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FIRST THIRTY THREE MINUTES OF THE  
MEETING BETWEEN THE  
PRESIDENT AND MESSRS  
DEAN AND HALDEMAN ON  
SEPTEMBER 15, 1972, FROM  
5:27 TO 6:17 P.M.

ITEM 37.1

**SONY CORP.**  
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TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE WATERGATE SPECIAL PROSECUTION  
FORCE OF THE FIRST 33 MINUTES OF THE MEETING BETWEEN  
THE PRESIDENT AND MESSRS. DEAN AND HALDEMAN ON SEPTEMBER  
15, 1972 FROM 5:27 TO 6:17 P.M.

[END OF PREVIOUS CONVERSATION]

PRESIDENT: Hi, how are you?

DEAN: Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT: Well, you had quite a day today, didn't you?  
You got, uh, Watergate, uh, on the way, huh?

DEAN: (inaudible) three months.

HALDEMAN: How did this all end up?

DEAN: Ah, I think we can say well, at this point.  
The, uh, the press is playing it just as we  
expect.

HALDEMAN: Whitewash?

DEAN: No, not yet; the, the story right now ...

PRESIDENT: Big story.

DEAN: Yeah. (inaudible)

HALDEMAN: Five indicted plus they're building up the  
fact that...

DEAN: Plus one was a White House aide.

HALDEMAN: Plus, plus the White House Plumber's guy and  
all that.

HALDEMAN: That's good. That, that takes the edge off  
whitewash really which -- that was the thing  
Mitchell kept saying that, that those in the  
country Liddy and, and, uh, Hunt are big men.

DEAN: That's right.

PRESIDENT: They're White House aides.

HALDEMAN: And maybe that, yeah, maybe that's good.

PRESIDENT: How did MacGregor handle himself?

DEAN: I think very well. He had a good statement. Uh, he said that the uh, the Grand Jury had met (inaudible) and that, uh, it was now time to realize that some apologies may be due.

HALDEMAN: Fat chance!  
(inaudible)

HALDEMAN: We can't do that.

PRESIDENT: (inaudible) How are you doing on your other investigations? (inaudible)

HALDEMAN: What has happened on the bug?

PRESIDENT: ...hard to find...

PRESIDENT: On the what?

HALDEMAN: The bug.

DEAN: The second bug. There was another bug found in the phone of, uh, the first...

PRESIDENT: You don't think it was one left over from the previous job?

DEAN: Absolutely not. The Bureau has checked and re-checked. The man who checked the phone said that his first check was thorough and it was not there (inaudible) and it indeed had been planted after...

PRESIDENT: What the hell do you think was involved? (inaudible)?

DEAN: I think the DNC planted it, quite clearly.

PRESIDENT: You think they did it?

DEAN: Uh huh.

HALDEMAN: (inaudible)



PRESIDENT: What in the name of Christ do they think anybody (inaudible). Do they really want to believe that we planted that?

HALDEMAN: Did they get anything off the fingerprints?

DEAN: No. (inaudible) no...

HALDEMAN: There weren't any?

DEAN: ...neither on the telephone or on the, uh, on the bug. The, uh, FBI has unleashed a full blast investigation over at the DNC starting with O'Brien right now.

HALDEMAN: (Laughter.) Using the same crew now that they have nothing to do in Washington.

DEAN: (inaudible) the Washington Field Office (inaudible) doing that.

PRESIDENT: Asking what kind of questions?

DEAN: Anything that they can think of because what happened, O'Brien has charged the Bureau with failing to uh, find all the, all the bugs, whenever (inaudible)

HALDEMAN: Good, that will make them mad.

DEAN: So, so, Gray is pissed now and his people are, uh, pissed off. So they're moving in because their reputation's on the line. That's, uh, do you think that's a good development.

PRESIDENT: I think that's a good development because it makes it look so goddamned phony business, the whole (inaudible) Am I wrong?

DEAN: No, no sir. It looks silly. If we can, if we can find that the DNC planted that, the whole story is going, I hope, just will reverse.

