

DRAFT

Conversation No. 33-2

Date: November 3, 1972

Time: 9:48 pm – 10:12 pm

Location: White House Telephone

Participants: Richard M. Nixon; Charles W. Colson

In a phone conversation between President Nixon and Counsel to the President Chuck Colson, Colson provides Nixon with a survey of the political climate going into the final weekend before the 1972 general election.

After a survey of House and Senatorial races, Colson notes that Democratic presidential candidate George McGovern was “coming apart at the seams”, and that “I think he realizes he’s on the verge of an impending disaster.” Nixon comments, “Hell, he’s tired. The poor devil is running around, of course he’s only 50 years of age. Christ, when I was 50 I could go like hell.”

Colson also informs Nixon that the latest Harris poll predicts the reelection of the President by a margin of 61-33. Nixon, seeming surprised at the notion of a landslide victory, asks, “Does he think this figure’s right, Chuck?” After Colson responds, “Yes, sir”, Nixon disagrees, “I don’t really believe that.”

Nixon is also interested to know Colson’s impressions of the impact of the ongoing Vietnam negotiations and the Watergate break-in. On Vietnam, Colson says, “well, the simple fact is, that we couldn’t be in better shape.” Nixon notes that “I can continue to talk positively, like I say we’ve reached agreement on the major points, but we’ve got some other points that are very important [and] they’ve got to be settled, too.” On Watergate, Colson informs Nixon that “[Harris is] not getting anything [...] He now completely buys the theory, Mr. President, that Vietnam just knocked that right off of people’s minds. His theory is that people are only thinking about one thing at a time. Right now they’re thinking about the end of the war.”

Nixon: Hello?

Colson: Welcome back, Mr. President!

Nixon: Well, I hear you got the stock market up to 984, huh?

Colson: Boy, it really has moved, hasn’t it?

Nixon: Well—

Colson: I’ll say they’ve finally decided on Wall Street that you were going to be reelected!

Nixon: Ha! Well, at least this is a good thing in a sense, you know. In that area, a lot of those jackasses just vote on the basis of how their stocks are. You know?

Colson: It’s a bullish ending to a pretty bullish week, so that—with a lot of volume and it—

DRAFT

Nixon: [*Unclear*] But of course the point is that 984 is the highest [*it's been*] since we've been in, I think.

Colson: Yes it is. It was uh—Actually, I think it was a point higher in December of 1968, but, uh—

Nixon: Yeah, that's before we were in, though.

Colson: Right. I think it's—I think we're getting very close to the well. Jim Curry was right a week ago when he said it would break a thousand. I think it's headed for it.

Nixon: Um-hmm.

Colson: I'm positive Wednesday morning it—

Nixon: Well, we've done our part for the candidates. Good God, that fellow out there in Oklahoma and, Jesus, I had to really cross my toes and feet when I gave that, told him how much I needed that fellow in Rhode Island. Although I must say, I like the governor, [*Herbert F.*] DiSimone. He's a hell of a guy.

Colson: Oh, he's solid.

Nixon: Yeah.

Colson: Well, he's going to win. I think the—

Nixon: Uh-huh.

Colson: I'm afraid [*John H.*] Chafee isn't going to make it. Chafee fell behind in the polls today.

Nixon: He did?!

Colson: Yes, sir.

Nixon: Well I'll be damned! Why?!

Colson: Well, he just—because he's been running such a jackass campaign. He really—

Nixon: He couldn't be behind [*Claiborne*] Pell?

Colson: Yes, he's behind 2 points in the latest *Providence Journal* poll.

Nixon: What do we show him at?

Colson: 20 points ahead.

DRAFT

Nixon: He can't win—He can't lose then.

Colson: I don't think so—

Nixon: Then my being there—my being there may have done it then. What do you think?

Colson: Well, if he wins—Oh hell, if he wins that's true. Of course, he's the kind of fellow who may not remember—Well, yeah, he'll have to remember that. He—You're at the moment—

Nixon: But I praised him as “the guy that had the strong navy”, “we needed a strong America”, “number one” and all that jazz. “Peace without surrender”—

Colson: You're television was excellent, Mr. President, both from Chicago and Tulsa. Both of it made the, I—The only network news I saw tonight was CBS, and both the airport shots from Chicago and from Tulsa were very, very good. I thought, particularly, the line about “calling for national unity” [*laughs*]—

Nixon: I did it again tonight, too.

