



**NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS STAFF**

**Tape Subject Log**  
(rev. 10/08)

Conversation No. 53-1

Date: April 13, 1971  
Time: 8:04 am - 9:07 am  
Location: Cabinet Room

The President met with Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, John N. Irwin, II, Paul A. Volcker, Melvin R. Laird, Richard G. Kleindienst, Winton M. ("Red") Blount, Hollis M. Dole, Clifford M. Hardin, Maurice H. Stans, James D. Hodgson, John G. Veneman, George W. Romney, John A. Volpe, David M. Kennedy, George P. Shultz, Robert H. Finch, Donald H. Rumsfeld, George H. W. Bush, John D. Ehrlichman, Clark MacGregor, Ronald L. Ziegler, Raymond K. Price, Jr., Dr. Edward E. David, Jr., Peter M. Flanigan, John C. Whitaker, William E. Kriegsman, Arthur J. Sohmer, Robert J. Brown, Paul W. McCracken, General George A. Lincoln, S. David Freeman, Milton Shaw, Glenn T. Seaborg, Caspar W. ("Cap") Weinberger, Chet Holifield, John O. Pastore, Howard H. Baker, Jr., and John B. Anderson  
[Recording begins while the conversation is in progress]

Seaborg

Joint Economic Committee

- Study on energy needs
- Coal
- Pollution
- Environment

Nuclear power

- Laurance S. Rockefeller
- Seaborg
- Fear by public
- Southern California Edison Co.
- Potentialities
- President's conversation with Holifield
  - Breeder reactor
  - Need for pollution-free energy source
  - Pastore and Anderson
- Discussions in confidence
- Baker
- Cabinet
- Ronald W. Reagan
- Dwight D. Eisenhower's "Atoms for Peace" program
  - Success
  - Aid to other countries

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- Present situation
- Need for nuclear power
- Supplier of energy
- Number of plants
  - Size
  - Efficiency
- Federal Power Commission
  - Future projections
- Uranium
  - Enrichment
- Types of plants
  - Location
- Reactors
  - England and France
- Enriched uranium
- Fossil fuels
- Oil and gas use
- Atomic Energy Commission's [AEC] licensing process
  - Review
  - Public hearings
  - Safety
    - Radioactivity
- Safety issue
- Radiation from nuclear power plants
  - Levels
  - Exposure

**Breeder reactor**

- Consumption of uranium
- Production of plutonium
- Fuel
- Costs
- Environmental impact
- Safety
- Problems
  - Complexity
  - Costs
  - McCracken
- Savings
- Materials
- Sodium use
- Types

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- Development
  - Admiral Hyman G. Rickover
  - Fast breeder
  - Gas-cool version
  - Liquid metal fast breeder
    - Use in other countries
  - Needs
- Demonstration projects
  - Costs
  - Federal funds
- Demonstration reactor
  - Federal government's role
  - Utility companies
  - Builder
  - AEC's role
  - Funding
  - Utility advisory committees
  - John L. Gordon, Southern California Edison Co.
  - Tom Caters [sp?], Commonwealth Edison
  - Jack Wagner [sp?], Commonwealth Edison
  - John M. Arthur, Duquesne Light
  - Proposals
  - Requirements
  - Shaw

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Great Britain

[To listen to the segment (1m15s) declassified on 02/28/2002, please refer to RC# E-515.]

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- Briefing on nuclear power
  - Cabinet
  - Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
    - Melvin Price

- Energy
  - Crisis

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- Consolidated Edison Co.
- Reduction of voltage
- Need for innovation
- Effect on industry
- Population
- Resources
- Research and development

## Demonstration reactor

- Cost
- Tangible benefits
- Justification
- Seaborg
- Increase energy
- President's role
- Impending energy shortage
- Need for support
- Federal government's responsibility
  - Approach
- Need for national commitment
- Eisenhower's "Atoms for Peace" program
- Costs
  - Compared with other programs

