

Conversation No. 581-4
Date: September 30, 1971
Time: 10:07 am - 11:03 am
Location: Oval Office

The President met with John N. Mitchell.

Greetings

Report

- George Meany
 - Civil rights advocates
 - Motivation for Meany's comments
 - Discrimination in unions

Supreme Court appointees

- Richard H. Poff
 - Civil rights issues
 - Possible problems
 - American Bar Association [ABA] members
 - Letter of support from House of Representatives members
 - Liberals and conservatives
 - Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.
 - Image
 - Civil rights manifesto
 - States' rights
 - Civil rights legislation
 - Racism
 - Southern background
 - Poff's bill on Supreme Court appointment qualifications
 - Use of name in a law firm
 - Actual practice
 - ABA ruling
 - Poff's action
 - Virginia
- Poff's qualifications

BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1

[Privacy]

[Duration: 16s]

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 1

Supreme Court appointment

- Poff
 - Poff's practice of law
 - Brief filed with ABA Committee
 - Felix Frankfurter

- Requirements for Supreme Court appointment
- Participation on Judiciary Committee
- Practice of law
 - Time length
 - Congress
- Submission of Poff's name
 - Possible results
- G. Harrold Carswell, Clement F. Haynsworth, Jr.
- Civil rights issue on Capitol Hill
 - Hypocrisy
 - Meany
- Congress's reactions to Poff
 - ABA approval
 - Reaction in the Senate
- Southern background
- John L. McClellan's conversation with the President
- Mitchell's possible conversation with McClellan
 - Poff as candidate
- Areas of support
- Number of votes
 - The President's conversation with Hugh Scott
 - Robert P. Griffin
- ABA
- Submission of Poff's name
 - Effect on other announcement
 - Date
 - Possible non-approval by the ABA
 - Effect on submission of Poff's name
- Lawrence Walsh
 - Efforts
 - Mitchell's stipulation
 - ABA
- ABA endorsement issue
 - Public statement on qualifications
 - Judiciary Committee qualifications
 - Time factors
- ABA
 - Qualifications for appointee to Supreme Court
 - Felix Frankfurter's qualification
 - Hugo L. Black's qualification
- Submission of Poff's name
 - Date
- Commitment of votes for Poff
 - Hugh Scott
 - Griffin
 - Roman L. Hruska
 - Other Congressional leaders
 - Telephone calls to Congressmen
- White House staff's concerns
 - Clark MacGregor
 - John D. Ehrlichman

- MacGregor
- Ehrlichman
 - Focus on other issues
 - Tax bill
 - Conservative compared to liberal candidates
- Women appointees
 - Judge Mildred L. Lillie
 - California
 - Experience
 - Age
 - Support
 - Ronald W. Reagan, prosecutors, Samuel W. Yorty
 - Political party
 - Qualifications
 - Sylvia Bacon
 - Law school
 - Lillie
 - Law school record
 - Bacon
 - Vassar College
 - London School of Economics
 - Harvard University
 - Master of Law degree at Georgetown University
 - Stance
 - Criminal field
 - Family background
 - Political party
 - Age
 - Colleagues
 - Mitchell's contact with Bacon
 - Qualifications
 - Lillie
 - Comparison to Bacon
 - Age
 - Supreme Court term
 - Precedent for women
 - Bacon
 - Age
- Supreme Court term
 - Age
 - Representation of youth
 - Potter Stewart
 - Age
 - William O. Douglas
 - Age
 - Black's funeral
 - Health
 - Bacon
 - Lillie
 - Circuit Court
 - Southern United States

- Need for appointee
- William French Smith
 - California
 - Qualifications
 - ABA
 - University of California
 - Harvard
- William H. Mulligan
- Smith
 - California
 - Credentials for the state of California
 - Earl Warren
- Women appointees
 - Government employment
 - Emotions
 - Comparison to astronauts
 - Burger's reaction
 - Behavior
 - Politics
 - US poll results
 - Election of a President
 - Effect of female appointee on election
- Women's liberation
- Need for women's viewpoint on Supreme Court
- Women appointees
 - Warren Burger
 - Oveta Culp Hobby
 - Politics
 - Percentage points of election support
 - Liberals
 - Lillie
 - Bacon
 - Comparison to Lillie
 - Age
 - Civil rights
 - Lillie
 - Political position
 - Political party
 - Effect on politics and the Supreme Court
 - Political pressures to vote for a woman
 - Birch Bayh
 - Edward M. Kennedy
- California judges
 - Number
- Possible candidates
 - Minnesota
 - Harlan's background
 - Black
 - Seat vacancy
 - Smith
 - Comparison to Burger

