

Nixon and Ehrlichman, Telephone

April 17, 1973 2:39-2:40 pm

1 Voice: Conversation number thirty eight dash eighty six. (0.2) Portion of a [6.2]
2
3 telephone conversation (·) between the President? ·h en Joh:n D.
4
5 Ehrlichmin. °·h° (·) This portion was recorded on April seventeenth
6
7 ·hh nineteen sevendy three ·hh between two thirty nine, ·h en two
8
9 fordy p.m.u
10
11 (6.1) ((dead tape))
12
13 Nixon: gAh: John [6.4]
14
15 Ehrl: Yes si[r.
16 []
17 Nixon: [Doo wanna 'rupt cher statemints pre[pare I deeme]mber bud I=
18 []
19 Ehrl: ['T's (a pree)]
20
21 Nixon: =jest wunnid duh be sure dih check the poin's shu want with Petersen be
22
23 in jeh- (0.2) fah- ih ten miniss so hehhhhh
24 |
25 (Ø): (0.4) °(yheo[h]°
26 | []
27 Nixon: | [uOne: ihhss::: no immunity?
28 |
29 (0.6) ((t-kik-k))
30 |
31 Nixon: | ·hyuhh Uh: bu-however I would sa:y,heh [·h fer any top any=the top three.
32 | []
33 (Ø): (([kluh])
34
35 (1.2)
36
37 Ehrl: [MM:.]
38 []
39 (Nixon): [(o k e]h)=
40
41 Ehrl: =Mmh[m,
42 []
43 Nixon: [In other words so that I c'n:: it sort iv appears it'n ef you [wunnuh]
44 []=
45 Ehrl: [M m]
46

- 1 Ehrl: [m m
2 =
3 Nixon: ¹ [give it tuh Strawn [that's oka]:y.=See [(hē k-)]
4 [] []
5 Ehrl: [Mmhm<] [Mmhm]
6
7 Nixon: E[h don't chu thee]nk that's a good line,=
8 []
9 Ehrl: [M m h m h m]
10
11 Ehrl: =I think that's good ennuh ↑any a' ↓thè(b) (·) any a' the ppeople in:
12
13 uh[h
14 []
15 Nixon: [hYah hh-hhkh[hh
16 []
17 Ehrl: [Ya[w
18 []
19 Nixon: [·huhye_hhh
20
21 Ehrl: hAhmhh Yih weh thè(f) the four points iss I wrode 'm down were,
22
23 doo inform eem thetchu were making a statement
24
25 Nixon: ·tk Yeh th_{gh}at I've done. hkhhm
26
27 Ehrl: Yer policy with regard dih suspension un firing?=
28
29 Nixon: =·p·hhuh Which is: uh charges er indictmi[n:t]
30 []
31 Ehrl: [hh·hu]hh·hee<
32 (0.5)
33
34 Ehrl: whh è-En:dictmènt fer suspension en firing fer kinvic↓tion.hmhh
35
36 hm[hh ↑hmh ↓hm]hh=
37 []
38 Nixon: [M m h m ?]
39
40 Ehrl: _____ =·p Which [will b e] in the statemint ↓thet I'm drafting.↓
41 | []
42 Nixon: | [Mm hm<]
43 |
44 (Ø): (1.1) ·tk k-kjh
45 |
46 (0.5)
47

47

¹ Gordon Strachan, one of Haldeman's assistants, had received transcripts of materials recorded in an earlier Watergate break-in. In the 'cancer on the presidency' meeting between Nixon and John Dean (March 21, 1973), Dean says, about materials from the "initial" break-in and bugging of the Democratic National Committee's Watergate office, "The information was coming over here. To Strachan. Some of it was given to Haldeman. (0.4) There's no doubt about it." (JeffTrans:19:8-15 and ff).

1 Nixon: ___ Eh-uh-uh wait a minnid e[hh
2 []
3 Ehrl: [You'll tell the press 'a=
4
5 Nixon: =p Right.
6
7 (0.3)
8
9 Nixon: hMmhm?=
10
11 Ehrl: =huhh The:n privately:,hh tuh hhim yer pol'cy with regar' doo immunity
12
13 fer top people,
14
15 (·)
16
17 Nixon: Yah ·mlp And leak[s t'the gran' jury]
18 []
19 Ehrl: [I wouldn' prihpar]e I wouldn' limid id tuh three: I'd
20
21 sa[y eh] any top pers'n li(·)ke ↑Dean er up.uh
22 []
23 Nixon: [Yah]
24
25 (0.3)
26
27 Nixon: ·plk (·) Yeah.
28
29 (0.7)
30
31 (Ehrl): twh ·h [thh
32 []
33 Nixon: [Cuuz u[h hm]hhh
34 []
35 Ehrl: [Yah.]
36
37 Nixon: That's right. ·t·hehh hAh but ah'll (·) then ah'll say now iss far iz a fella
38
39 like Strahn thet's fine.
40 |
41 (0.4) ((fwhh hh fwhh))
42 |
43 Nixon: ___ Do whatchu wan[t.
44 []
45 Ehrl: [Yeah.
46
47 (0.2)
48
49 Nixon: [·pt
50 []
51 Ehrl: [Yeah=
52

