

TRANSCRIPT OF A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE
PRESIDENT AND JOHN, EHRLICHMAN ON APRIL 19,
1973, FROM 5:15 TO 5:45 P.M.

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UNIDENTIFIED: (Unintelligible)

EHRlichman: (Unintelligible) out of the shower bath.
I'm getting kinda wooly. Figured I'd go and
just get wet.

PRESIDENT: Good. Your, your counsel's over at the
lawyers.

EHRlichman: They're there right now,

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: They have an appointment with Glanzer and
uh, Silbert.

PRESIDENT: I thought that it'd be useful to talk to
Dick Moore.

EHRlichman: Oh, good.

PRESIDENT: So, we'll see what the hell he recalls.

EHRlichman: Yeah, good. Cause I haven't talked to-
Could I borrow a piece of your paper a minute?

PRESIDENT: Take the whole pad.

EHRlichman: Uh, I haven't really talked to Dick.

PRESIDENT: Well, well, I need his report, you know,
since they're gonna call him and so forth.

EHRlichmani: What else did he recall?

PRESIDENT: He recalled the LaCosta meeting.

EHRlichman: Um hum. I hope he recalls it better. than I do.

PRESIDENT: Well, his recollection (unintelligible. Dean at that says, "By the way, the defendants need money, and it's urgent." I told him, (tape noise) I said, "Well, you're (unintelligible) back on this (unintelligible)." (Unintelligible with tape noise) says, "Bob or John says, "Can't LaRue, LaRue go underground and, and, and, and raise it?" (tape noise) Facetiously as he remembered it. John said (tape noise), "Can't Mitchell get from Rockefeller if you give him half a million dollars?" (Unintelligible with tape noise) his recollection of the La Costa meeting. (Tape noise) That of course is uh, (tape noise) what you recall too, as I re-, as I said.

EHRlichman: Well, I don't recall the Rockefeller.

PRESIDENT: Well, the Rockefeller--Look, uh, he won't recall it either, then.

EHRlichman: But, I mean, I just, I just literally, don't. In fact uh, uh...

PRESIDENT: ...about the discussion with LaRue perhaps you don't (unintelligible) and so forth. But (tape noise) you should be aware of the fact that uh, LaRue and Liddy (tape noise)...

EHRlichman: Day to day (unintelligible).

PRESIDENT: Dick is one guy that ran the program who I think that, uh...

EHRlichman: No, I'll tell you what that--. He came and I got that (unintelligible).

PRESIDENT: Yeah, well, I thought you'd be, be aware.

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EHRlichman: Yeah. That's important. That's important...

PRESIDENT: ...to see what uh...

EHRlichman: ...what isn't. Did he talk at all about the purpose of that meeting? Cause I think that's, that's also important.

PRESIDENT: Oh, yes, yes. He said for two days he talked about the hearings and programming the hearings and (tape noise) and getting a, getting a statement from (unintelligible) work up a statement.

EHRlichman: Oh, thank you, Manuel.

PRESIDENT: Uh, you see (unintelligible) in other words, oh yes, he, he remembered it all. He said this was only the pre-, presentence, presentence is out in two days. But this, this was, this was a (unintelligible) sign, an agreement I'm (unintelligible) that I raise it with him. I said "No. Then, the hell with Dean." But I couldn't talk about it then. I, uh, said, "You listen to what" (unintelligible) uh, personally, I suppose (unintelligible) Colson about this business (unintelligible) Kalmbach or something like that. I think that that was where it came to you.

EHRlichman: Came to Haldeman. True?

PRESIDENT: I said, uh, "Can't be (unintelligible) Kalmbach to raise money for the defendants when we're faced with that." Right?

EHRlichman: Right. Question about that.

PRESIDENT: La Costa after the trial is (unintelligible)...

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EHRlichman: La Costa is just, that's that rainy weekend in uh, February.

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible). Yeah.

EHRlichman: February the 20th or somewhere along in there.

PRESIDENT: Well, this is after the portion. (Tape noise).