Colson: [*laughs*] Jesus, that just, stabs it to them.

Nixon: Don't you it really sticks it to 'em?

Colson: Oh, right to the heart. I mean it has to kill them, because—

Nixon: I'm going to tomorrow express my appreciation for the way Senator Humphrey has supported us in these last few days. [*laughs*]

Colson: I think that would be a marvelous thing. I do, I think that's a superb idea—

Nixon: See what I mean?

Colson: Yeah, that's a great idea. As one who's been through many—

Nixon: Yeah.

Colson: —national campaigns.

Nixon: All right.

Colson: Well this fellow's coming apart at the seams.¹

Nixon: Anything new today, Chuck?

¹ Nixon is referring to Democratic candidate George McGovern.

DRAFT

Colson: No, he—

Nixon: The “kiss my ass” thing’s apparently got out more than I thought it would.

Colson: Oh hell, it was the banner headline of the *Detroit News* this afternoon—

Nixon: Was it?

Colson: Yes, sir. Front page of the *Baltimore Sun* this morning, which surprised the hell out of me. The McGovern papers did not carry it, the—

Nixon: [*Washington*] *Post*?²

Colson: Like the *Boston*—the *Post*—

Nixon: [*Boston*] *Globe*?

Colson: —buried it. The *Boston Globe* did not carry it. The [*New York*] *Times*, well, all I saw was the first edition, so that’s probably not fair—

Nixon: No, they didn’t carry it. No, I looked at it.

Colson: It wasn’t in the *Times*, at least not in our edition.

Nixon: It’s all right. It’s all right. They don’t matter.

Colson: It got a hell of a lot of radio play. It, I’m told, it was played very, very big in Michigan.

Nixon: Was it?

Colson: Yes, sir.

Nixon: I don’t whether that’d hurt there or not. They’re pretty, sort of, outspoken. [*laughs*]

Colson: Oh no, it hurts. Well—

Nixon: It’ll help with his kids, you know. His kids all talk that way.

Colson: Yeah, it’ll help there, but he’s got those votes. Where it hurts, Mr. President, is that people feel like he doesn’t have the—he doesn’t have command of himself. In other words,

² The *Washington Post* actually had a very short and buried news blurb: “BATTLE CREEK, Mich., Nov. 2—Sen. George McGovern was walking along the fence at the airport here today shaking hands when he came up to a young man who was heckling him. ‘Four more years, four more years,’ the protestor shouted at McGovern. ‘We’ll beat you so bad you’ll wish you never left South Dakota.’ The Democratic presidential nominee leaned over to the heckler and softly said: ‘I’ve got a secret for you—kiss my ass.’” Washington Post Staff Writer, “McGovern has Final Word,” *The Washington Post*, 3 November 1972, A6. Via *Proquest*, document id 99630485.

DRAFT

that's a loss of control. It is—

Nixon: Yeah, because basically, that's the thing that Agnew is gaining on, that his dignity—

Colson: Exactly.

Nixon: —and humor, and the rest.

Colson: Exactly right. Hell, I think that that has hurt him—

Nixon: And you know, the way, I went through three audiences today, all with hecklers, yelling and screaming, and paid no attention to them.

Colson: Yep. That's the way to do it. Chicago, it was interesting on TV, they mentioned you had hecklers, of course Bob had called me—

Nixon: Yeah.

Colson: —from the plane to tell me about it. But, you couldn't tell it from the television. And it was, I must say, it was kind of good, because you were getting your points across, they mentioned that there some, a small group of hecklers in the hangar.

Nixon: They made a lot of noise in the hanger, but maybe not as much on TV.

Colson: Well, they didn't, as least on CBS.

Nixon: Um-hmm.

Colson: I did not see the other two. The footage was damn good. You talked about having the kind of country in which people could speak with civility and be heard, and that was very good, and the national unity theme, and the fact that the peace stuff you had just right. I think the Vietnam thing you're—at least the wire copy plus what I saw on TV from—

Nixon: I think we should leave it there. I don't think Henry should go out tomorrow.

Colson: No, I discouraged him very hard.