PRESIDENT: But how could they, how could you possibly find it, though?



DEAN: Well, they, well they're trying to ascertain who made the bug.

PRESIDENT: Oh.

DEAN: And they, it's a custom-made product. If they can get back to the man who manufactured it, then they can find out who he sold it to, and how it came down through the chain.

PRESIDENT: Boy, you never know when those guys get after it, they can find it. They...

DEAN: The resources that have been put against this whole investigation to date are really incredible. It's truly a, it's truly a larger investigation than was conducted against, uh, the after inquiry of the JFK assassination.

PRESIDENT: Oh.

DEAN: And good statistics supporting that finding is going to have...

HALDEMAN: Isn't that ridiculous though?

PRESIDENT: What is?

HALDEMAN: This silly ass damn thing.

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

HALDEMAN: That kind of resources against...

PRESIDENT: Yeah for Christ's sake (inaudible)...

HALDEMAN: Who the hell cares?

PRESIDENT: Goldwater put it in context when he said "for Christ's sake everybody bugs everybody else. We know that."

DEAN: That was, that was priceless.

HALDEMAN: Yeah, uh (inaudible)...

PRESIDENT: Well, it's true. It happens to be totally true. (inaudible) We were bugged in '68 on the plane and bugged in '62, uh, even running for Governor. Goddamnedest thing you ever saw.

DEAN: It is a shame that evidence to the fact that that happened in '68 was never preserved around. I understand that only the former Director had that information.

HALDEMAN: No, that's not true.

DEAN: There was ... evidence of it?

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

HALDEMAN: There're others who have information.

PRESIDENT: Others know.

DEAN: DeLoache?

PRESIDENT: DeLoache, right.

HALDEMAN: I've got some stuff on it too, in the bombing halt study 'cause it's all, that's why, the stuff I've got we don't...

PRESIDENT: The difficulty with using it, of course, is that it reflects on Johnson.

DEAN: Right.

PRESIDENT: He ordered it. If it weren't for that, I'd use it. Is there any way we could use it without reflecting on Johnson? (inaudible) We could say that the Democratic National Committee did it?

HALDEMAN: No, the FBI did the bugging.

DEAN: That's the problem, would it reflect on Johnson or Humphrey?

HALDEMAN: Johnson. Humphrey didn't do it.

DEAN: Humphrey didn't do it?

PRESIDENT: Oh, hell no.

HALDEMAN: He was bugging Humphrey, too. (Laughter)

PRESIDENT: Oh, Goddamn.

HALDEMAN: ... (Laughter)

PRESIDENT: Well, on the other hand, maybe, uh, Humphrey (inaudible), I want you to ask Connally. What crazy things we (inaudible) bombing. I mean I don't think he will, I don't think he will (inaudible) Johnson. (inaudible). And also it reflects on the Bureau. (inaudible)

DEAN: (inaudible)

PRESIDENT: They, they, they hate to admit that...

HALDEMAN: It is a rough one on them with, with all this stuff about they don't do Congressmen, and all that

PRESIDENT: (inaudible)

HALDEMAN: sort of stuff (inaudible)

PRESIDENT: (inaudible)

HALDEMAN: ...do a presidential (inaudible).

PRESIDENT: It isn't worth it. It isn't worth it, damn it, (inaudible) the hell with it. What is the situation on your, uh, on the, on the little red box? Did they find what the hell that is? Have they found the box yet?

DEAN: Gray has never had access to the box. He is now going to pursue the box. I spoke to him just, just about, uh, oh, 30 minutes ago and Pat said, "I don't know about the box. Uh, don't know where it is now. We never had an opportunity before, when it was first, uh, leaked in the press there was a box, to go in. But we decided we have grounds now to go in and find out what it's all about."



HALDEMAN: The last public story was that she handed it over to Edward Bennett Williams.

DEAN: That's right.

PRESIDENT: Perhaps the Bureau ought to go ...

HALDEMAN: The Bureau ought to go into Edward Bennett Williams and start questioning him. (inaudible) keep him tied up for a couple of weeks.

