

Conversation Number 743-2
June 27, 1972, 9:37-10:06 A.M.
Oval Office
President, Zeigler and Haldeman

[Zeigler arrived in the Oval Office at 9:37 A.M. seeking guidance about how much to promote the president's planned press conference, and to tell the president of the day's announcements regarding military appointments, the debt ceiling, and raw agricultural products. The president also had questions for his press secretary about the handling of his baseball greats. Haldeman arrived a few minutes later, and their conversation opened with the president wanting to know if the White House had been at fault in the distorted audio for his statement the day before. It was CBS that had been responsible for the bad audio feeds to ABC and NBC. After briefly discussing scheduling matters, and observing that Henry Kissinger's "weak spot" was his "poor judgment about the negotiations with the Vietnamese," the president voiced displeasure at having to give a brief address in the East Room that afternoon to leading radio talk show personalities and television anchormen. The president then asked Haldeman for a report on his former law partner and attorney general, not to mention current campaign manager. The conversation transcribed below originally began at 1:02:39.0 on tape 743a.]

PRESIDENT: Any word from Mitchell?

HALDEMAN: He's still up there, and he has not been in touch with anyone down here since he went up. Ah, Moore is trying to get a reading [unclear], which I think, maybe, he tried calling him, but he, the way, see Moore may know how to reach the guys up there, these guys, he's got somebody, some point of contact, at some level, that they can reach.

PRESIDENT: Hum, hmm.

HALDEMAN: Ah, the meeting [we can arrange, I'm sure.] The problem is he's got a, he got to get her under control.

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

HALDEMAN: Locked up.

PRESIDENT: For sure.

HALDEMAN: And supervised, as well as possible, so she can't get to the press. He thought he had that, and he didn't, obviously.

PRESIDENT: Not in California [it seems.]

HALDEMAN: And even here, because when she got to New York—

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

HALDEMAN: She broke out, the *Daily News* got to her. The other day the *Daily News* called Moore, a friend of his, the editor I guess, Jack Lynn or something like that, called him and said, ah, he said I'm a little concerned about what we're doing here, we ran this story, he said I have the feeling we may be dealing with a sick woman, and if we are I don't think we should be doing it.

PRESIDENT: That's what, that's one of the reasons I thought you ought to tell Helen Thomas, [it would result in fair play.]

HALDEMAN: We may. Ah, they, they've done that. Mitchell's own staff is, is trying to cover quite a few bases, that, that this is a sick woman, in this situation, as I understand it, and she's laid off the story now, so it has helped out, and Moore did say, to the [editor], I'm not a doctor, I can't give you any. I can tell you on a human basis she's a woman who does have more than just a normal problem with, upset with her husband, that's obvious.

PRESIDENT: Sure.

HALDEMAN: And, ah, they did discuss it, the reporter who was there said there was no evidence of alcohol, that this was a drinking problem, they said it didn't appear to be at all.

PRESIDENT: It may not be.

HALDEMAN: And, ah, Mitchell, Moore said, it isn't just an alcohol problem, it's ah—

PRESIDENT: [Breakdown also.]

HALDEMAN: It's a—

PRESIDENT: [Unclear.]

HALDEMAN: The feeling is, though, that if you commit her now, with the celebrity status she has, you have to do it, in a sense, publicly. In other words, you've got to say she's taking some time off for rest and recuperation. [Tone for withdrawn material running almost two minutes from 1:05:24.0 to 1:07:20.0 on the original tape.] I've, what John told me before he left, was that he just didn't know what the problem was, or how he was going to deal with it, he was going to have to get up there and see. [Unclear.]

PRESIDENT: Too bad. [Ten seconds of silence.] I was going to ask you, anything else on the Watergate, since where it was?

HALDEMAN: No, nothing. It's where it was. Yeah, it's where it was.

[The conversation originally ended at 1:07:57.0. The president was interested to know if his brother Ed was being used for an appearance at a black church. Haldeman did not know, but would find out. After a few more scheduling details, Ehrlichman arrived at the Oval Office and Haldeman departed. Again, not a word about Watergate in the conversation with Ehrlichman.]

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