EHRlichman: Uh, they haven't sentenced him yet as a matter of fact.

PRESIDENT: Uh, uh, my, uh, Dean, uh, the other thing is that uh, Moore uh, recollected something about this, uh, this uh, Bittman conversation, too. He says that Dean told him that Hunt, Hunt needed money before he gets sentenced. Also he told Dean, "Look, this is blackmail." So that's how that came in. So when Dean came in to see me, and raised the subject (unintelligible with tape noise) blackmail to see if I could find (unintelligible) that Bob was involved in, you know. I guess you weren't in the (unintelligible) Bob, Dean and Mitchell. Right? And Bob told me the story that he said that Dean asked, "What about that money?" and uh, Mitchell asked.

EHRlichman: The Committee and Haldeman's office (unintelligible) almost in an aside.

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: And Dean said to Mitchell, "What about that other matter?"

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: ...And Mitchell said it's taken care of.

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: ...and (unintelligible with tape noise).

PRESIDENT: I assume...

EHRlichman: (Unintelligible)

PRESIDENT: ...I assume what happened here on that is that Dean not getting the money here, he called Mitchell as quick as he could.

EHRlichman: Evidently, evidently.

PRESIDENT: (Tape noise) Uh, Dean's whole deal of course, which I've already reported to you (unintelligible).

EHRlichman: Yeah.

PRESIDENT: That's the only thing you'll have got, John.

EHRlichman: O.K.

PRESIDENT: Those things--don't think that (tape distortion) if it comes to a, the, the question of Dean's, Dean (unintelligible) perjury or not, (unintelligible) very, very hazy about that.

EHRlichman: Yes, uh, how did you leave it with him? Did you uh...

PRESIDENT: I'm not talking (unintelligible).

EHRlichman: Oh, you aren't. O.K. Well, I, if I could suggest a, a point of view on La Costa...

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: ...it is that our inability to do what you asked us to do at LaCosta, which was...

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: ...to draft a public statement which could be...

PRESIDENT: Right.

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EHRlichman: ...put out as such...

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: ...let in quick succession to...

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: ...your long talks.

PRESIDENT: Listen...

EHRlichman: Dean reported back to you, but it was a, it was a fruitless weekend.

PRESIDENT: That's right. That's right.

EHRlichman: ...and...

PRESIDENT: The fact that he (unintelligible) to see me. Right.

EHRlichman: That's right.

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: ...and it was a fruitless weekend. Dean, Dean kept saying, "You can't say that, you can't say that," and so forth. And uh, that led to your talks with Dean, and that led to Dean going to Camp David.

PRESIDENT: Right.

EHRlichman: And then that eventually led to cracking him.

PRESIDENT: That's right. That's right.

EHRlichman: So it all started in the fact that...

PRESIDENT: That's right.

EHRlichman: ...the four of us could not put together...

PRESIDENT: Even this, let me say that this conversation about this money and so forth. Uh, you've got to find out who's (unintelligible).

EHRlichman: Yeah, that's this particular (unintelligible).

PRESIDENT: That's one of the things that led us to conclude that we had to move off, move off this (unintelligible). You know, (unintelligible) money. There isn't any question, I suppose, that in the, in the way the whole thing is presented (unintelligible) possibly concerned with the (tape noise) knowledge of, at least knowledge, certain knowledge of that, in Bob's case, a case of the 350 participation in, in the 350 (unintelligible) tot uh (unintelligible) tell you about that (unintelligible) again but there were a few things the law...

EHRlichman: Well,...

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible)

EHRlichman: This is where we left it with him. We felt that if you're agreeable...

PRESIDENT: Uh huh.

EHRlichman: ...the best way to do this would be for them to go over there, talk with the prosecutors, come back.

PRESIDENT: Right.

EHRlichman: Report to us, and then, if you are available, for you to talk to Mr. Wilson confidentially alone.

PRESIDENT: Alright.

EHRlichman: He very much has your interest at heart...