PRESIDENT: Yeah, I hope they do. The Bureau better get over pretty quick and get that red box. We want it cleared up... (inaudible)

DEAN: That's exactly the way I, I gave it to Gray I, uh, uh...

PRESIDENT: We want it cleared up. We want to get to the bottom of it. If anybody is guilty over here we want to know.

HALDEMAN: (inaudible) probably be in the news! (Laughter)

DEAN: Another interesting thing that's developed is, regarding the litigation we've got is, uh, the Stans' libel action was assigned to Judge Richey.

PRESIDENT: Oh, Christ.

DEAN: Well now that's good and bad. Uh, Judge Richey is not known to be one of the intellects on the bench. That's conceded by many that he is uh, uh, (inaudible)

PRESIDENT: (inaudible)

DEAN: But he's been very candid in his dealing with people about the case. He's made several entrees, uh, off the bench, to, uh, one to Kleindienst,

two to, uh, his old friend Roemer McPhee, to keep Roemer abreast of what his thinking is. He told Roemer he thought that Maury ought to file a libel action.

PRESIDENT: Did he?

HALDEMAN: (Laughter)

PRESIDENT: Good.

DEAN: Uh.

HALDEMAN: Well, can he deal with (inaudible) concurrently with the other case?

DEAN: Yeah. The fact that the, the civil case came to a halt, that the depositions were halted and he...

HALDEMAN: opened his calendar for a few days.

DEAN: Well, it did that and more than that. He had been talking to Silbert and Silbert, the U.S. Attorney down there, and he said, the U.S. Attorney was saying, "We are going to have a hell of a time drawing these indictments up because of the fact the civil depositions keep coming out and the Grand Jury's got one eye on this civil case because they don't want to get themselves caught, uh, coming out with indictments and the civil case'll do something differently, so...

UNKNOWN: (inaudible)

HALDEMAN: MacGregor's call?

PRESIDENT: Yeah... Go ahead.

DEAN: So, based, based on that, uh, uh, when Silbert had told Richey this and had a casual encounter,

in fact, uh, it was just in the hall, so Richey, the next thing he does, he stops the civil case so Silbert can get the indictment down.

(Ring)

PRESIDENT: Good, . . . you can talk. . . put me on . . . Yeah

DEAN OR  
HALDEMAN: (inaudible)

PRESIDENT: Hello.

Well are you still alive?...Yeah, yeah.

I was just sitting here with John Dean and he tells me that, uh you, uh, you will probably be sued or some damn thing, I don't know.

DEAN AND  
HALDEMAN: (inaudible)

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Suit. Yeah.

That's right, that's right.

Yeah.

Good.

Sure.

Well, I'll tell you, uh, just don't let this keep you or your colleagues from concentrating on the big game. I mean this thing, this thing is just one of those side issues and a month later everybody looks back and wonders what the hell the shouting was about. Yeah...Yeah, O.K., John, well, have a, get a good night, get a good night's sleep. And don't bug anybody without asking me?



O.K.?

Yeah.

(Long Silence)

Thank you. (inaudible)

(Long Silence)

DEAN: Three months ago I would have had trouble predicting there (inaudible) be a day. I think I can say that 54 days from now that, uh, not a thing will come crashing down to our, our surprise.

PRESIDENT: Say what?

DEAN: Nothing is going to come crashing down to our surprise, either...

PRESIDENT: Well, the whole thing is a can of worms as you know a lot of this stuff went on. And, uh, and the people who worked (inaudible) are awfully embarrassed. And uh, the uh, but the, but the way you, you've handled it seems to me very skillful ... putting your fingers in the dike and the leaks that have sprung here and sprung there. (inaudible) have the people straighten the (inaudible)...

HALDEMAN: The Grand Jury is dismissed now?

DEAN: That is correct. They'll, they will have completed and they will let them go so there will be no continued investigation prompted by the Grand Jury's inquiry. The, uh, GAO report has referred over to Justice is on a shelf right now because they have hundreds of violations. They've got violations of McGovern's, they's got violations of Humphrey's, they've got Jackson violations, and

several hundred Congressional violations.