Nixon: I'm glad you did, because basically, I can continue to talk positively, like I say we've reached agreement on the major points, but we've got some other points that are very important [*and*] they've got to be settled, too.

Colson: Well, the simple fact is, that we couldn't be in better shape, and the only thing that Henry could do, I mean, there's no way we could be any stronger.

Nixon: What did McGovern say tonight?

DRAFT

Colson: He was on talking to a bunch of ministers this morning, and—

Nixon: He was supposed to talk on this, Vietnam tonight? He didn't—

Colson: It's supposed to be on at 10:30 tonight. [*Frank F.*] Mankiewicz was interviewed and said that he would be pointing out that it looks to them like we're not on the road to peace, that we've given into [*South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van*] Thieu, that—

Nixon: Hmm.

Colson: —this is—

Nixon: I think we pay no attention to them. Don't you agree?

Colson: Uh, no—

Nixon: Or do you want to hit him?

Colson: I want to hit him. I'd like to have—

Nixon: Not me, you don't mean?

Colson: Hold on—

Nixon: No, that's what I meant. I meant by me—

Colson: Oh no, you should ignore it, good job. You—

Nixon: We'll let Laird and let Rogers hit him.

Colson: Laird would like to tomorrow, and let Rogers on Sunday, and I think that's just about right.

Nixon: Right, that they, as distinguished from Senator Humphrey, or Vice President Humphrey, who—

Colson: That's right.

Nixon: —and Vice Pres—and President Nixon, when they were candidates, who put the country first, this is an unconscionable, vicious thing. You see?

Colson: Exactly.

Nixon: How about that way?

Colson: That's just about the way that we would like—

DRAFT

Nixon: Good.

Colson: —to do it. We'll see how well he does tonight.

Nixon: Yeah.

Colson: He's doing very badly. On TV tonight he looked whipped. His voice was still hoarse, he isn't—He's got no animation at all. I mean he—

Nixon: Hell, he's tired. The poor devil is running around, of course he's only 50 years of age. Christ, when I was 50 I could go like hell.

Colson: Well, but he's—He doesn't have the stuff, Mr. President. He really is—

Nixon: You don't think so?

Colson: No, no. And I think he realizes he's on the verge of an impending—

Nixon: Disaster.

Colson: —disaster from his side. And, everything he has done has gone wrong. He got his schedule screwed up today. He spoke before a small group of ministers, and it wasn't really very inspiring stuff. Tonight as far as, well I shouldn't say that, I only saw one network, but on that one network we certainly came out miles ahead. You led it. There were scenes from Chicago, there were scenes from Tulsa. It was kind of upbeat. You know, it was the Air Force One coming in, you getting off, and it [*was*] a good feeling.

Nixon: There were huge crowds, you know, for two-day rallies.

Colson: Well they made that point. They, I was surprised, at least CBS—

Nixon: We had [*laughs*] a 15 to 20 thousand in Chicago, we had at least 20 to 25 in Tulsa, we had 18 thousand tonight.

Colson: Yeah, they said 25 in—CBS tonight said 25 in Chicago after I'd read 15 on the wires, so I—

Nixon: 15's all it really was, but Tulsa was 25.

Colson: Well that's a hell of a—That's, you know, that's damn good. That way you don't—it doesn't—The number doesn't really matter. When you can fill a hangar and have a lot of enthusiastic people and, it looked good. The crowd shots were good. It showed you both times coming through the crowd—both, in both rallies. I thought it was excellent. And I think just the right amount of campaigning, just coming at the right time and the right pace. If we can believe the Harris figures, we really don't—I mean we're just going to—

DRAFT

Nixon: What's he got? Has he got anything yet?

Colson: Well, he's got all of yesterday's finished, and—

Nixon: That's just yesterday. Raw figures—raw data still, though?

Colson: No, no. No, no. He ran it—

Nixon: [*Through*] the computer?

Colson: —through it. 28 points ahead. 61-33.

Nixon: That's from yesterday?

Colson: That's from yesterday. Now, what he was—

Nixon: He's not going to print that?

Colson: No. He won't print it for the reason that he'll do 1500 samples more tomorrow. And, had he printed this tomorrow and then—

Nixon: Uh-huh.

Colson: —if there were any differences in tomorrow's—

Nixon: Um-hmmm.