PRESIDENT: Right.

EHRlichman: ...and he's trying to approach this from your standpoint...

PRESIDENT: Right.

EHRlichman: ...rather than from ours, really. And you'll see that.

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: So, Bob and I agreed privately...

PRESIDENT: Right.

EHRlichman: ...that that would be a very desirable thing from your standpoint...

PRESIDENT: Right.

EHRlichman: ...to have his counsel.

PRESIDENT: In other words he could, he could if he ever needed somebody to...

EHRlichman: He has forty years of experience in this business.

PRESIDENT: He's for us.

EHRlichman: He's totally loyal, just totally in fact avidly loyal.

PRESIDENT: Right.

EHRlichman: And so rather that to have the two of us strain uh, uh, what he thinks...

PRESIDENT: Let me ask you this, when is he going to see them, (unintelligible).

EHRlichman: He's, he's there right now. He's there right now. He expects to be here by six o'clock.

PRESIDENT: Could he see me tonight?

EHRlichman: Yes, sir. He'll come back, see you tonight if you don't, uh, you get back from the boat.

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible).

EHRlichman: He'll come back and, and when he can be available to you. (tape noise) (Laughter) You wouldn't know what to do. The younger

EHRlichman: of the two is a very steady trial man
(CONT.) with a lot of experience.

PRESIDENT: They're both talking to these people.

EHRlichman: Yes, sir. They both know (unintelligible).

PRESIDENT: You get back and I hope you discuss this and I will discuss it with them, too. You get back with Dean if you can (unintelligible) around here. (Tape noise) this-on Moore too, and uh, and I know it's, I-know it sounds unbelievable, but I just wonder about this.

EHRlichman: (Tape noise) to tell you about that.

PRESIDENT: They don't believe it?

EHRlichman: They say it's a dream world, but that just can't be.

PRESIDENT: I don't agree.

EHRlichman: But no, do, do...

PRESIDENT: I don't

EHRlichman: I think you ought to hear their view...

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: ...if it's appropriate uh, uh, their (unintelligible).

PRESIDENT: Dean's going to do it, as damned as anybody.

EHRlichman: They, they think that he has every incentive to, and that there's no way to remove that incentive.

PRESIDENT: Right.

EHRlichman: That's their, that's their feeling.

PRESIDENT: So if he goes to jail, he's got a little less incentive to kick, kick the President (unintelligible).

EHRlichman: I think that would be (unintelligible).

PRESIDENT: Can anybody (unintelligible) keep him from (unintelligible) without kicking.

EHRlichman: Uh, uh, unless they turn up something different down there. Now they say that they know Glanzer extremely well.

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: And they know Silbert well...

PRESIDENT: Right.

EHRlichman: ...that they know uh, their boss and uh...

PRESIDENT: So they'll find out.

EHRlichman: So they'll find out. I think quite a lot.

PRESIDENT: Uh, if Petersen has any, any, uh, indication of course uh, the uh...

EHRlichman: Now, they do not have a high opinion of him professionally.

PRESIDENT: No, but I'd have to tell you that if he's any indication of Glanzer and Silbert, uh-Send that to the out box please (unintelligible) girl (unintelligible) Yeah. I know. I know. But, I meant that, you gotta remember that Petersen, if this reflects the U.S. Attorney, came in with Kleindienst and said they, uh, you know, came on with the, the resignation deal.

EHRlichman: Yeah, yeah.

PRESIDENT: In their view of the Haldeman
(unintelligible) .We're not going to be
panicked by any (unintelligible with tape
noise)

EHRlichman: That, that's right.

PRESIDENT: Since you're going to talk to him in person

EHRlichman: That was (Unintelligible). (Unintelligible)
be there at 4:30 so it's an hour, already.

PRESIDENT: ...possibly (unintelligible), correct?
(Unintelligible).

EHRlichman: He'll probably want to go on, uh, back to
their office if we haven't soaked up all day
today here. But, I'll, I'll arrange for
them to come back and see you privately.

