

NIXON TAPES, MONDAY, 14 JUNE 1971

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH JOHN EHRLICHMAN, 7:13 P.M.

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TRANSCRIBED BY EDDIE MEADOWS, NATIONAL SECURITY ARCHIVE, THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

NIXON: Hello

OPERATOR: It's Mr. Ehrlichman calling you sir

NIXON: Yeah, OK

EHRLICHMAN: Hello, Mr. - Mr. President, the attorney general has called a couple times, about these New York Times stories; and he's advised by his people that unless he puts the Times on notice - uh, he's probably gonna waive any right of prosecution against the newspaper; and he is calling now to see if you would approve his - uh, putting them on notice before their first edition for tomorrow comes out.

NIXON: Hmmm

EHRLICHMAN: I realize there are negatives to this in terms of the vote on the hill

NIXON: You mean to prosecute the Times?

EHRLICHMAN: Right

NIXON: Hell I wouldn't prosecute the Times
My view is to prosecute the Goddamn pricks that gave it to 'em

EHRLICHMAN: Yeah, if you can find out who that is

NIXON: Yeah, I know - I mean - uh, could the Times be prosecuted?

EHRLICHMAN: Apparently so

NIXON: Wait a minute - wait a minute - they - uh, on the other hand, they're gonna run another story tomorrow

EHRLICHMAN: Right

NIXON: Why [unclear] just wait until after that one

EHRLICHMAN: Well, his - his point is that - uh - uh, he feels he has to give them some sort of advance notice, and then if they go ahead in disregard, why then - uh - uh, there's no - no danger of waiver; but - uh, if he doesn't give them notice then it's almost like entrapment - Uh, we sit here and let them go ahead on a course of conduct and don't raise any objection

NIXON: Well, could he wait one more day - they have - they have one more day after that
I don't know - I don't know

EHRLICHMAN: He apparently feels under some - some pressure to - uh, either decide to do it or not do it

NIXON: Hmm, does he have a judgment himself as to whether he wants to or not?

EHRLICHMAN: Yeah, I think he wants to
Uh, you might wanna give him a call and talk with him about it directly, 'cause I - I'm not very well posted on this whole thing

NIXON: How do you feel about it?

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EHRlichman: Well - uh, I'd - I'd kinda like to have a cause of action against them in the sock in case we needed it
I'd hate to - I'd hate to waive something as good as that; but - uh, I don't - I don't know what the - uh, ramifications would be in terms of the bill

NIXON: Oh hell - I'd - it isn't gonna affect the vote, in my opinion - just
[Long pause]
Uh-huh

EHRlichman: Would you wanna take a call from him, and

NIXON: Yeah, yeah - I - I'll call him - I'll call him

EHRlichman: Good

NIXON: OK, thank you

[TAPE RECORDED FROM NPMP COPY, 30 MAY 2001, TRANSCRIBED 11 JUNE 2001]