

President Nixon and Bob Haldeman
Lincoln Sitting Room
Telephone call, April 30, 1973
Tape 045-041

Nixon: Hello.

Haldeman: Hi.

Nixon: Hope I didn't let you down.

Haldeman: No, sir. You got your points over, and now you've got it set right and move on. You're right where you ought to be.

Nixon: Well, it's a tough thing, Bob, for you and for John and the rest, but Goddamnit, I'm never going to discuss this son-of-a-bitching Watergate thing again. Never, never, never, never. Don't you agree?

Haldeman: Yes, sir. You've done it now, and you've laid out your position. You've laid out, you've taken your steps. You've put the...

Nixon: Interesting thing, you know we haven't heard a ... the only cabinet officer that has called, and this is 50 minutes after the thing is over, is Cap Weinberger, bless his soul. All the rest are waiting to see what the polls show. Goddamn strong Cabinet, isn't it?

Haldeman: You better check and be sure, because they may...You know, we've had a ...

Nixon: No, no, no. They know, they know, they know who to call, you know, they know they can get through. But, in any event, I just want you to know that Cap called, and he is all the way.

Haldeman: Good.

Nixon: But let me say you're a strong man, Goddamnit. And I love you. And I, you know, I love John and all the rest, and, by God, keep the faith. Keep the faith. You're going to win this son of a bitch.

Haldeman: Absolutely.

Nixon: You noticed what I said about the violence and so forth on the other side?

Haldeman: Yup.

Nixon: I mean there were some intricacies in this that only the sophisticates will understand.

Haldeman: I got those, and I want to get the text because there are some things to work on from there that we can build on...

Nixon: I thought it was good too to end on what I deeply felt, you know, the religious note. You know, "God bless America." I'm sure it must have driven you up the wall. It didn't drive me up the wall, but I felt that way.

Haldeman: No, I'm all for that. I completely agree.

Nixon: I don't know whether you can call and get any reactions, and call me back, like the old style? Would you mind?

Haldeman: I don't think I can. I don't...

Nixon: No, I agree.

Haldeman: I'm in an odd spot to try and do that...

Nixon: Don't call a goddamn soul. To hell with it. Let me just say, getting this call from you, when I haven't heard from any cabinet officer, except Weinberger, an hour afterwards, and thank God...and no staff member...

Haldeman: Well, when I called, the board said they were instructed not to put any calls through, so...

Nixon: To hell with that, I told them to put all the calls through.

Haldeman: Well, that may be why you haven't gotten them though because...

Nixon: Alright, I'll change it, I'll change it. Fine, but God bless you boy, God bless you, I love you, as you know.

Haldeman: OK

Nixon: Like my brother. Alright boy, keep the faith.

Haldeman: Right.

Transcribed from Nixon Library White House Tape 045-041 by Michael Dobbs for King Richard, 2021