PRESIDENT: You have told them about the LaCosta--did
you recall that the, that the
(unintelligible) of money had come up at
LaCosta at all or--

EHRlichman: I hadn't, uh...

PRESIDENT: I hadn't--that's a new element.

EHRlichman: I had touched on it-no, what I, what I told
them was that at various times and intervals
(unintelligible).

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible)

EHRlichman: (Unintelligible) if I didn't have a present
recollection, I still...

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: ...You know, I don't have a recollection of
that.

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible) time and intervals.

EHRlichman: Uh, that this subject came up in Dean's
conversation...

PRESIDENT: Uh, huh.

EHRlichman: ...and that uh, uh, he would ask me, he would ask me for advice, he would ask me...

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: ...uh, what to do and almost invariably...

PRESIDENT: I know.

EHRlichman: I had no response for him.

PRESIDENT: I understand.

EHRlichman: I just, I was helpless in that situation. The one time that I did respond was when he specifically asked if they could use Kalmbach.

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: And that's the only time.

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: I've never been able, other than the Bittman thing where I said, "Hell, no."

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: I've just never been able to help him. And so it doesn't surprise me if I said uh, you know, "Get somebody else to help you, John."

PRESIDENT: Yeah, yeah. Why, why doesn't LaRue help, so that we could...

EHRlichman: ...or Rockefeller or Mitchell or uh...

PRESIDENT: Dean, Dean, that uh...

EHRlichman: ...uh, that doesn't, you know that doesn't nonplus me.

PRESIDENT: Yeah, LaRue (unintelligible) grounds of course, that that was realized (unintelligible).

EHRlichman: John was getting increasingly desperate as time went on.

PRESIDENT: Dean.

EHRlichman: Yeah.

PRESIDENT: ...trying to keep the lid on.

EHRlichman: ...trying to keep the lid on.

PRESIDENT: ...which is a job.

EHRlichman: ...and uh, I never could help him.

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible).

EHRlichman: That's right.

PRESIDENT: (Tape noise) What, uh, what's a guy to say, then, about that again. Now he said that, about that being obstruction, he said that isn't on the (unintelligible).

EHRlichman: Yesterday the--That's right.

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible)

EHRlichman: He said that the circumstances will be difficult to explain.

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: No question about that. Now he said that a great deal rests upon whether Bob in-, intended, believed, and desired, or desired...

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: ...that the funds be used for a specific purpose, when he sent 'em back over there.

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible) now how did Bob fit into the conversation?

EHRlichman: Oh. they just thought that was silly. I went through this whole business of deep six and the guy leaving the country and the Kalmbach episode and all that, and they said, "Well, what do we get for the crimes?" So I said, "You just heard one." And I said, "Well, there's nothing there. It's ridiculous."

PRESIDENT: They don't consider that as being part of a conspiracy downward (unintelligible).

EHRlichman: They do not.

PRESIDENT: Why?

EHRlichman: They do not.

PRESIDENT: 'Cause you didn't do anything.

EHRlichman: 'Cause I didn't do anything. And they said, "Why, why was Kalmbach subservient to you?" and I explained that.

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible) and all fits together.

EHRlichman: And uh, they just didn't have any trouble with it. Now they may get a-earful over there this afternoon. It's the prosecutors' job.

PRESIDENT: Sure, they'll scare 'em to death.

EHRlichman: And so they may have some (unintelligible) when they get back. I've suspected all along that we were being lulled as far as I'm concerned.

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: ...and that Dean had unloaded a good deal more than that. And so I'm going to be interested to see uh, what they come back with.

PRESIDENT: To the extent the prosecutors will tell them (unintelligible with noise) of the two, Dean and Magruder, uh, Magruder's (unintelligible). Dean says Magruder is a pathological liar.

EHRlichman: That's true, Magruder's been all over the place in this case.

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible with noise) Bob I would have thought it was a lie (unintelligible) hurt Bob.

