

Conversation Number 343-27  
June 21, 1972, 4:00-5:15 P.M.  
Executive Office Building  
President and Colson

[The president requested Colson come to his EOB Office, and he arrived at 4:00 P.M. They would talk for an hour and fifteen minutes, discussing Watergate at the outset of their conversation for almost four minutes and at the end of the conversation for just over a minute and a half. This recording is of very poor audio quality but the gist of many statements can be discerned. Clearly, the president was still concerned about Hunt and what he may have done while working at the White House. Haldeman has told him of Hunt visiting with Dita Beard in Colorado, so the president probed Colson about Hunt's work on ITT.]

COLSON: [Hunt] went out there and interviewed Dita Beard [because I sent him.]

PRESIDENT: Sure.

COLSON: I don't worry about that.

PRESIDENT: He didn't, he didn't break any [rules]?

COLSON: He did do some stuff for me.

PRESIDENT: But not for us?

COLSON: Oh, all of it was for us [unclear].

PRESIDENT: [Unclear.]

COLSON: I don't worry about that. What's wrong with this?

PRESIDENT: [Unclear.]

COLSON: I think that, I think that we could develop a theory [as to] the CIA [unclear] if we wanted to. [I've not thought that out.] We know that he [Hunt] has all these ties with these people.

PRESIDENT: He worked with them.

COLSON: Oh, he was their boss, and they were all CIA. And you take the cash, you go down to Latin America.

PRESIDENT: I'll tell you, I think that this has one plus to it [to the thing], the Cubans thing works for us.

COLSON: Because Bebe says they are. Bebe say—

PRESIDENT: I know [unclear.]

COLSON: We're in great shape with the Cubans, and they're proud of it. There's a lot of muscle in that gang.

PRESIDENT: [Unclear.]

COLSON: He's doing rallies of all the VFW. [Unclear.] He wanted to give me two messages. He said, first of all, let me tell you, ninety-nine percent of our people are for Nixon. He said, I just talk about amnesty, and bugging out of Vietnam. [Unclear.] He said I never mention McGovern's name. But, he said, everybody gets up afterwards and says, that son-of-a-bitch McGovern.

PRESIDENT: Well, they know.

COLSON: Oh, yeah. He said, "I quote Radio Hanoi" [Unclear.] And he said, "I just want to tell you that as far as the veterans' community, it's powerful, it's big, and the VFW is almost two million members." And he said, "you've got a campaign organization that will really go to town." The second thing he said is, "I hope you're not paying any attention to the bugging business." He said, "every place I go to small groups, I say, have you read about it?" And he said a very small percentage have, and he said the reaction of those who had is that the Republicans wouldn't do that because they're in power and they would do it a hell of a lot more skillfully than that if they were doing it. He said, "you're off the hook, nobody believes that you would really bungle it." He also said, [unclear] they're not all surprised and shocked.

PRESIDENT: I believe that, that people are all uptight about wiretapping. Now, let's just look at wiretapping. The country's for it.

COLSON: Oh, yes.

PRESIDENT: The whole country, there's a wiretap. On a thing like this, well, what the hell, you can break in, wiretap, what the hell. [Unclear.]

COLSON: Oh, I meant to get, excuse me, I have the Anderson, the Jack Anderson commentary on Bebe.

PRESIDENT: Oh, yeah.

COLSON: I'll send that down to you.

PRESIDENT: What does it say, I'm just curious?

COLSON: "President Nixon's friend Bebe Rebozo has been associated, through a Miami

real estate firm, with the Cuban bugging crew that allegedly attempted to install listening devices inside the Democratic party headquarters. The suspected leader of the bugging crew, Barnard Barker, is in a joint investor in a real estate development with another prominent Cuban Miguel Suarez. Cuban sources say that Bebe Rebozo has been involved in some of their dealings. Now, unable to reach Rebozo, or Suarez, I was however able to arrange an exclusive interview with some of the suspect in the DC jail. They denied that Bebe Rebozo had anything to do with the bugging attempt, however, they took their instructions from Barnard Barker, who never told me who was dolling out the cash for their hotel accommodations at the fashionable Watergate before the bugging attempt. And how all the legal expenses have been provided by the securities contractor Jack Anderson.”

PRESIDENT: Son-of-a-bitch.

COLSON: That’s fucking horrible, isn’t [unclear].

PRESIDENT: Anybody hearing that would think that Rebozo did it.

COLSON: Absolutely. That, that, my eighteen year old son and I were watching the news, he said, that, that sound like Rebozo’s involved.

PRESIDENT: Isn’t that awful.

COLSON: Terrible.

PRESIDENT: Oh well. Well, I’d, just call him, [how it goes], call him, read him the thing, and send it down to him. Okay?

COLSON: Yes, sir.

PRESIDENT: Good.