (p.50) as having "served as Haldeman's liaison man with the re-election committee; he had been the conduit between Mitchell/Magruder on the one hand and Haldeman/Nixon on the other." Gordon Strachan was one of Haldeman's assistants and 'ticklers'-- putting pressure on subordinates to make sure things got done. He received transcripts of materials recorded in an earlier Watergate break-in. Everyone who writes about Watergate takes it that what Strachan knew, Haldeman knew.

- 1 Silbert: ___ Cuz not uh [—(0.6)—] Strawn Strawn's testimony so far ↓ is uh↓ is inc'nsist'n=
 2 []
 3 [(0.4)] ((tk] tk))
 4
 5 Silbert: =↓wih that↓
 6
 7 (0.3)
 8
 9 Silbert: ⁶ •This w'z' zohn idea, Haldemin 'ardly even knew the money w'z there in he jist
 10
 11 •(d_ik) (·) brought it deci: ' t'(p) bring it ↑ba:ck ↓'n
 12 |
 13 (Ø): | ·heeyhhheah·
 14 (1.0) |
 15 | (0.3)
 16 |
 17 Silbert: ___ He jis' called up< (·) uh mean ↑his story is basically not too buhlievable. That
 18
 19 is Straw:n's, (·) uh:
 20
 21 Peters: Hm hm,
 22
 23 Silbert: ⁷ (but) Joh:n's i[s much more: ↑credible becuz 'ee siz yeah give it tuh LuhRue=
 24 []
 25 Peters: [·hmhyhhahhh
 26
 27 Silbert: =cuz LuhRue is giving all the ↑money in that's why the money went tuh Luh
 28
 29 Rue: where
 30
 31 Peters: ·hhuhh
 32
 33 Silbert: whereas uh-ū (·) Strawn c'n say [well I'm in- yuh know 'ee doesn' return it tuh=
 34 []
 35 [·tk
 36
 37 Silbert: =the f' ↑nance c'mm↓ittee.=which is normally where it=go ba:ck,
 38
 39 (1.0)
 40
 41 (): •(S_Q-)
 42
 43 (0.4)
 44
 45 Peters: hHmhm?=

45

⁶ In standard orthography, "This w'z' zohn idea" would be shown as "This was his own idea"

⁷ Frederick Cheney LaRue, according to the 'Profiles of key figures' in *The Watergate Hearings* (pp.846-7), "was an intimate friend and political lieutenant of former Attorney General John N. Mitchell." In Lukas' profile (pp.351-2), he is characterized as "passing messages, briefing witnesses, delivering cash - the indispensable jack-of-all-missions." Assistant to John Mitchell at the committee to re-elect, he was involved in the 'hush money' payments (Lukas, p.), pleaded guilty to a charge of one count of conspiracy to obstruct justice, sentenced to one to three years, sentence reduced to six months (Jaworski, p.339).

- 1 Silbert: =ah:: he g- 'ee returned it tuh Luh↑Rue.=in why d'z 'ee return it to Luh↑Rue:,
2
- 3 (Peters): ·hahhh
4
- 5 Silbert: becau:se LuhRue::,
6
- 7 Peters: hmhhh[hh
8
9 Silbert: [i:s uh ah mean Strawn's expl'nation is well 'ee e'z a seenyih ceampaign
10
11 offi↓cial.
12
13 (0.3)
14
- 15 Peters: ·p·hhhh
16
- 17 Silbert: •(which) d•(oesn't make) any se:nse. Money oughta go ba::ck uh-:: to: uh (0.7)
18
19 a perso[n: uh (·) inna f' nance commi[ttee.
20 [[
- 21 Peters: [·khhhhh [°R_{gh}ight, now d'z° d'z he say Haldemin
22
23 said to?
24
- 25 (Peters) | hmhh
26 (0.8)
27 | (0.2)
28 |
- 29 Silbert: | Said give it to LuhRue?
30
- 31 Peters: Yeahm=
32
- 33 Silbert: =No. Not that.= 'Ee said give it ba:ck.
34
- 35 Peters: Mm[:hm
36 [
- 37 Silbert: [Yuh know, send it back to the committee a.nd get ā receipt.
38
39 (0.2)
40
- 41 Peters: hHmhm
42
43 (0.5)
44
- 45 Silbert: Thet's w't 'aldeman said
46
- 47 Peters: hHmhm,
48
49 (1.5)
50
- 51 Silbert: But uh:: (·) there is ā uh,
52
53 ((hk|k))

1 Peters: ·h[hhhhHHHHH
2 [

3 Silbert: _____ [yih know based on the ↑money?
4 |

5

6 Peters: (1.2) ↑nngekhhhhh[hhh
7 | [

8 Silbert: _____ [thē: uh• eyuh [(0.4) ah-uh Dean is really giving us only=
9 [

10 [((reciver being shifted around))
11

12 Silbert: =(purth). Except fuh the fa::ct (·) the[t- i-he ed edv*i*:::sed Haldeman (0.9)•uh=
13 [

14 (Voice): [((in bkg, continues over talk))
15

16 Silbert: =↑firs' two meetinks. (0.5) •uh thet took place in the Attorney General's
17
18 office. •(isit-) (0.3) yih know jist hahrrible in he siz well 'ee siz Halde- ah
19
20 Haldemin agree::d, (0.3) •and we sh'd 'av nothing tih do with it.
21
22 (0.5)
23

24 Silbert: •(Ah min)
25
26 (0.2)
27

28 Peters: °B't nobuddy stopped 'em on°
29

30 Silbert: Hah?
31

32 Peters: B't nobuddy stopped *it*.
33

34 Silbert: Nobuddy [stopped it].
35 []

36 Peters: [·hhHHHH]H[H
37 [

38 Silbert: [Ri[ght
39 [

40 Peters: [No:w//
41
42 (5.4) ((dead air))
43

44 Voice: This c'_nclu:des the abuse of gover'mint power segments, (·) fer co_nversation
45
46 number thirty eight dash (0.2) forty eight.