They don't want to start prosecuting one any more than they want the others. And that's, uh...

PRESIDENT: They definitely will not prosecute us unless they prosecute all the others.

DEAN: Right. That's right. Well, we are talking about technical violations referred over a long time.

HALDEMAN: Sure.

PRESIDENT: Sure, what about, uh, watching the McGovern contributors and all that sort of thing?

DEAN: We've got a, we've got a hawk's eye on that. Yeah. And, uh, uh he, he (inaudible).

PRESIDENT: He didn't?

DEAN: No.

PRESIDENT: Well, he had his 300 committees, have they all reported yet? Have they ... we reported ours?

HALDEMAN: Yes we...

DEAN: Well, we have a couple of delinquent state committees out, uh...

HALDEMAN: (inaudible)

PRESIDENT: (inaudible) in the paper that the committees all reported, the 300 or so committees. (inaudible)...

DEAN: No, they have not.

PRESIDENT: Can we say something about that, or...?

DEAN: Well, one thing he has never done, he has not disclosed the fact that he has got some 300 committees. There's been a Wall Street Journal piece that picked it up and carried it and, uh...

PRESIDENT: Can we say anything publicly about it?

DEAN: Perhaps write it as a tax sham that he set it up for. It is hard to comprehend why he set up 300 committees frankly. Uh, he doesn't need that many, he doesn't have that sort of large contributors, where they have to disburse small (inaudible)...

HALDEMAN: Unless someone's giving \$900,000.

DEAN: That's right.

PRESIDENT: Which could be very possible.

HALDEMAN: He may be getting \$900,000 from somebody...

PRESIDENT: Or two or three. He may have some big angels. I don't think he is getting a hell of a lot of small money. I don't think so. I don't believe this crap. I mean if he, have you had the Post Office checked yet?

HALDEMAN: That's -- John's going to do that. I don't know. (Silence)

PRESIDENT: That's a interesting thing to check.

HALDEMAN: Yeah.

PRESIDENT: .. You know how little (inaudible).

DEAN: Frankly, as I see it now, the only problems is that, uh, that we have are the human problems and I will keep a close eye on that.

PRESIDENT: Union?

DEAN: Human.

PRESIDENT: Oh.

UNKNOWN: (inaudible)

HALDEMAN: Human frailities.



UNKNOWN: (inaudible)

DEAN: People geting annoyed and some finger pointing and false accusations, and any internal dissension of that nature.

PRESIDENT: You mean on this case?

DEAN: On this case. Uh, there is some bitterness between the Finance Committee and the Political Committee. They feel that they're taking all the heat and, and, uh, all the people upstairs are bad people and they're not being recognized.

HALDEMAN: It is.

PRESIDENT: I mean they're all in it together.

DEAN: That's right.

PRESIDENT: Makes you just, uh, just behave and, and recognize this, this is again, it's war. You take a few shots and it will be over. We will give them a few shots and it will be over. Don't worry. I wouldn't want to be on the other side right now. Would you?

I wouldn't want to be in Edward Bennett Williams' position after this election.

DEAN: No. Not with...

PRESIDENT: Not with these bastards.

DEAN: He, uh, he's done some rather unethical things that have come to light already. Richey, again, Richey has brought to our attention.

PRESIDENT: Yeah?

DEAN: He went down...

HALDEMAN: Keep a log on all that...

DEAN: Oh, we are, indeed, we are.

HALDEMAN: Because afterwards that is a guy (inaudible) we've got to ruin him.

DEAN: He had an ex parte...

PRESIDENT: You want to remember too that he is an attorney for the Washington Post.

DEAN: I'm well aware (inaudible) of that.

PRESIDENT: We are going to fix that son-of-a-bitch, believe me. We are going to, we've got to because he is a bad man. He misbehaved very badly in the (inaudible) matter. Pretty bad conduct, there too, but go ahead.

