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Conversation No. 33-73

Date: November 8, 1972

Time: 3:08 pm - 3:11 pm

Location: White House Telephone

Participants: Richard M. Nixon; Edward R.G. Heath

In a telephone conversation between President Nixon and British Prime Minister Edward Heath, Heath congratulates the president a “tremendous triumph” and a “great personal achievement.”

Nixon wishes Heath success on his program of wage and price controls, and informs him that “the Vietnam thing is going well” and that “there’ll be something said within about a week. But it’s coming along very well.”

Nixon: Hello?

Operator: Mr. President, Prime Minister Heath?

Nixon: Yes.

Operator: Here you are.

Nixon: Hello?

Heath: Mr. President?

Nixon: Hello? Mr. Prime Minister? Nice to hear from you.

Heath: Congratulations.

Nixon: Thank you very much. I, uh—

Heath: Tremendous triumph.

Nixon: It’s, uh, it’s, as you know, under our system, if I were in Britain, I’d be out of office, because we didn’t get the House and Senate, but we didn’t expect to, but, uh, we, we have a very solid majority now and I think we can do some things more effectively than we have previously.

Heath: Well I think it’s a great personal achievement.

Nixon: Let me say, too, that I, I’ve noted with interest your moving on the, uh, wage and price control front, and I just wish you the very best on it. It’s a, it’s a tough—

Heath: It’s been a battle.

Nixon: It’s a batt[le]. How’s does it, how’s it being accepted so far?

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Heath: [unclear] are being rather silly, but, uh, otherwise there's, uh, 70 percent of the country behind it tonight.

Nixon: 70?

Heath: We had a poll, yes.

Nixon: That's great, great, great. Well that's what we found here. We found, as a matter of fact, that the unions, uh, opposed it, but when the, uh, but when the polls came in, I mean the Gallup and the rest, they ran 65 to 70 percent, and then they have to take it.

Heath: Yes.

Nixon: That's all there is to it. Well, I, I certainly, uh, wish you well on it. I, uh, I'm going to have to take some time now to get things, uh, in order here in the new, uh, administration, and, uh, then I hope that one time we can get together and have a talk.

Heath: Well I look forward to talking to you again.

Nixon: And, uh, we'll, we'll be, be in contact and I, uh, I do very much appreciate your call.

Heath: I'm sorry I wasn't here when you rang back, but I was with the Queen.

Nixon: Yes, I, well, I'll tell you, that's about the best excuse I can find for anybody. *[laughs]*

Heath: She was most impressed by the victory and sends her warm regards.

Nixon: And I was, I was also, the other day, I was thinking in personal terms when I was campaigning out across Utah or someplace, and I was amazed to read that she'd been married 25 years. I just can't, it's hard how the time passes.

Heath: It is extraordinary.

Nixon: Right, it certainly is.

Heath: Indeed.

Nixon: It certainly is. Well, it's good to talk to you, and, uh, we'll look forward to seeing you before too long.

Heath: Thank you very much indeed, and congratulations.

Nixon: Oh, oh, one last thing: in privacy, the uh, the uh, the Vietnam thing is going well. I'll just say no more. But we'll keep, uh, [British Ambassador to Washington, Lord] Cromer, of course, informed, as things develop. I'm sending Haig to Saigon today.

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Heath: Oh, are you?

Nixon: Yes. Uh, for one end, and the other end, there'll be something said within about a week. But it's coming along very well.

Heath: [Unclear] Best of luck.

Nixon: Thank you. Thank you.

Heath: Thanks so much, Mr. President.

Nixon: Bye.