Colson: —then when he printed Monday, it would look like there was movement, which he's convinced there is not, so—

Nixon: Does he think this figure's right, Chuck?

Colson: Yes, sir. So he's going to take yesterday's, and tomorrow's, add—

Nixon: He has it at 61—

Colson: -33.

Nixon: Yeah. I don't real believe that, do you?

Colson: Yes I do.

Nixon: I don't think it's that good, because of what I've read about the blue-collar shift. I think there has been some, you know, in that Cleveland precinct, and the others that they talk about.

DRAFT

Colson: Well, we're getting none of that, Mr. President. Now, what you're seeing on television is a—and the interview that was in the news summary this morning, yeah, there'll be pockets of that, but it isn't very widespread. And I think the public is—I think the public has made up its mind. Lou was going to project it for Monday, he'll—Well, he goes through this process every year. What he's doing this year; he would normally have released this figure tomorrow—

Nixon: Um-hmm.

Colson: —but then he was concerned, or I was concerned rather, that tomorrow would show a shift up or down—

Nixon: Yep.

Colson: —and then on Monday he would have to say, well “over the weekend”—

Nixon: So he's going to wait until Monday to put anything out?

Colson: Well, then he'll put the whole thing, all 3,000 interviews, which means that tomorrow—

Nixon: And if he shows it less than 60, suppose he shows it 59-35? Ha! That's still good isn't it?

Colson: That's right. You see, he only does one this way. Then there'll be no movement, because a week ago it was 28, and today it's 28, and if tomorrow it's 24, well then it averages out to 26, so he shows, Monday morning, he shows a 26 point lead. If it—But he doesn't even think it's going to do that, he's thinks it's going to stay right at this. He thinks this because all the underlying things are very, very solid.

Nixon: Are they?

Colson: Yes.

Nixon: Good.

Colson: And, no slippage anyplace. So, he just doesn't feel—

Nixon: What's he see about Watergate?

Colson: He's not getting anything. That's a, he now buys—

Nixon: It's mainly, I think, a Republican problem. You know?

Colson: He now completely buys the theory, Mr. President, that Vietnam just knocked that right off of people's minds. His theory is that people are only thinking about one thing at a time. Right now they're thinking about the end of the war. That's helped the confidence in your leadership, and that's stopped the erosion, and that's stopped people thinking about saboteurs, and spy—

DRAFT

Nixon: And even though they know it isn't over, they have more confidence in me than McGovern?

Colson: That's right. Yeah, well, probably more so. That there's just this little bit of—there's the feeling that it isn't just a matter of signing a piece of paper and getting it over with.

Nixon: I hit that all day today. I got a line off—they didn't use it, of course—but a very good one in Tulsa which I would hope it would be picked up, I said: "Now, let me tell you about the election. The election is not going to hurry us into making a bad agreement..."

Colson: Hmmm.

Nixon: "...and the election also is not to going to delay us in making a good agreement."

Colson: Um-hmmm.

Nixon: "That's the way it's going to be."

Colson: Well, that's just the way to put it. The only thing we have to guard against, and I talked to Henry about this this afternoon, is if the press over the weekend really builds off the McGovern line. You know, they've—Every [*time*], they've played the game with him. Whatever he is—

Nixon: Uh-huh.

Colson: —whatever has been the line he's been moving, they've moved it.

Nixon: Yeah.

Colson: And if he plays the line that we're, you know, deliberately—

Nixon: Bombed out.

Colson: Yeah, haven't got a, not go ahead with the agreement, then we just have to—

Nixon: You know, I think—

Colson: —we may have to use Henry, on a one-on-one basis. I would never—

Nixon: No, only one-on-one though.

Colson: That's what I told him. I would never put him out there, because we're so damn far ahead, that there's just no point in—

Nixon: You'll want to remember, I'll be out there in North Carolina, which'll make the news tomorrow, and I'll be very confident this is going to be done.

DRAFT

Colson: Yeah, and, that's the, then, of course, you see, that takes care of the Sunday papers, and tomorrow night's TV. Then, you're into Monday, which is, all you're going to get Monday are polls. You're going to have Harris, you're going to have Gallup, you're going to have, I think there are 17 state polls that we will have by midnight tomorrow night. They'll be just, really what you're going to get is political analysis beginning Sunday and Monday.