DEAN: Well, uh, along that line, uh, one of the things I've tried to do, is just keep notes on a lot of people who are emerging as ...

PRESIDENT: That's right.

DEAN: as less than our friends.

PRESIDENT: Great!

DEAN: Because this will be over someday and they're ... We shouldn't forget the way some of them have treated us.

PRESIDENT: (inaudible) I want the most comprehensive notes on all those who tried to do us in. Because they didn't have to do it.

DEAN: That's right.

PRESIDENT: They didn't have to do it. I mean, if the thing of it was they had a very close election and they were playing the other side I would understand this thing. But now, they were doing this quite deliberately and they are asking for it and they are going to get it. And they, this, we, we have not used the power in these first four years as you know.

DEAN: That's right.

PRESIDENT: We have never used it. We haven't used the Bureau and we haven't used the Justice Department, but things are going to change now. And they're going to change. And they are going to get it right.

DEAN: (inaudible) an exciting prospect.

PRESIDENT: It's got to be done. It's the only thing to do.

HALDEMAN: We've got to.

PRESIDENT: Oh, well, we've been, we've been just goddamn fools for us to come into this election campaign and not do anything with regard to the Democratic Senators who are running, and so forth. These, they're, they're, they're crooks. They've been stealing. They've been taking contributions (inaudible) And who the hell (inaudible) That's ridiculous. Absolutely ridiculous. It's not going, going to be that way any more, and, uh.

HALDEMAN: It's really, quite ironic because of what we've gone to such extremes to do everything.



HALDEMAN: You and your damn regulations.

PRESIDENT: (inaudible)

HALDEMAN: Everybody worries about...

PRESIDENT: That's right.

HALDEMAN: not picking up a hotel bill or anything.

DEAN: Well, I think we can, we can be proud of the White House staff. It really has tried, has had no problems of that sort.

PRESIDENT: (inaudible)

DEAN: And I'm looking at this GAO audit that is going on right now. Uh, I think that they have got some suspicion, uh, in even a cursory investigation which is not going to discover anything, that they're going to find something here. I learned today, incidentally, that that, I haven't confirmed it, it came from the GO, GAO auditor, investigator who is down, here that he is down here at the Speaker of the House's request, which surprised me.

HALDEMAN: Well, god damn the Speaker of the House. Maybe we better put a little heat on him.

PRESIDENT: I think so too.

HALDEMAN: Because he's got a lot worse problems than he's going to find down here.

DEAN: That's right.

PRESIDENT: (inaudible) the police department note?

HALDEMAN: That's the kind of thing that, you know, you, what we really ought to do is call the Speaker and say, "I regret to see you ordering GAO down here because of what it is going to cause us to require to do to you."

PRESIDENT: Why don't you just let Harlow go see him and tell him that?

HALDEMAN: Because he wouldn't do it, 'cause he wouldn't do it.

PRESIDENT: Harlow wouldn't (inaudible)

HALDEMAN: Harlow wouldn't (inaudible) Mr. Speaker.

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

DEAN: I, I suppose the other area we are going to see some publicity on in the coming weeks because, uh, I think after the, now that the indictments are down, there, there's going to be a cresting on that, the whitewash charge of course.

HALDEMAN: Yeah.

DEAN: (inaudible) at all. The civil case is in abeyance. But Patman's hearings, uh, his banking and currency committee, we've got to whether we will be successful or not in turning that off I don't know. We've got a plan whereby Rothblatt and Bittman who are counsel for the five men who were, or actually a total of seven, that were indictment today are going to go up and visit every member and say "if you commence hearings you are going to jeopardize the civil rights of these individuals in the worst way and they will never get a fair trial," and like, and try to talk to members on, on that level. Uh,

PRESIDENT: Why not ask that they request to be heard by, by the committee and explain it publicly?

DEAN: I would think they've planned, what they're going to say is "If you do commence with these hearings we plan to publicly come up and say what you are doing to the rights of individuals." Something to that effect.

