

U4 Literacy Transcript of the “smoking gun” tape, June 23, 1972.

Read and Mark the Following attach to back of SOAPs Analysis

H.R. Haldeman (*White House Chief of Staff*): Okay -that’s fine. Now, on the investigation, you know, the Democratic break-in thing, we’re back to the-in the, the problem area because the FBI is not under control, because Gray doesn’t exactly know how to control them, and they have, their investigation is now leading into some productive areas, because they’ve been able to trace the money, not through the money itself, but through the bank, you know, sources – the banker himself. And, and it goes in some directions we don’t want it to go. Ah, also there have been some things, like an informant came in off the street to the FBI in Miami, who was a photographer or has a friend who is a photographer who developed some films through this guy, Barker, and the films had pictures of Democratic National Committee letter head documents and things. So I guess, so its things like that that are gonna, that are filtering in. Mitchell came up with yesterday, and John Dean analyzed very carefully last night and concludes, concurs now with Mitchell’s recommendation that the only way to solve this, and we’re set up beautifully to do it, ah, in that and that...the only network that paid any attention to it last night was NBC...they did a massive story on the Cuban...

President Richard Nixon: That’s right. **Haldeman:** thing. **Nixon:** Right.

Haldeman: That the way to handle this now is for us to have Walters call Pat Gray (*L. Patrick Gray acting Director of the CIA*) and just say, “Stay the h*** out of this...this is ah, business here we don’t want you to go any further on it.” That’s not an unusual development,... **Nixon:** Um huh. **Haldeman:**...and, uh, that would take care of it.

Nixon: What about Pat Gray, ah, you mean he doesn’t want to?

Haldeman: Pat does want to. He doesn’t know how to, and he doesn’t have, he doesn’t have any basis for doing it. Given this, he will then have the basis. He’ll call Mark Felt in (*William Mark Felt FBI Special Agent*), and the two of them ...and Mark Felt wants to cooperate because...

Nixon: Yeah. **Haldeman:** he’s ambitious... **Nixon:** Yeah.

Haldeman: Ah, he’ll call him in and say, “We’ve got the signal from across the river to, to put the hold on this.” And that will fit rather well because the FBI agents who are working the case, at this point, feel that’s what it is. This is CIA.

Nixon: But they’ve traced the money to ’em.

Haldeman: Well they have, they’ve traced to a name, but they haven’t gotten to the guy yet.

Nixon: Would it be somebody here?

Haldeman: Ken Dahlberg (*Midwest Finance Chairman for the Committee to Re-elect the President*).

Nixon: Who the hell is Ken Dahlberg?

Haldeman: He’s ah, he gave \$25,000 in Minnesota and ah, the check went directly in to this, to this guy Barker (*Former CIA Operative and One of the Watergate Burglars*).

Nixon: Maybe he’s a ...bum.

Nixon: He didn’t get this from the committee though, from Stans (*Maurice Stans, former Secretary of Commerce, and Finance Chairman of the Committee to re-elect the President.*)

Haldeman: Yeah. It is. It is. It’s directly traceable and there’s some more through some Texas people in—that went to the Mexican bank which they can also trace to the Mexican bank...they’ll get their names today. And (pause)

Nixon: Well, I mean, ah, there’s no way... I’m just thinking if they don’t cooperate, what do they say? They, they, they were approached by the Cubans. That’s what Dahlberg has to say, the Texans too. Is that the idea?

Haldeman: Well, if they will. But then we’re relying on more and more people all the time. That’s the problem. And ah, they’ll stop if we could, if we take this other step.

Nixon: All right. Fine. **Haldeman:** And, and they seem to feel the thing to do is get them to stop? **Nixon:** Right, fine.

Haldeman: They say the only way to do that is from White House instructions. And it’s got to be to Helms (*Richard Helms Director of CIA*) and, ah, what’s his name...? Walters (*Vernon Walters Deputy Director Central Intelligence*).

Nixon: Walters.

Haldeman: And the proposal would be that Ehrlichman (*John Ehrlichman, White House Counsel*) (coughs) I call them in

Nixon: All right, fine. **Haldeman:** and say, ah...

Nixon: How do you call him in, I mean you just, well, we protected Helms from one hell of a lot of things.

Haldeman: That's what Ehrlichman says.