EHRlichman: Oh, it wasn't. I'm, I'm sure it was not intentionally because when I asked him if anybody in the White House had been involved...

PRESIDENT: ...and you talked to him after you'd already talked to (unintelligible).

EHRlichman: That's correct. But he said he was telling me everything that I had told you.

PRESIDENT: What did he say?

EHRlichman: He said that he could not in any way implicate Bob, that Strachant yes, Dean,, yes, but, but, not Bob.

PRESIDENT: Strachan, how? By, did he know about...

EHRlichman: You see Magruder's testimony is that he sent budgets to Strachan that showed that the thing was going to be done. And then he sent...

PRESIDENT: Strachan denied that

EHRlichman: synopses and Strachan...

PRESIDENT: ...denies that.

EHRlichman: ...denies the budget, admits the synopses.

PRESIDENT: Right.

EHRlichman: And uh, as a matter of fact, Magruder doesn't even go so far as to say he sent the synopses. He just says I told him that they were available. He could come see. But uh, he steadfastly maintains through all of that, that he is, uh, that he has no evidence that Haldeman saw him and Strachan, now...

PRESIDENT: We'll know a little more, I mean after we (unintelligible) to how much the (unintelligible) I mean that we're at a situation, we're at a situation where I think it's just going to be too difficult to wield.

EHRlichman: Yes.

PRESIDENT: Uh, don't, don't let me reach it. I mean I don't, understand, I don't reach it until I, uh, I don't uh, I'm not going to reach it with anybody else.

EHRlichman: I've tried to, I've tried reasoning this out from the standpoint of your well being...

PRESIDENT: Exactly.

EHRlichman: ...and it seems to me I have to go back to my Siamese twin analogy. You cut those Siamese twins apart and somebody dies.

PRESIDENT: That's right.

EHRlichman: And, uh...

PRESIDENT: Both die.

EHRlichman: Maybe. Uh, you are so terribly close in the perception of the press.

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: Perception of the...

PRESIDENT: I agree with that. But, you also have this situation involved in keeping all this

PRESIDENT: (unintelligible) In other words, I couldn't
(CONT.) agree more. I believe in fighting like hell
and so forth. Trying to keep...

EHRlichman: Well, it isn't, it isn't really a question
of demonstrating loyalty or anything like
that.

PRESIDENT: No, no, no, no, no, I believe in trying to
keep it if it can be done.

EHRlichman: Yeah, well, I think we have to, we have to
analyze this, and I think if you kept it,
you would have to go out and say, "I have
carefully reviewed the evidence which the
U.S. Attorney and the, and the Assistant
Attorney General have brought me on the
subject, uh, (tape noise) announced to so
and so, uh (unintelligible with tape noise)
weigh on the one hand this, the, the
validity and seriousness of the charge
versus the value of the (unintelligible)
individual...

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: ...and the integrity of the office. There's
an overriding consideration uh, in, in,
(unintelligible)." They do this either way,
whether he stays or goes.

PRESIDENT: That's right.

EHRlichman: If you say "Weighing this I've uh come to
the conclusion that..."

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible)

EHRlichman: It's not clear cut either way.

PRESIDENT: That's right.

EHRlichman: "I must do so and so."

PRESIDENT: Right.

EHRlichman: But, I think you have to make a, you have to
make a public explanation either way.

PRESIDENT: That's right. Yeah. Public explanation is believed. And uh, (tape noise) it might be the other uh, yeah, yeah, but, if we make a public explanation, we're (unintelligible) the facts. That's all there is to it.

EHRlichman: However, Weicker will.

PRESIDENT: Huh.

EHRlichman: You know Weicker will.

PRESIDENT: Yeah. Let me say that in that case, doing it that way, (tape noise) every intention, I mean I wish (unintelligible) do it that way, but doing it that way we uh, we'd uh, say all of these things happened (unintelligible).

EHRlichman: Yeah.

PRESIDENT: ...or I could say I've asked for a (unintelligible) Haldeman go out and tell them that.