PRESIDENT: As a matter of fact they could even make a motion in court to get this thing dismissed.

DEAN: That's another thing we're doing, is to, is to get the prosecution to bring an injunctive action against the, the appearance, say. . .

HALDEMAN: Well, going the other way, the dismissal of the, of the, of the ... (inaudible)

PRESIDENT: How about trying to get the, the criminal cases, criminal charges dismissed on the grounds that there, well, you know...

HALDEMAN: The civil rights type stuff.

DEAN: Right, well we're working again, we've got somebody approaching the ACLU for these guys, have, have them go up and exert some pressure because we don't just want Stans up there in front of the cameras with Patman and Patman asking all these questions. It's just going to be the whole thing, the press going over and over and over again. Uh, one suggestion was that Connally is, is close to Patman and probably if anybody could talk turkey to Patman, uh, Connally might be able to. (inaudible) or not (inaudible) if he can. Uh, Gerry Ford is not really taking an active interest in this matter that, that is developing, so that Stans can go see Gerry

Ford and try to brief him and explain to him the problems we've got. And then the other thing we are going to do is we are looking at all the campaign reports of every member of that committee because we are convinced that none of them have probably totally complied with the law either. If they want to get into it, if they want to play rough, some day we better say, "Well, gentlemen, we think we (inaudible) call to your attention that you haven't complied with A,B,C, D,E, and F, and we are not going to hold that a secret if you start talking campaign violations here."

PRESIDENT: Uh, what about Ford? Do you think so? Do you think he has an in with Patman? Connally can't be sent up there.

HALDEMAN: (inaudible) Connally.

DEAN: If anybody can deal.

PRESIDENT: (inaudible)

DEAN: with Patman... but if, if Ford can get the minority members, uh, together on that one, it's going to be alot

PRESIDENT: They've got very weak man in Widnall, of course. Heckler is alright.

HALDEMAN: Heckler was great.

DEAN: She was great -- but, uh...



PRESIDENT: That's what I understand, but you see, Widnall, maybe somebody, Gerry could talk to him. Put it down, Gerry should talk to Widnall and, uh, just (inaudible) and tell him (inaudible) start behaving. (inaudible) not let him be the chairman of the committee. (inaudible) That's what you want?

DEAN: That would be very helpful, to get our minority side at least together on the thing.

PRESIDENT: (inaudible) got the lead on (inaudible) damn it.

HALDEMAN (inaudible) damn it. This is exactly the thing he was talking about, that the reason they are staying in is so that they can

PRESIDENT: That's right.

HALDEMAN: ... run investigations.

PRESIDENT: Well, the point is that they ought to raise hell about the, uh, uh, these hearings are jeopardizing the...I don't know that they're, that the, the, the counsel calls on the members of the committee will do much good. I was, it may be alright. I was thinking that they really have to blunderbuss in the public arena in order to be publicized.

HALDEMAN: Right.

DEAN: That's right.

PRESIDENT: That's what this is, public relations.

DEAN: That's, that's all it is, particularly if Patman pulls the strings off, uh... (silence)  
That is the last forum that, uh, it looks like it could be a problem where we have the least

control the way it stands right now. Kennedy has also suggested he may call hearings of the Administrative Practices Procedures sub-committee. Uh, as, as this case has been all along, you spin out oracles that, uh, we can (inaudible) up so we just don't do that, stopped doing that about, uh, two months ago.

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

DEAN: We're just taking one at a time and deal with it based on ...

PRESIDENT: And you really can't just sit and worry yourself ...

DEAN: No.

PRESIDENT: about it all the time. Things ... the worst may happen, but they may not. So you just try to button it up as well as you can and hope for the best. And remember. . .

DEAN: (inaudible)

PRESIDENT: And remember that basically the damn business is one of those..unfortunately, we're trying to cut our losses.

DEAN: Certainly that's right and certainly it's had no effect on you. That's the, the good thing.

