

DRAFT

Conversation No. 33-48

Date: November 7, 1972

Time: 8:21 pm - 8:24 pm

Location: White House Telephone

Participants: Richard M. Nixon; H.R. Haldeman

In an election night telephone conversation between President Nixon and Chief of Staff Bob Haldeman, Haldeman calls to call to update the president on the early projections, noting that all three television networks—ABC, NBC, and CBS—are “running the ‘total landslide’ type thing.”

Despite the assessment by the networks—on only two percent of nationwide ballots cast as of 8:00 pm—Nixon does not seem overly confident of victory. Haldeman notes that in states such as Illinois, “the polls haven’t even closed.” Nixon responds, “Illinois projections at this stage are much too early...we’ll see what happens.”

Nixon: Hello?

Operator: Mr. Haldeman, sir.

Nixon: Yeah.

Haldeman: Hi.

Nixon: Well, I, uh, tried to get you, and then I, uh, got Colson and he gave me the sort of, run down.

Haldeman: [unclear] Chuck, they, they uh, I’m sure—

Nixon: Nothing particularly new.

Haldeman: —he got everything up to date. They, they’re, obviously, you know, running the “total landslide” type thing. CBS is projecting on the basis of two percent returns at 67-32, which is—

Nixon: [laughs]

Haldeman: —most ridiculous.

Nixon: Yeah.

Haldeman: But, uh, Louie Nunn’s lost, I guess.

Nixon: Well, I wouldn’t be sure of that until—

Haldeman: That’s what they’re projecting.

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Nixon: Because—

Haldeman: And they're also projecting that Fletch Thompson lost.

Nixon: Oh, Thompson I know is gone, yeah. But Nunn, you never know about Kentucky, they're late returns out there.

Haldeman: That's right.

Nixon: You might have a call down to him, see if he thinks he's lost.

Haldeman: All right.

Nixon: And, uh, we sure did everything we could. Thank God we went in there though.

Haldeman: Yeah, right.

Nixon: We'll—I mean we can't get really blamed for losing one—

Haldeman: Nope.

Nixon: —like that. Scott, though, has a chance, they say.

Haldeman: Yeah, which is surprising.

Nixon: Yeah.

Haldeman: But, uh—

Nixon: But everything is holding up and apparently Ohio is holding up, Illinois is holding up.

Haldeman: Well, they've given you Illinois, all the networks.

Nixon: *[laughs]* On the basis of just the votes they have now?

Haldeman: Yeah, they've all—They've all run the Illinois projection, and ABC gives it at 55 percent.

Nixon: 55?

Haldeman: Yeah, but that—

Nixon: But I think it's higher than that Bob.

Haldeman: Sure, that's a projection at 7:50. The polls haven't even closed.

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Nixon: I understood one projection was, uh, I saw one here at 60, for Illinois.

Haldeman: Yeah, but that's not that's not their close out projection. That was the current run. But, uh—

Nixon: Well—

Haldeman: Yeah, that seems right. CBS closed out at 62, on Illinois.

Nixon: What does that mean, “closed out”? That's what they have—

Haldeman: That's what they're running as their projected vote. In other words, they, they run this stuff through their computer, and on the basis of what they've got in—

Nixon: 62?

Haldeman: —they come out at 62.

Nixon: And ABC at 55?

Haldeman: Yeah.

Nixon: Well, that's too far apart.

Haldeman: Well, the problem is, they're projecting too early.

Nixon: Right.

Haldeman: They're into this, it really it is shameful operation.

Nixon: Each trying to beat the other?

Haldeman: That's right, and on a very invalid basis.

Nixon: But Ohio they've projected at what, 57 now?

Haldeman: Uh—

Nixon: At least what I heard, or hear.

Haldeman: 58 on NBC, and 60 on CBS.

Nixon: Well that's good. Um-hmm.

Haldeman: And, uh, Jesus, Tennessee, they're projecting 66, 68, and 71 on CBS.

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Nixon: Yeah.

Haldeman: CBS is running higher on their projections—

Nixon: Um-hmm.

Haldeman: —than the others. They're going for the big win route. They're giving Arch Moore a victory.

Nixon: Good. Well, we get a little credit for that.

Haldeman: Yup.

Nixon: And somebody said they're giving Ogilvie, too?

Haldeman: Well, the, they, one of them was talking about it, but another one's got him behind. They've got Walker at 66.

Nixon: Well, but—

Haldeman: So, uh—

Nixon: That's Chicago, for Christ's sakes, I'm sure—

Haldeman: Yeah, well that's—They're, they're in an area—

Nixon: Yeah.

Haldeman: —where they can't maybe tell at this point.

Nixon: Illinois projections at this stage are much too early, much too early. Ok! Well, we'll see what happens.

Haldeman: Running pretty good so far.

Nixon: Fine, good.

Haldeman: We'll keep the running tally on it.

Nixon: Fine, bye.

Haldeman: Ok.