EHRlichman: Either that or, or, we're going to have to have a statement or synopsis or something. I don't know...

PRESIDENT: Right.

EHRlichman: ...how you do that.

PRESIDENT: Here are the facts and, And, uh, people I will uh (tape noise).

EHRlichman: People may disagree with you. It's a judgment call. But uh, this is the way I have to call it. (Unintelligible). Uh, if you don't do it that way, then all (unintelligible) ugly inferences arise. Uh, either way, if you keep him, ugly inferences arise that you're covering up. Uh, if you let him go, then the inferences arise that you're disloyal or he's venal or (unintelligible) that sort of thing. So you've got to go to the (unintelligible).

PRESIDENT: It seems to be true that both
(unintelligible) and (unintelligible) yours
(unintelligible) (tape noise)
(unintelligible) get my...

EHRlichman: (tape noise) too early for you? You won't be
back that early, will ya?

PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible) sharp.

EHRlichman: He's a very reliable--He's very sharp.

PRESIDENT: You can't (unintelligible) the options on a
thing like resignations.

EHRlichman: Yes. Yes indeed, we sure have. And...

PRESIDENT: Oh, good, good. Why (unintelligible) this
point.

EHRlichman: They're very preliminary, but they both try
to look at it from your standpoint. That Bob
leaving would hurt you more than help you.

PRESIDENT: What's their reason?

EHRlichman: On the (unintelligible). In other words
that it would look like you were
overreacting, number one. That, uh, uh, uh,
that, that, that the facts known were not
sufficient to justify it so there must be
other facts hidden that you're not
expressing.

PRESIDENT: Oh, I see.

EHRlichman: And that uh...

PRESIDENT: In your case doubly so.

EHRlichman: uh, uh, that would be the (unintelligible)
extension (unintelligible).

PRESIDENT: Alright, alright (unintelligible).

EHRlichman: That's a very tentative conclusion.

PRESIDENT: That's before they go down (unintelligible).

EHRlichman: (Unintelligible) so uh, you shouldn't rest (unintelligible) on that.

PRESIDENT: The second point ist uh, well, I don't know.

EHRlichman: Well, (unintelligible) the second point is (unintelligible).

PRESIDENT: Well, thank you very much. Alright, now let's come down to the hard place. (Tape noise) that, what did they say? Anything about there is an indict--a that your name is co--an unindicted co-conspirator.

EHRlichman: Well, of course, that's got them on their ear. They just don't even understand what that is. This, this is something that they can't understand. It's one of the reasons they went down there. Just to find out what that's all about.

PRESIDENT: Alright.

EHRlichman: Because they, they say that's just not proper procedure, and of course they're also just on their ear about the fact that the reporters' notes got out and they say that that is Glanzer. That's a typical prosecutor's trick to give Anderson those, those reporters' notes on Strachan's interrogation.

PRESIDENT: I just, I. I told Petersen today, I said (unintelligible) came right out of the U.S. Attorney's office. Yeah, I said, "Don't give me that stuff that the report, that, that you changed the report (unintelligible)."

EHRlichman: Old, old Wilson said, "Listen, I've been around this town for, for thirty-five years," and he said that, practicing law here, and he said, "That's the U.S. Attorney. That's the only place that could ever (unintelligible)."

PRESIDENT: It's a terrible thing to do to somebody. What does it do, John? (unintelligible).

EHRlichman: In a proceeding, of course what, what it really does, it just, it just cuts the hell out of Haldeman. Because--It's a vicious cut and it's, it's Glanzer softening him up

EHRlichman: is what it amounts to. Because uh,
(CONT.) well they're going to check. They don't
know. They don't know.

PRESIDENT: Be very hard to, very hard to prove that
that's, uh, what uh--Well, the bad thing
that's came out, of Parkinson and Bittman...

EHRlichman: Sure.

PRESIDENT: Is, uh, (unintelligible) which the Grand
Jury (unintelligible).

