

NIXON TAPES, TUESDAY, 15 JUNE 1971  
TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH JOHN MITCHELL, 6:35 P.M.  
SOURCE: NIXON PRESIDENTIAL MATERIALS PROJECT, WHT-5-86  
TRANSCRIBED BY EDDIE MEADOWS, NATIONAL SECURITY ARCHIVE, THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

NIXON: Yeah

OPERATOR: The Attorney General

MITCHELL: Yes Mr. President

NIXON: I wondered - uh, [unclear] if you had any - uh - uh, s - success with Rogers

MITCHELL: Yes, he's agreeable to do it; we've - uh, got - uh, people from defense, justice and his - uh, counsel over there, Stevenson, working on it

NIXON: Good - g -

MITCHELL: And he understood the point, and - uh, was perfectly happy to do it

NIXON: And he'll get out a sort of a general statement of some sort [unclear]

MITCHELL: Yes sir, it will not - uh, be limited solely to the foreign affairs [unclear]

NIXON: I think what is very important in this is to find a way to get some strong language - like a massive breach of security - things of that sort, so that we can get something in the public mind - we're not just interested in making the technical case for the lawyers

MITCHELL: Exactly

NIXON: Something where they can see what is really involved here - [unclear 'it's'] - uh, irresponsible, you know - use some really high-flown adjectives [laughing] - that's what I [unclear] hope you can get some people to work on that

MITCHELL: Uh, we will, and if [unclear 'Bell'] has the understanding that - uh, it'll be - uh, sent over to the White House to be looked at before it goes out

NIXON: Right

MITCHELL: So your phrase-coiners and word-makers can get a crack at it

NIXON: Well I tell you John, it's - uh, one of those fights where you don't whether you - you don't know how it's gonna affect you but boy it's one we had to make; and, by God, it's one I enjoy These - these bastards have gone too far this time - don't you think?

MITCHELL: It is certainly my opinion you had to do it; and the - uh, important thing is to work at it like you suggested to try and structure it, so that the - uh, import of it, and the - uh, nature of it gets through to the public

NIXON: Right

MITCHELL: And I believe that - uh - uh, the press is gonna be reasonably fair on this - I don't mean the Times and the Post; but I mean the rest of the press

NIXON: Hmm

MITCHELL: [Unclear] I think -

NIXON: I don't know

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MITCHELL: I think they'll understand how far they have gone

NIXON: Yeah - well - my God - they're gonna understand there - there's - there is no paper in the country that's for us, we're gonna fight it

MITCHELL: [Laughing] O.K.

NIXON: Thanks John

MITCHELL: [Unclear] we got a good judge on it - uh, Murray Gurfein who is

NIXON: Oh yeah!

MITCHELL: Tom Dewey's - uh - counsel out there

NIXON: I know him well - smart as hell

MITCHELL: Yeah, and - uh, he's new, and - uh, he's appreciative, so

NIXON: [Laughing] good!

MITCHELL: We ought to work it out

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