

NIXON TAPES, TUESDAY, 15 JUNE 1971
TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH WILLIAM ROGERS, 6:44 P.M.
SOURCE: NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS PROJECT, WHT-5-89
TRANSCRIBED BY EDDIE MEADOWS, NATIONAL SECURITY ARCHIVE, THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

NIXON: [Unclear, 'Yeah?']

OPERATOR: Secretary Rogers sir

NIXON: Yeah

ROGERS: Hello Mr. President

NIXON: You had a long day

ROGERS: Yeah, sort of [laughing]

NIXON: [Unclear] I started at eight o'clock with a congressman and I've been going like a chicken with my head cut off - but I - uh, wanted to tell you I just - uh, got a chance to go over the - uh, press thing - I just think you couldn't have done it better
And I think par - [unclear, stammering] - particularly effective is what you said about the fact that - uh, some foreign - uh, governments have raised questions about the security of their own cables, and that sort of thing

ROGERS: Right

NIXON: Because Goddamit it's true

ROGERS: Right

NIXON: How can we - uh, how can they - uh, they wonder if - uh - if we just allow wholesale - uh, publication - declassification I should say - did you know that the documents - uh, with regard to Pearl Harbor have not been de - declassified yet?

ROGERS: Uh-huh

NIXON: Hell no

ROGERS: Isn't that something

NIXON: [Unclear] this thing is - uh - uh, we can talk about somebody placing themselves above the law and all that, but on this - uh, statement thing, they - my feeling is that first I cannot say anything, I feel because it's in the courts
I think you can, solely from a f - as a f - you know

ROGERS: Sure

NIXON: A foreign - can you - don't you think so?

ROGERS: Sure
I'll be glad to say anything that'd be helpful

NIXON: Well, that's - uh, tonight could I ask one thing - uh, I don't know how they got the seating arrangement but - uh, I've really about talked myself out with Brandt I think, and - uh, maybe I think I'll try to - uh, when we talk we'll engage the three of us - we'll just [unclear 'set?'] and - you know, talk around him - I - I don't know whether you're on his right or left or however

ROGERS: O.K., I'll try to do the talking [both laughing]
I - I - I may not have stuff to talk to him about too you know

NIXON TAPES,
15 JUNE 1971
MITCHELL TELEPHONE CONVERSATION (WHT-5-86), 2

NIXON: You know, I know, it's just - uh - well he - they - the subject - the only subject left is Vietnam, and I - uh, [unclear] talk about that tonight, so we'll - uh, talk to him a little about Vietnam

ROGERS: You know I just I - listened to television - that - my pic - the picture came over pretty good in television

NIXON: Oh did it

ROGERS: Getting better
But - uh, the - uh - dammit they never carry the good things - I said that when they talked about this thing - I - [unclear] McNamara papers, I said that I was not gonna get involved in - in passing judgment on it
I said we've got other things to do; we're trying to get this nation out of war

NIXON: Yeah

ROGERS: I said we - what - w - I would hope that when President Nixon leaves office we can have a study made of how we got the United States out of Vietnam - uh [laughter] - and uh

NIXON: Also as I say, basically this is a family quarrel - we've - I - I think the papers could well be called the Kennedy-Johnson papers is what they are you know -

ROGERS: That's right

NIXON: Not the McNamara - basically it's McNamara and Clifford - uh

ROGERS: Yeah, that's right

NIXON: And - uh, I've told the boys here just call them Kennedy-Johnson - you know [both laughing]

ROGERS: That's good
It's - uh, really a shameful, shameful [unclear]

NIXON: I just - I just - I just can't really how - see how the Times could do it
Incidentally, George Hurst told Bob Finch - you know they are the - they - they are the Times - uh,

ROGERS: Uh-huh

NIXON: Syndicate in California, and he made the decision there not to print it, because - he - he considered it not in the national interest
Uh, I thought it would be interesting - I told the boys to check around the other Times clients to see how many of them might have done the same thing

ROGERS: Yeah, that's [unclear]

NIXON: Because - uh, that's - that's very damn - uh - uh, good of old George to - uh, not to do that

ROGERS: [Unclear, 'yeah?'], I hope this judge we got in New York is alright
He - he - uh, granted a temporary injunction - I mean a preliminary [unclear]

NIXON: [Unclear 'do you?'] know who it is?

NIXON TAPES,
15 JUNE 1971
MITCHELL TELEPHONE CONVERSATION (WHT-5-86), 3

ROGERS: Yeah, his name is Murray Gurfein; I know him well - he,
NIXON: Dewey's man, yeah
ROGERS: Used to be in the office with me
NIXON: We just appointed him
ROGERS: I know it, but he's also pretty
NIXON: Liberal?
ROGERS: Little liberal, and he's - Uh, I'm sure he would like to cultivate the Times, so he'll have
NIXON: Well he also may be thinking of going up too
ROGERS: Yes
NIXON: And he damn well better act well [both laugh]
O.K.
ROGERS: Alright, see you later Mr. President
NIXON: Bye [unclear]

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