EHRlichman: They said that uh, there's uh, there's uh,
some story going on the wire about somebody
taking eight boxes of political papers out
of the White House the day after the
burglary.

PRESIDENT: Political papers.

EHRlichman: Yeah, some, some lawyer is going down and
uh, uh, (tape noise) court for an order
absolving him and his client of contempt by
reason of their taking eight boxes of
materials out of the White House on the 18th
of June and holding them until just before
the election and then returning them to the
Committee for the Re-election. And so they
secreted them during that period of time.

PRESIDENT: Apparently

EHRlichman: (tape noise) No idea, no idea at all, uh...

PRESIDENT: Did Colson tell them the truth?

EHRlichman: I assume so, but I haven't the foggiest
notion.

PRESIDENT: No.

EHRlichman: Now, he's coming over to see me. He's over
there now.

PRESIDENT: Who, Colson ?

EHRlichman: Yeah, and I'll find out (unintelligible).

PRESIDENT: But the material is still...

EHRlichman: In the custody of the Committee to ReElect.
PRESIDENT: Uh, (unintelligible).
EHRlichman: I don't know, I don't know even what the significance of it is. He said somebody had some guilty knowledge of the fact the truck came here to (unintelligible).
PRESIDENT: And the lawyer, the individual who did it?
EHRlichman: And his lawyer.
PRESIDENT: ...was charged with it?
EHRlichman: No, no, have petitioned the court for absolution to keep his skirts clean by coming forward and making a clean breast of things, I guess. I uh, it's all very muddy and obscure to me, but, uh...
PRESIDENT: (Unintelligible) up the river went (unintelligible).
EHRlichman: Yup.
PRESIDENT: You still think I should go to Florida?
EHRlichman: (Laughs) well, I don't think it's, I don't think it's much point in you sitting here. You can always come back, you know. Uh, you sit-here and these things just keep grinding away (unintelligible) something like that every twenty minutes. And uh...
PRESIDENT: Sure.
EHRlichman: (Tape noise) if you didn't hear that, why, uh, he, uh, it wouldn't make any difference and, and, and you'd be a lot better off for it.
PRESIDENT: That's right.
EHRlichman: So, uh, yeah, I, I, think uh...
PRESIDENT: Another matter, John, that's right.
EHRlichman: I think you're just better off down there, and uh, uh, everybody can keep you informed, and, and uh...

PRESIDENT: (Laughs). I hope not.

EHRlichman: Well, I mean you know...

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

EHRlichman: If, if some big deal comes up,, Ron will follow this very closely,, and uh,, he'll,, he'll interrupt you if it's, if it's something that comes up that has to have your attention.

PRESIDENT: Eight boxes of...

EHRlichman: ...political material, whatever that is.

PRESIDENT: ...went over to the Committee to Re-elect?

EHRlichman: Eventually. But it stayed hidden for, for months.

(Tape noise)

EHRlichman: Apparently (tape noise) hadn't had his name in the paper for a while so he...

(Telephone rings)

EHRlichman: ...reported that his safe had been broken into this morning.

(Telephone rings)

EHRlichman: Like a movie star.

PRESIDENT: Just a minute. Hello. No. I, I've, I've got the, uh, outfit, (Unintelligible). Good. (tape noise). Well, we (unintelligible) 12:30 tomorrow. Alright.

PRESIDENT: God damn, I don't know what the hell that is.

EHRlichman: I'd probably better get Colson before he has to leave.

PRESIDENT: Where is he? Is he...

EHRlichman: He's in my office.

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PRESIDENT: If you don't mind. (unintelligible) see him for Christ sake.

EHRlichman: Right.

PRESIDENT: Tell him what in the name of God that is (unintelligible).

EHRlichman: Out here. Yes, sir.

PRESIDENT: I'll, I'll be here for dinner.

EHRlichman: (Unintelligible) uh, tells me what it is, I'll step out and call you.

PRESIDENT: Alright.

EHRlichman: I'll have him sent up.

PRESIDENT: Good, OK.