## Energy

- Population growth
- Need for national policy
- Second energy source

## Demonstration plants

- Present capabilities
- Timing
- Training of personnel
- Other nations' programs
  - Comparison with United States' program
- Breeder reactor
  - Prototype
- Commitment
- Light-water reactors
- Plutonium

## Energy

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- Suez crisis
- United States' oil imports
- Atomic energy
- 1961 report to Joint Atomic Energy Committee [JAEC]
  - John F. Kennedy
  - Saint Patrick
- Need for national policy
- Seaborg
- Holifield
- Historical importance of nuclear energy

Nuclear energy

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Soviet Union

*[To listen to the segment (1m17s) declassified on 02/28/2002, please refer to RC# E-515.]*

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- Future
- Pastore and JAEC
- Baker
- Bipartisan support
- Green revolution
- Impact
- Energy revolution
- Fears in scientific community
  - Rockefeller
  - Significance
  - Environmental impact
  - Safety
    - Effluent
  - Major accident
  - JAEC opinion
- Fusion
- Safety
  - Geological accident
  - Pollution of atmosphere

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- Record
- Demonstration plant
- Experience in Massachusetts
  - Opponents of nuclear energy
- Safety
- Discharge of cooling water
  - Illinois plant experience
  - Solutions
  - Breeder reactor
- Scientists
  - Opinion
  - Fusion
- Fusion
  - Pace of development
- Location of breeder reactor
  - Baker
  - Holifield
  - Criteria
- Cost
  - Competitive to fossil fuel
  - Breeder

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Middle East

*[To listen to the segment (1m35s) declassified on 02/28/2002, please refer to RC# E-515.]*

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- Desalinization
  - Potential development
  - Future
  - Southern California
- Breeder reactor
  - Possible spinoffs
    - Desalinization
    - Recycling of resources
    - Gasification of coal
- Budget considerations

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-JAEC

[Laughter]

[General conversation/Unintelligible]

The President, et al. left at 9:07 am

Conversation No. 53-2

Date: April 17, 1971

Time: 9:34 am - unknown before 10:45 am

Location: Cabinet Room

The President met with Peter G. Peterson, George P. Shultz, John B. Connally, Maurice H. Stans, David M. Kennedy, Henry A. Kissinger, Peter M. Flanigan, and U. Alexis Johnson  
[Recording begins while the conversation is in progress]

J. Edgar Hoover's possible resignation

Textiles

- Legislative situation
- President's options

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Japan, Korea, Taiwan

[To listen to the segment (18m7s) declassified on 02/28/2002, please refer to RC# E-515.]

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- Inducements
  - Wilbur D. Mills' activities
- Quotas
  - Steel
  - Exports

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- Compared with Japan
  - U. A. Johnson
- Attitude of labor unions
- Productivity
- United States' trade initiatives
  - Congressional pressures
- Strategy
- United States' interests
- Administration's policies
- Legislation
  - Steel
  - Shoes
- Quotas
  - Steel
- Non-economic items

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Taiwan

*[To listen to the segment (8m11s) declassified on 02/28/2002, please refer to RC# E-515.]*

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- Attitude of American industry
  - Flanigan's role
  - Issues
  - Growth rate

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Japan

*[To listen to the segment (1m35s) declassified on 02/28/2002, please refer to RC# E-515.]*

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- Legislation



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- Mills
- Steel
- United States' growth position
- Balance of payments
- Foreign investments

Quotas

- Trade restrictions
- Steel negotiations
- Attitude of industry
- Legislation
- Textiles, shoes, and steel
- Steel agreement

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Italy and Spain

*[To listen to the segment (14s) declassified on 02/28/2002, please refer to RC# E-515.]*

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Textiles

- Steel agreement
- Legislation
- Mills
- Peterson's conversation with Mills and Arthur F. Burns
- Steel and shoes
- Fixed quotas

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Japan

*[To listen to the segment (25m37s) declassified on 02/28/2002, please refer to RC# E-515, E-516.]*

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[General conversation/Unintelligible]

Recording was cut off at an unknown time before 10:45 am