HALDEMAN: (inaudible)

PRESIDENT: (inaudible)

HALDEMAN: No, it has been kept away from the White House almost completely and from the President totally. The only tie to the White House has been the

Colson effort they keep trying to haul in.

DEAN: And now, of course...

HALDEMAN: That's all (inaudible).

DEAN: (inaudible) the two former White House people of low level indicted, one consultant and one member of the Domestic Council staff. That's not very much of a tie.

HALDEMAN: No.

PRESIDENT: But their names have been already mentioned.

DEAN: Some of them (inaudible)

HALDEMAN: (inaudible)

PRESIDENT: (inaudible) already convicted in the press.

HALDEMAN: Yes.

PRESIDENT: God damn it, if they'd been communists you would have the Washington Post and the New York Times raising hell about their civil rights.

HALDEMAN: That's right.

PRESIDENT: Or Manson. Jesus Christ. If they'd been killers, wouldn't... Isn't that true?

HALDEMAN: It is absolutely true.

PRESIDENT: These poor bastards are (inaudible) they have got no way they can ever ... In fact, they ought to move the, move the, move the trial away from the ...

DEAN: There has been extensive clipping by the counsel in this case and I've gone through some of these clippings and it's just phenomenal the, uh, the amount of coverage that they've been getting.

They may never get a fair trial, may never get a fair... They may never get a jury that can, can convict them or pull it together. And the Post, as you know, has got a, a real large team and they've assigned it to nothing but this, this case. Couldn't believe they took Maury Stans' story about his libel suit, which was just plain (inaudible) coverage on the network last night, and in the evening news, they put it way back on about page 8 of the Post...

PRESIDENT: Sure.

DEAN: and didn't even cover it in total. (inaudible)

PRESIDENT: (inaudible)

HALDEMAN: The Post (inaudible)...

DEAN: (inaudible) Maury coming back 3 days in a row (inaudible)

PRESIDENT: (inaudible) The main thing is the Post is going go have damnable, damnable problems out of this one. They have a television station...

DEAN: That's right, they do.

PRESIDENT: and they are going to have to get it renewed.

HALDEMAN: They have a radio station, too.

PRESIDENT: Does that come up too? (inaudible) when does it come up?

DEAN: I don't know. But the practice of non-licensees filing on top of licensees has certainly gotten more

PRESIDENT: That's right.

DEAN: ...more active in this, this area.



PRESIDENT: That's right. It's going to be god damn active here.

DEAN: (Laughter) (Silence)

PRESIDENT: Well, the game has to be played awfully rough. I don't know, (inaudible) Who'll go over there?... who? Timmons or Ford or another number of Republicans...

HALDEMAN: I'll talk to Bill, I think, yeah.

DEAN: Dick Cook has been working

HALDEMAN OR  
PRESIDENT: (inaudible)

DEAN: ... on it.

HALDEMAN: Cook is the guy.

DEAN: Dick has been working on it, maybe Mitchell should...

HALDEMAN: Well, maybe Mitchell ought to, would ... Could Mitchell do it?

PRESIDENT: No.

DEAN: I don't really think that would be good, I hate to draw him in. Yeah. I think Maury can talk to Ford if that will do any good, but he won't understand the impact, of course. (inaudible) I think Maury ought to brief Ford at some point on, on exactly what his whole side of the story is.

HALDEMAN: I'll talk to Cook.

PRESIDENT: Oh, I think Ehrlichman should talk to him. Ehrlichman understands the law. Ehrlichman should say "Now goddamn it, get the hell over with it."

HALDEMAN: Is that a good idea? Maybe it is.

PRESIDENT: I think maybe that's the thing (inaudible).  
This is, this is big, big play. I'm getting  
into this (inaudible).

HALDEMAN: He has got to know that it comes from the top.

PRESIDENT: Yeah, absolutely got to know, that's because we're  
not going to, I can't talk to him myself, he's  
got to get at this and screw this thing up while  
he has a chance.

DEAN: Well, if we let that slide up there at the Patman  
committee it'd be just, you know, just a  
tragedy to let Patman have a field day up there.

