

Text of Nixon-Mitchell Talk

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 19—Following is the transcript of a meeting President Nixon held April 21, 1971, with John N. Mitchell, then the Attorney General. The transcript was prepared by the impeachment inquiry staff for the House Judiciary Committee.

MITCHELL: I would like to get some time to talk to you, Mr. President, about this antitrust business, because this is political dynamite.

PRESIDENT: McLaren? Uh—

M.: I'm talking about the whole picture of, this I.T.T., uh, what can develop out of this, Senate investigation and so forth, if you don't need it. You don't need it for these bastards up there to burden us with it. I don't know who's been giving you the information, but it's a bad political mistake. I'm not talking about the merits of it.

P.: John, the problem we've got is this, that we've got a, uh, that, uh—I don't give a damn about the merits either, uh, but we have a situation where, uh, and uh, Connally has spoken to me about it—but, uh, where the business community, for, for—believes that we're a hell of a lot rougher on them in the antitrust than our predecessors were.

M.: All right. Now, let me—P.: And they don't think you are, they think McLaren is,

M.: Well, there, there are reasons for it. P.: because he leads you to believe this.

M.: And it wasn't McLaren, you know, that started all this. It was your Council of Economic Advisors and Arthur Burns, and it was done in order to help cool this economy and the stock market and I could go on to a lot of other things. And, uh, the things that they're accusing McLaren of are just, uh, uh, made out of whole cloth. It's just not true. There are antitrust cases here, but what I want to talk about is the political aspects of it. And if, uh, if this thing should be turned off, it, I mean the general concept of it, you've got a review going now—inter-governmental—well, it's time to do it. But you just can't stop this thing up at the Supreme Court, because you will have Griswold quit, you will have a Senate investigation—Hart will just love this—and we don't need it. There are other ways of working this out.

P.: Okay. You—M.: But I'm—I want to ta—, I want to—

P.: Well, go ahead, you could—Yeah, I understand that. If that's the problem politically, go ahead. The only thing that I want to say

M.: [Unintelligible] P.: is that I do feel that we, that we've got to sit down and, and, so that—it seems to me that you've got to get Connally, uh—Stans, Stans also wrote, M.: Yeah, I know. I know. P.: he wrote this damn long memorandum to me. M.: I know.

P.: Well, if you'll just sit down and convince them, I don't want to hear anything more about it. M.: All right. P.: That's all.

handle it. But if you could—Would you do this, M.: Yeah.

P.: without my being present? Get Connally M.: Yes. P.: and Stans M.: Those P.: [Unintelligible] are the two where we'll—P.: and tell 'em [unintelligible] another one, now McCracken's been, uh, [unintelligible] raised it, saying that he's catching hell on it.

M.: McCracken, for Christ's sakes, he was the one that basically started this.

P.: Uh, he says, it makes it [unintelligible] the business community feels you ought to go to New York and resolve the antitrust.

M.: Yeah. Now, well, what we ought to do is change the policy and P.: Yeah.

M.: not—and we can get rid of this I.T.T. thing, I think.

P.: I don't care about the I.T.T. M.: All right.

P.: I don't even know what it is.

M.: Now the other thing I would like—John Ehrlichman called today, and said that they put out his network suit. And I don't—

7-20-74
NYT