Nixon: California's already run, hasn't it?

Colson: Yes, sir. Hall poll ran yesterday. And that's the end of California. [*laughs*]

Nixon: Ha! Don't you think that really cooks 'em in California?

Colson: Oh!

Nixon: Have you got any reactions to it?

Colson: Yes, sir. Don Rogers called me tonight. He's out in Los Angeles. And he said, "I have never seen anything in my life like the Paul Hall operation. My God, they've got 35 cars, sound trucks, going all through the streets of San Francisco, they've got people working," he said. "They've just turned them out by the droves, they're handing out brochures," he said. "There's a feeling of activity, and upbeat," he said. "The Democrats out here are absolutely demoralized," he said. "That poll just finished them, and there's no sign of activity on their side."

Nixon: Good.

Colson: He said, "There's real momentum on our side." And really, he called me, he was very enthused. He said, "This is just a great feeling out here." He'd just come from San Francisco. Apparently Paul Hall has really moved into the Bay Area—

Nixon: Great.

Colson: —very heavy, but—

Nixon: What do you hear from Massachusetts?

Colson: Well, I've heard several reports in, as a result of Mrs. Nixon's, the confrontation, which, all of which lead our people to say that we're going to squeak it out. It's 50-50—

Nixon: Well, if we don't, what the hell.

Colson: Yeah, if it's—

Nixon: Just let that Massachusetts be where it belongs.

Colson: 14 electoral votes. Well, I hate to admit it [*but*] I'd love to do it. It's a personal thing. I'd

DRAFT

to bring that one in.

Nixon: They've got to realize it's a long shot. What about Michigan?

Colson: Well, Michigan, we're running some busing ads on Monday, which I think are going to firm up Michigan. We're 7 points ahead, 47 or -8, 49-42 in—

Nixon: Is that what *Detroit News* has?

Colson: We'll have—*Detroit News* will have that on Sunday.

Nixon: 49-what?

Colson: 49-42 is the—was the preliminary figure. Now, they haven't weighted that. And we may get a little better break out of it, because the black voting is very, very low, very apathetic. That had closed a little bit in the past two weeks, and that's the result of the UAW activity.

Nixon: Oh sure.

Colson: But that's still a hell of a lead the weekend of the election. And we're stepping up the anti-busing ads that we did on radio, and we have one in the *Detroit News* Monday afternoon—

Nixon: Um-hmm.

Colson: —that I think is a ball buster.

Nixon: You figured Michigan, though, we can win?

Colson: Oh yes. Yes, sir. Henry Cashen is from Michigan. I talked to him today up there. He said that two things are going for us: one is the, of course, [*Robert P.*] Griffin is working his fanny off—

Nixon: What does the *Detroit News* show him?

Colson: 4 points.

Nixon: He'll win. If we win, he'll win.

Colson: Oh yeah. Oh yes, yeah. But he's working his fanny off. The Republicans as a result of that, the Republicans are really kind of up for it, and working hard. The ads this weekend where we're concentrating now a hell of a lot more into Detroit will help us. Plus the fact that's where he made the "kiss my ass" remark and [*laughs*] that's where it's been making all of the news. And that's bound [*to*], that's going to turn people off.

Nixon: You think it will?

DRAFT

Colson: Yeah, I don't it's going to be—It doesn't compare with Muskie crying in the snow in New Hampshire, but it's going to hurt him. It's a lot different than Harry Truman calling Drew Pearson a—

Nixon: Oh, well that's different. Sure.

Colson: —because he was defending his daughter. This was just gratuitous, he went out of his way to—

Nixon: Well, it was kind of a—It's not worthy of a person running for president.

Colson: That's correct. Yeah.

Nixon: You can say “give ‘em hell” and the other fellow's a “son of a bitch”, but you don't say to a kid “kiss my ass.”

Colson: That's right. Yeah. And, it was unnecessary. I mean it was, it just shows the guy's coming apart. So that, having happened in Battle Creek, I think that's going to affect Michigan. I think we're fine in Michigan. I think we're, we've got a—we've got to come—

Nixon: What do you hear from Wisconsin?

Colson: —I mean [*Mike Regan*] is calling it 53-47 as the final.

Nixon: That's what he thought it would always be.