PRESIDENT: What's the first move? When does he call his  
witnesses?

DEAN: Well, he has not even gotten the vote of his  
committee, he hasn't convened his committee on  
whether he can call hearings. That is why, come  
Monday morning, his attorney is going to arrive,  
uh, on the doorstep of the chairman and try to  
tell him what he's doing and he proceeds.. Uh,  
one of the members, Jerry Brown, uh, wrote  
Kleindienst a letter saying, "If the chairman  
holds committee hearings on this, isn't this going  
to jeopardize your criminal case?"

PRESIDENT: Now that's a smart fellow. He's from Michigan...

DEAN: That's right.

PRESIDENT: and some tie into Ford. He's a very, very smart  
fellow.

DEAN: Good, good lawyer and he's being helpful. He is  
anxious to help.

PRESIDENT: Right, just tell him that, tell, tell, tell Ehrlichman to get Brown in and Ford in and then they can get to work on something. They ought to get off their asses and push it. No use to let Patman have a free ride here.

DEAN: Well, we can, we can keep them well briefed on moves if they'll, if they'll move when we provide them with the, the strategy. (Silence) And we will have a raft of depositions going the other way soon. We will be hauling the O'Briens in and the like, and, uh, on our abuse of process suit.

PRESIDENT: (inaudible) questions?

DEAN: No. I saw, saw Rothblatt at the start of the symposium. Uh, he's quite a character. He's been getting into the sex life of some of the members of the DNC and...

PRESIDENT: Why? How can (inaudible) justification?

DEAN: Well, he's working on the entrapment theory that, uh, that they were hiding something and they had secret information of theirs to hide and if they could, they could some way conspire to bring this thing about themselves, uh, it's a way-out theory that no one had caught at all.

HALDEMAN: (Laughter)

DEAN: He, he had scheduled Patricia Harris and she didn't show up. She went to the beauty parlor instead so he went down to the Court House and she had, she had been directed to show up and then the

next day the Judge cut all the depositions off. But he had a host of wild questions including, you know, where O'Brien got his compensation when he was chairman. Not that he knows anything about that, but, uh, it was just an interesting question he thought he might want to ask the chairman under oath.

HALDEMAN: That's what Gibbons said, the same hunting license that he gave them.

DEAN: That's right.

HALDEMAN: So we can play the same game they are playing. So we ought to be able to do better at it.

PRESIDENT: Well.

HALDEMAN: Are those depositions sealed?

DEAN: That's right.

HALDEMAN: They are?

DEAN: But that argues that, uh, they will want them unsealed (inaudible) less than we will, and we may be arguing at some point to get them unsealed.

PRESIDENT: Yeah.

DEAN: I think what's going to happen in the civil case is that the Judge is going to dismiss the (inaudible) complaint down there right now. They will then turn around and file a new complaint which will be (inaudible) come back to Richey again. That, uh, that'll probably happen the 20th, 21st, 22nd. Then 20 days will run until any answers will have to be filed and these depositions will be diminished so we're what, we're eating up an awful lot of time.



HALDEMAN: (inaudible)

PRESIDENT: Why will the judge dismiss the complaint?

DEAN: Uh, probably on, uh, on a dual ground, uh, both on the substantive ground that they haven't stated a good cause of action, that there is a improper class action filed and that O'Brien indeed doesn't represent any class. Uh, and he will just dismiss it on the merits. It's not a good complaint. He has already shaved it down to almost nothing on his original order. They will then have to re-design it in a much narrower action but the judge himself can't suggest something to counsel. That, you've got a good res judicata argument here. If he dismisses on the merits, uh, they can't file another suit. They're out of the court totally.

HALDEMAN: But our suits do still hang?

DEAN: Ours stick still. We have two suits, and we have the abuse of process and, uh, the libel suit.

HALDEMAN. We can take depositions on both of those?

DEAN: Absolutely.

PRESIDENT: Hell yes.

(inaudible), depositions

HALDEMAN: (Laughter)

DEAN: I think we can blunder down the road anyway, so...