Nixon: Of course, this is a, this is a Hunt (*Howard Hunt Member of the President's Special Investigation Unit, planners of Watergate Break-in*) you will—that will uncover a lot of things. You open that scab there's a hell of a lot of things and that we just feel that it would be very detrimental to have this thing go any further. This involves these Cubans, Hunt, and a lot of hanky-panky that we have nothing to do with ourselves. Well what the hell, did Mitchell know about this thing to any much of a degree.

Haldeman: I think so. I don't think he knew the details, but I think he knew.

Nixon: He didn't know how it was going to be handled though, with Dahlberg and the Texans and so forth? Well who was the ***** that did? (Unintelligible) Is it Liddy (*G. Gordon Liddy, Former FBI Agent, Lawyer and Head of President's Special Investigation Unit*)? Is that the fellow? He must be a little nuts. **Haldeman:** He is.

Nixon: I mean he just isn't well screwed on is he? Isn't that the problem?

Haldeman: No, but he was under pressure, apparently, to get more information, and as he got more pressure, he pushed the people harder to move harder on...

Nixon: Pressure from Mitchell (*Former Attorney General and Head of Nixon's reelection campaign*)?

Haldeman: Apparently.

Nixon: Oh, Mitchell, Mitchell was at the point that you made on this, that exactly what I need from you is on the—

Haldeman: Gemstone (*White House Code name for activities conducted by the President's Special Investigation Unit*), yeah.

Nixon: All right, fine, I understand it all. We won't second-guess Mitchell and the rest. Thank God it wasn't Colson.

Haldeman: The FBI interviewed Colson yesterday. They determined that would be a good thing to do.

Nixon: Um hum. **Haldeman:** Ah, to have him take a... **Nixon:** Um hum.

Haldeman: An interrogation, which he did, and that, the FBI guys working the case had concluded that there were one or two possibilities, one, that this was a White House, they don't think that there is anything at the Election Committee, they think it was either a White House operation and they had some obscure reasons for it, non political,...

Nixon: Uh huh. **Haldeman:** or it was a... **Nixon:** Cuban thing-

Haldeman: Cubans and the CIA. And after their interrogation of, of...

Nixon: Colson (*Charles Colson Special Counsel to the President*).

Haldeman: Colson, yesterday, they concluded it was not the White House, but are now convinced it is a CIA thing, so the CIA turn off would...

Nixon: Well, not sure of their analysis, I'm not going to get that involved. I'm (unintelligible).

Haldeman: No, sir. We don't want you to. **Nixon:** You call them in.

Nixon: Good. Good deal! Play it tough. That's the way they play it and that's the way we are going to play it.

Haldeman: O.K. We'll do it.

Nixon: Yeah, when I saw that news summary item, I of course knew it was a bunch of crap, but I thought ah, well it's good to have them off on this wild hair thing because when they start bugging us, which they have, we'll know our little boys will not know how to handle it. I hope they will though. You never know. Maybe, you think about it. Good! *****

Nixon: When you get in these people when you...get these people in, say: "Look, the problem is that this will open the whole, the whole Bay of Pigs thing, and the President just feels that" ah, without going into the details... don't, don't lie to them to the extent to say there is no involvement, but just say this is sort of a comedy of errors, bizarre, without getting into it, "the President believes that it is going to open the whole Bay of Pigs (*CIA invasion of Cuba*) thing up again. And, ah because these people are plugging for, for keeps and that they should call the FBI in and say that we wish for the country, don't go any further into this case", period!

Haldeman: OK. **Nixon:** That's the way to put it, do it straight (Unintelligible)

Haldeman: Get more done for our cause by the opposition than by us at this point. **Nixon:** You think so?

Haldeman: I think so, yeah.

U4 Literacy Transcript of the “smoking gun” tape, June 23, 1972

Directions: Write name, date, and class period across the top. Complete the following document analysis using complete sentence responses. If you use a separate sheet of paper attach it to the back of this sheet.

Subject

What would be the main topic of discussion between the two people?

What are three things the either of them, said that you think are important?

Occasion

Based on what you read that they have said, what type of are people do they seem to be?

Give an example to support your opinion.

Audience

For whom do you think this document was prepared for?

Purpose

What does the conversation say about life in general for these two individuals, and what was going on for them at the time?

What questions about their activities does the document raise?

Speaker

Which of the two do you think was responsible for the transcript being prepared, give a reason why?