- Lillie
 - Reagan's analysis, Evelle Younger
 - Stance on criminal law
 - Age
 - Criminal law
 - Younger's analysis
 - Call to Mitchell
- Shirley Hufstadler
 - Reaction
- Lillie
 - Qualifications
 - Reactions
 - Criminal law
 - William Rehnquist's analysis
 - Political position
 - Reagan
 - Submission of name
 - Time
 - Comparison of Lillie, Bacon
 - National political experience
 - Washington, legislation
 - Previous court experience
 - Submission of Lillie's name
 - Effect on Poff's appointment
 - Question of timing
 - Possible problems
 - Submission of Poff's name
 - Date
 - Senate confirmation
- Smith
 - Age qualifications
 - Term on Supreme Court
 - Experience
 - Personality of individual
 - Lillie's age
 - Old age
 - John McClellan
 - Age
 - Support of the President

Cable television legislation

- McClellan
- Administration position

Supreme Court

- Women appointees
 - Timing in society
 - California appointee
 - Impact
 - Potential problems during election period
 - Precedent

- Women's liberation
 - Ronald L. Ziegler
 - Politics
 - Women's groups
 - Replacement by general integration
 - Education
 - Political standing
 - Julie Nixon Eisenhower, Tricia Nixon Cox
 - Younger generation
 - Appeal of women's liberation
 - Thelma C. ("Pat") Nixon
 - Martha (Beall) Mitchell
- Conversation between Mitchell and Burger
 - Burger's feelings about women appointees
 - Lillie
 - Burger
 - Conversation between Mitchell and Burger about appointment
- Douglas's comment
 - Number of women
- Bacon and Lillie
 - Presentation before ABA
- Lillie
 - Qualifications
 - Conservatism
 - Potential problems
 - Robert H. Finch, Sam Yorty
 - Race issues
 - Court experience
 - Number of years
 - Impact in terms of experience
 - Sarah T. Hughes
- State of California
 - Representation on Court
- Lillie
 - Letter to Mitchell from Tom Redden
 - Recommendation
- Women appointees
 - Time in society
 - Politics
 - Hassles a woman will encounter as first woman on Supreme Court bench
 - Virginia H. Knauer
- Poff
 - ABA
 - Possible reactions and results to appointment
 - Administration's possible actions
- Hershel Friday
- Lewis F. Powell, Jr.
 - Age
 - Confirmation of appointment
 - ABA reaction
- Hershel Friday

- Date
- Poff

Stephen B. Bull entered at an unknown time after 10:07 am.

- President's schedule
- Finch

Bull left at an unknown time before 10:50 am.

- Supreme Court confirmations
 - Opening scenario
 - Battle
 - Congress
- Southern judges

- Finch
 - Forthcoming meeting with the President
 - Trip to Latin America
 - Possible topics to cover in the meeting
 - Mitchell's trip to California
 - Finch's attendance

BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 2

[Personal Returnable]

[Duration: 49s]

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 2

- Meeting with Reagan
 - Ambassadorship

- California
 - Lillie nomination
 - Reagan
 - Alan Cranston, John V. Tunney
 - Recommendations

Finch entered at 10:50 am.

The President left at 10:50 am.

Greetings

- Finch's schedule
 - Mitchell's trip

- Mitchell's schedule
 - Problem

- Supreme Court appointee
- Verification panel
- Strategic Arms Limitation Talks [SALT]
 - Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions [MBFR]

- Unknown person [Monagan?]
- University position
 - Unknown person's resignation from seat

California

- Supreme Court appointments
- California
 - William French Smith
 - Relationship with Finch
 - Resume

The President entered at an unknown time after 10:50 am.

Greetings

BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 3
 [Personal Returnable]
 [Duration: 3m 7s]

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 3

- Appointment of woman
- Mexican
 - Philip V. Sanchez
 - Cuban
 - Puerto Ricans

BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 5
 [Personal Returnable]
 [Duration: 10s]

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO.5

- Proposal of Latin American trip for Finch
- The President's conversation with William P. Rogers
 - The President's status
 - Nelson A. Rockefeller's mission
 - Trip for Finch
 - Rogers's opinion
 - Time length
 - The President's 1958 trip

- Organization of Finch's trip
 - Similarities
- Itinerary
 - Brazil
 - Argentina
 - Chile
 - Recommendation by Rogers
 - Henry A. Kissinger
- Preparation of trip
 - Meeting between the President, Rogers and Finch
 - Photos
 - Meeting with Ambassadors
 - Briefings
- Mexico
- Venezuela
- Colombia
- Peru
 - Juan Velasco Alvarado
- Brazil
- Argentina
- Dictators
- Finch's schedule
 - South America
 - Caribbean
 - Barbados
 - Major areas of South America
 - Brazil, Bolivia
- Press coverage
- Language
 - State Department official with knowledge of Spanish
 - Rockefeller trip comparison
- Size of staff
- Trip
 - President's counsellor
 - US position
 - Economics
 - Surcharge
 - US actions
 - Agnew's trip to Greece

BEGIN WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 6

[Personal Returnable]

[Duration: 25s]

END WITHDRAWN ITEM NO. 6

- Trip
 - Africa

- Liberia
- Airplane for trip
 - James D. (“Don”) Hughes
- Possible conversation between Finch and Rogers
 - Recommendation for Finch from Rogers
- Charles Myers
 - Relationship with Finch
 - Aid for trip
- Rogers
 - Preparation

Finch and Mitchell left at 11:03 am.