Colson: Yeah! He's never been away from that. Wisconsin, apparently, our situation is—

[*Noise on the phone line*]

Colson: —Hello?

Nixon: Yeah.

Colson: Apparently the situation is firmed up, and, uh—

Nixon: Oh, you think so?

Colson: That's the report I have this afternoon, Mr. President. And we're doing very well in the blue-collar areas. That's the interesting thing in this Harris poll, absolutely no change from early September in the union vote and no change in the Catholic vote. The union vote is 54-40, with us winning it. That's the organized labor vote.

Nixon: Um-hmm.

Colson: The Catholics, 59-35. Well, that's down 2 points from the last one, but that's nothing.

DRAFT

54-40 on—

Nixon: That's just the usual closing of Democrats and so forth—

Colson: Well, a little bit. Except with Democrats we're 40, and McGovern's 53. So that's, a very, very strong showing. My God, I think, what, 25, and that was considered a phenomenal percentage of the Democrats.

Nixon: Right.

Colson: So it's—We're in awfully good shape. I'm not worried at all about Wisconsin. I think there's too much of the Catholic and there's too much of the blue collar there for us to lose it.

Nixon: I think the, broadcast we did last night may have helped a bit on this thing, too, don't you think?

Colson: Yes, sir. In the area that we needed help in, with the higher income, affluent suburbanite that was exactly the right tone. That was just—and a marvelous contrast with McGovern. He gives the appearance of a frantic campaigner.

Nixon: Um-hmm.

Colson: That's a—that's—Last night was a brilliant contrast to that. Plus, you made some damn good points, particularly I think on the Vietnam thing, which, you just put in focus just right. Kalb was on CBS tonight saying that you took Henry's briefing down a peg or two, fine. But it was what the people needed to hear, from you, which is a hell of a lot different than hearing it from Kissinger.

Nixon: That's right. Well, if we took it down a peg or two, that's all right. It's realistic.

Colson: Yeah, and then the wires were playing it quite bullishly on the—on Vietnam.

Nixon: That's why the market moves.

Colson: Yeah. We have a settlement, and it's going to include all of Indochina. We're still working out some of the problems, and we'll get it when we're ready to get it.

Nixon: Um-hmm.

Colson: I like that. It's strong. It's—I think we've got that issue absolutely positioned correctly, and all we need to do now is to use Mel Laird tomorrow to answer McGovern—

Nixon: Right.

Colson: —and then Bill Rogers to put it in perspective Sunday.

DRAFT

Nixon: Well, he'll hit hard on it tonight, he'll say we've blown it, and this and that and the other thing, but—

Colson: I don't think people are listening to it anymore.

Nixon: But we've got to come back now with Laird and Rogers, I agree, those are the two to do it. And of course, I'll hit it hard, too.

Colson: That's right. You'll have good opportunities to do it tomorrow. Well he's—Both of those fellows are primed to do it. We have a little problem with CBS, Mr. President, which I might mention to you. They're on strike.

Nixon: [*sarcastically*] Isn't it too bad.

Colson: [*laughs*] That's right. But the Vice President was scheduled to do *Face the Nation*, if you remember we—

Nixon: Yeah.

Colson: —talked him into it. That means, in effect, crossing a picket line. McGovern is also scheduled to do it and they've worked out a pretty—he's worked out a pretty neat gimmick. He's going to do it from a non-union affiliate and let them tape it in. We can't do that, because of where the Vice President is.

Nixon: That's right.

Colson: Shultz and I talked tonight, and both of us at the moment are inclined to—

Nixon: Not do it.

Colson: Yes, sir. Cancel them.

Nixon: Absolutely, because they're on strike. Exactly.

Colson: Well, it's a hardhat union. You see, it's the electrical workers—

Nixon: Right.

Colson: —I.B.E.W, and...

Nixon: Right, good.

Colson: So we, in a way, it's kind of a nice thing. It sticks it to CBS.

Nixon: Um-hmm.

DRAFT

Colson: And it really does. It hurts them. It's in a sense, it isn't taking sides in it, but they'll interpret it that way. And it is not crossing a picket line.

Nixon: That's right—

Colson: And if McGovern wants to, then we'll have our union boys—

Nixon: And have them hit him like hell on it.