- 1 Nixon: =uI: think I'll (·) Tha[t
2 [
- 3 Ehrl: [Cols'n=
4
- 5 Nixon: =strengthens the puhsition.=
6
- 7 Ehrl: =Cols'n Dea:n,h anybuddy a' that kin:[d
8 [
- 9 Nixon: [(It wouldn't)=
10
- 11 Ehrl: _____ =no ↓dice:.
12 |
- 13 (Ø): | ·kuk ·klk
14 (0.7) |
15 | (0.3)
16 |
- 17 Nixon: _____ 't Well you tuh mention these four to me ah'll jus' ↓say that.↓ hmhh
18
- 19 Ehrl: _____ Uh::m en then uh,h fourth thē uh,h uh leaks outta the gran' ↓jur'.
20 |
- 21 Nixon: (1.1) ·kak, ·kuk-·km ·t·hhe·hh[·hh
22 |
- 23 Ehrl: _____ [An:d uh wuu-uh-wih- ↑put it tuh ↑him whether
24
- 25 he doesn' think thet uh ·huhh [uh: later exposure would uh prejudice the=
26 [
- 27 [((gnff wifff)
28
- 29 Ehrl: =whole: 'nvestigāshin?=en whether er not he shouldn' withdra↓:w.h
30
- 31 (0.3)
32
- 33 Nixon: ·t·hahh=
34
- 35 Ehrl: =At in appropriate ti[me.=Soon's a r]ehplacemint ken be obtai[n]ed.
36 [] []
- 37 Nixon: [C h a r g i z] [↓Charges
38
- 39 in ·t=
40
- 41 (Ehrl): =·huh·heh·hehh[h
42 [
- 43 Nixon: [Eht- (·) B'd I'm going to: hI'm gonna follow a policy of
44
- 45 uh:hh of ik↑cepting resignations ↓in charges er indictmint↓
46
- 47 (0.5)
48
- 49 Nixon: Is that i[t,
50 [
- 51 Ehrl: [·t·hehh Uh (·) no of uh suspension ↓on indict↓ment.
52
- 53 Nixon: ·huh·huh

1 Ehrl: _____ A:nd a resignation on: uh convic↓shin.=
 2 |
 3 (): (1.3) =°hm hmhh hmh-hmh°
 4 |
 5 Nixon: _____ t Oh of c^hourse the:t's right that wed everybody would kno:w that.=
 6
 7 =Suspension on indi:ctment ·hhehhh↑hehyehyeh hhUhmhhhhh hAnd
 8
 9 _____ uh hmhhmhh [·tk·kɪk·kuk resignation on fee- refusing to cooperate? |
 10 | [|
 11 | (([gp-gp-gp-gp))
 12 (0.9)
 13 (): | °eh·tuh·hh°
 14 |
 15 Nixon: _____ Right?hnh[h
 16 | [|
 17 Ehrl: _____ [Or a convicsh'n
 18 |
 19 | (0.2)
 20 (1.0)
 21 (Nixon): | °°·t·k°°
 22 |
 23 Nixon: _____ Yeah?
 24
 25 (·)
 26
 27 (Nixon): Right,
 28
 29 Nixon: En what about(·)t what about charguhlss. chargiz.wuhh hAh mean 'member
 30
 31 we hed that gray area, ·t·heh·h[eh-
 32 | [|
 33 Ehrl: [We:l[l, (·) uh:mhh eh-uh: theh-uh ther again=
 34 | [|
 35 | (([fww ww))
 36
 37 Ehrl: =thad ih you'll haftuh (·) ruhserve the right=
 38
 39 Nixon: =Hm h[m?
 40 | [|
 41 Ehrl: [depending un the seriousniss a' the cha:r[ge.
 42 | [|
 43 Nixon: [Yah·hehh
 44
 45 Ehrl: (°F [you)
 46 | [|
 47 Nixon: [End, [ah'll say ih] ·h u[h h h
 48 | [] [|
 49 Ehrl: [mgh-ghm] [mgh-mg[h
 50 | [|
 51 Nixon: [ih-eh if ↓there's a: d-serious corroborādid
 52
 53 ↓charge.uh

1 (·)
2
3 Ehrl: ·pt The:n: uh you wannim duh bring it to you?=in y[ou'd reser:ve u[h judgmènt=
4 [[

5 Nixon: [Yah [Right

6
7 Ehrl: =on ih [the individual ↑ca[se.
8 [[

9 Nixon: [Right. [↓Fine.

10
11 (0.3)

12
13 Nixon: ² Okay. Good.
14
15 ((dunk-kih-dunk dunk))
16
17 ((receiver down))
18
19 ((v:wit))
20
21 (5.2) ((dead tape))
22
23 Voice: This c'nclu:des the abuse, of gover'mint p^hower segmènts (·) fer co:nversāshin
24
25 number (0.2) thirdy eight (·) dash (·) eighty six.
26