

Conversation Number 742-14
June 26, 1972, 12:08-12:18 P.M.
Oval Office
President and Haldeman

[The conversation on Tape 742(c), which contains this conversation, is not available online. I obtained a copy from NARA, and I have edited it to the relevant material—the discussion of Martha and John Mitchell. This was a regular session to review scheduling, with the discussion about the retirement ceremony for General William Westmoreland. Ron Ziegler dropped by to get instructions of the press coverage of the event, which would be quick. Haldeman reviewed potential military aides for the president, and the future role of Henry Cabot Lodge in the Administration, before turning to the subject of Mitchell's retirement, when the president mentioned it.]

HALDEMAN: I talked to Moore, and he's—

PRESIDENT: What's he think?

HALDEMAN: Well, ah, he said he's, John hasn't said anything to him, and he's felt he shouldn't push into because of that, that John knows he can call on him if he wants. But he's going to do a little checking see what, apparently Mitchell's used LaRue some to keep Martha under control.

PRESIDENT: Martha's very strange. [Said softly.]

HALDEMAN: Martha, ah, there's a very rough story, that she had an interview after she got to New York, and what they did, that she was—

[Haldeman stopped mid-sentence when Steve Bull entered the office to give the president the final schedule and documents on the Westmorland event. This conversation about Mitchell and Watergate would resume a few minutes later when the president went to his EOB Office, and Haldeman joined him.]