Colson: Oh, Jesus, I talked to Fitzsimmons tonight. He said, "If the dumb son of a bitch does that," he said, "we'll just cream him."

Nixon: Good!

Colson: He said, "If Agnew does it, then we'll shut up."

Nixon: Well, no, he won't.

Colson: I think it's better if you—

Nixon: He won't, he won't. No, sir, we don't want him on that silly program anyway.

Colson: If you agree, Shultz and I feel strongly—

Nixon: Right.

Colson: —that we didn't think we should make that decision without talking to you.

Nixon: You go ahead.

Colson: We're knocking the hell of this demonstrator issue, Mr. President.

Nixon: Are you? Oh!

Colson: Rizzo took it on today—

Nixon: What'd he say?

Colson: Oh, he *[laughs]*, as only Rizzo could do it. He talked about "all those damn liberals", "they're trying to shut us up", and "by God the only way they're going to stop me is by voting me out of office". Oh, he hit 'em. God, he really hit 'em very hard.

Nixon: Good.

Colson: Dole demanded an apology again today. I think that, we came out of that yesterday a little bit ahead because it got visibility for the issue. But the people who were harassing Mrs.

DRAFT

Nixon in particular in Boston. That made, that turned the Boston story into a real national story.

Nixon: Um-hmm.

Colson: Mankiewicz was pretty cute, trying to blame it—

Nixon: Yeah?

Colson: —back on the Vice President. But I, just, I somehow don't think he—Well I don't think there's any credibility left on that side. Rizzo said, used the “demonstrators have been infringing upon the rights of citizens who want to hear President Nixon.”

Nixon: [*laughs*]

Colson: “The day has arrived for everyone to question whether these liberals [*laughs*] have the right to disrupt others' right to attend a public event. I'll tell you what these liberals have to do to disrupt these events is to knock me out of the box at the next election, because by God”—

Nixon: Good.

Colson: —“they're going to have to take me on.” Oh Jesus, it's great!

Nixon: Right. Good.

Colson: So we—I think we'll continue to hammer him on that. Billy Graham's thing has moved very well. His, his—

Nixon: Um-hmm.

Colson: His statement supporting us, supporting you. And, on the integrity and on the—

Nixon: Right.

Colson: —morality issue he came through very well. So, I think it's—With your campaigning and with the other side looking very weak at the moment, I think it's, I think we're going into the weekend just about as strong as we could be.

Nixon: It's rather good that I'm out tomorrow, really, because it'll be a, you know, a way to just, take the high road and—

Colson: Well, frankly, we're bringing the campaign to an end with you on the upswing.

Nixon: Um-hmm.

Colson: And McGovern really looking pretty pitiful, Mr. President. He had to cancel some engagements today to tape the thing tonight. They had an interview with Mankiewicz who really

DRAFT

looked whipped on the evening news tonight, which he was kind of previewing the speech and apologizing for McGovern having missed a scheduled stop.

Nixon: Um-hmm.

Colson: Yeah, you can, you just have that sense of it. You just have that feeling that they're really—

Nixon: Coming apart, maybe?

Colson: —yeah, really coming apart.

Nixon: They've got to be coming apart. Good God, they've got to be.

Colson: Well, [*Thomas F.*] Eagleton won't do a radio tape for them, or a television tape that they wanted this weekend. He's refusing to do it. There's just all the signs of the—

Nixon: Um-hmm.

Colson: —you know, of the real beating coming. And you're absolutely right about the stock market. That gives the whole week kind of an upbeat note. The wholesale price story played great—

Nixon: Right.

Colson: The unemployment story today, I thought, played very straight.

Nixon: Um-hmm.

Colson: And the networks played it straight: "Big month for an increase in employment." So it's—

Nixon: Well, we'll live through it.

Colson: It's a good feeling. You don't sound tired, but you should be.

Nixon: Oh, I'm fine. No, no. Listen, this is not that bad. It was a long, it was 7 hours—8 hours on a plane.

Colson: Well, that's rough. And you had three rallies.

Nixon: Oh, the rallies were easy, but the plane rides were long. Well, anyway—

Colson: A good upbeat note.

Nixon: —we'll wind her up tomorrow, huh?

Colson: We'll keep right on 'em. Yes, sir.

Nixon: Good!

Colson: Thank you, Mr. President.