

Conversation No. 24-116

Date: May 15, 1972

Time: 8:15 pm - 8:18 pm

Location: White House Telephone

W. Mark Felt talked with the President.

[*See also Conversation No. 339-5A*]

Operator: Mr. President?

Nixon: Yeah?

Operator: Mr. Felt on the line.

Nixon: Yeah.

Operator: [*to Felt*] The President's on the line, sir.

Nixon: Hello?

Felt: Hello.

Nixon: Yeah. What is the latest?

Felt: Well, we we're getting to shape up a little bit.

Nixon: Yeah.

Felt: This man, [*Arthur H.*] Bremer, the assailant, is in good physical shape.

Nixon: Yes?

Felt: He's got some cuts and bruises, and—

Nixon: Good! I hope they worked him over a little more than that.

Felt: [*laughs*] Ha. I think they did pretty well.

Nixon: Good.

Felt: Anyway, the psychiatrist has examined him.

Nixon: Yeah?

Felt: The psychiatrist is a little concerned. He said, "This man is disturbed."

Nixon: Yes?

Felt: He said that, “He should be constantly watched, to prevent him from doing any harm to himself.”

Nixon: Yes?

Felt: Since I last talked to you—or Mr. [*Charles W.*] Colson¹—

Nixon: Yeah, yeah, yeah?

Felt: —the Secret Service has gone into his apartment out in Milwaukee...

Nixon: Yeah?

Felt: ...and they found a bunch of rambling papers, and rambling writings.

Nixon: Right.

Felt: One of them was entitled, “How to Become Notable.”

Nixon: Yeah?

Felt: Another one was entitled, “What To Do While Confined For a Long Period”—

Nixon: Good God.

Felt: This, this is a pretty clear picture to me that we’ve got a mental problem here with this guy—

Nixon: Right. Right.

Felt: We—

Nixon: What about the others that were with him? Are they involved, too?

Felt: No, they’re just teenage kids that ran—that were there and ran when they saw what happened.

Nixon: Right.

¹ Felt talked to Colson, who was in the Oval Office relaying information to President Nixon, at an unknown time between 7:42 pm and 7:57 pm on 15 May 1972. See conversation number 24-109.

Felt: And they've been released.

Nixon: They didn't have guns?

Felt: No, no.

Nixon: Well, then the hell with them. Forget it.

Felt: Ok, very good

Nixon: Don't you agree?

Felt: Oh, yes. Yeah—

Nixon: With this fellow—

Felt: We—

Nixon: —the main thing is to be sure we don't go through the thing we went through [*with*] the Kennedy assassination, where we didn't really follow up adequately. You know?

Felt: Right.

Nixon: You've got to remember that if we don't follow it adequately with this fellow, they're gonna think, "Well, my God, if a Kennedy is shot everybody goes to, you know, check everything, but with Wallace we sort of cover it up." Do you understand?

Felt: Yeah. I sure do. I sure will take care of that. Now, we've got a little more identification. This fellow [*Bremer*] was arrested in Milwaukee...

Nixon: Yeah?

Felt: ...last November, and at that time the charge was carrying a concealed weapon.

Nixon: Oh. Yeah?

Felt: So, he was fine \$35, and that's about the size of it—

Nixon: Isn't that too bad?

Felt: Well, it's—

Nixon: Good God! I mean isn't that awful that they didn't do more?

Felt: Yeah. It sure is.

Nixon: Well, the main thing is: You keep right on it. And remember, the FBI is in charge now, and they're responsible, and I don't want any slip-ups. Ok?

Felt: There's no question about it. I personally talked to the FAC in charge over there who got the lead, and he understands. He understands that you're the one who's calling the shots here.

Nixon: Right.

Felt: It'll be done right.

Nixon: Right. Fine. We appreciate your help. Thank you.

Felt: Yes, Mr. President. Bye.