

**Conversation No. 24-116**

**Date: May 15, 1972**

**Time: 8:15 pm - 8:18 pm**

**Location: White House Telephone**

W. Mark Felt talked with the President.

[*See also Conversation No. 339-5A*]

**Operator:** Mr. President?

**Nixon:** Yeah?

**Operator:** Mr. Felt on the line.

**Nixon:** Yeah.

**Operator:** [*to Felt*] The President's on the line, sir.

**Nixon:** Hello?

**Felt:** Hello.

**Nixon:** Yeah. What is the latest?

**Felt:** Well, we we're getting to shape up a little bit.

**Nixon:** Yeah.

**Felt:** This man, [*Arthur H.*] Bremer, the assailant, is in good physical shape.

**Nixon:** Yes?

**Felt:** He's got some cuts and bruises, and—

**Nixon:** Good! I hope they worked him over a little more than that.

**Felt:** [*laughs*] Ha. I think they did pretty well.

**Nixon:** Good.

**Felt:** Anyway, the psychiatrist has examined him.

**Nixon:** Yeah?

**Felt:** The psychiatrist is a little concerned. He said, "This man is disturbed."

**Nixon:** Yes?

**Felt:** He said that, “He should be constantly watched, to prevent him from doing any harm to himself.”

**Nixon:** Yes?

**Felt:** Since I last talked to you—or Mr. [*Charles W.*] Colson<sup>1</sup>—

**Nixon:** Yeah, yeah, yeah?

**Felt:** —the Secret Service has gone into his apartment out in Milwaukee...

**Nixon:** Yeah?

**Felt:** ...and they found a bunch of rambling papers, and rambling writings.

**Nixon:** Right.

**Felt:** One of them was entitled, “How to Become Notable.”

**Nixon:** Yeah?

**Felt:** Another one was entitled, “What To Do While Confined For a Long Period”—

**Nixon:** Good God.

**Felt:** This, this is a pretty clear picture to me that we’ve got a mental problem here with this guy—

**Nixon:** Right. Right.

**Felt:** We—

**Nixon:** What about the others that were with him? Are they involved, too?

**Felt:** No, they’re just teenage kids that ran—that were there and ran when they saw what happened.

**Nixon:** Right.

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<sup>1</sup> Felt talked to Colson, who was in the Oval Office relaying information to President Nixon, at an unknown time between 7:42 pm and 7:57 pm on 15 May 1972. See conversation number 24-109.

**Felt:** And they've been released.

**Nixon:** They didn't have guns?

**Felt:** No, no.

**Nixon:** Well, then the hell with them. Forget it.

**Felt:** Ok, very good

**Nixon:** Don't you agree?

**Felt:** Oh, yes. Yeah—

**Nixon:** With this fellow—

**Felt:** We—

**Nixon:** —the main thing is to be sure we don't go through the thing we went through [*with*] the Kennedy assassination, where we didn't really follow up adequately. You know?

**Felt:** Right.

**Nixon:** You've got to remember that if we don't follow it adequately with this fellow, they're gonna think, "Well, my God, if a Kennedy is shot everybody goes to, you know, check everything, but with Wallace we sort of cover it up." Do you understand?

**Felt:** Yeah. I sure do. I sure will take care of that. Now, we've got a little more identification. This fellow [*Bremer*] was arrested in Milwaukee...

**Nixon:** Yeah?

**Felt:** ...last November, and at that time the charge was carrying a concealed weapon.

**Nixon:** Oh. Yeah?

**Felt:** So, he was fine \$35, and that's about the size of it—

**Nixon:** Isn't that too bad?

**Felt:** Well, it's—

**Nixon:** Good God! I mean isn't that awful that they didn't do more?

**Felt:** Yeah. It sure is.

**Nixon:** Well, the main thing is: You keep right on it. And remember, the FBI is in charge now, and they're responsible, and I don't want any slip-ups. Ok?

**Felt:** There's no question about it. I personally talked to the FAC in charge over there who got the lead, and he understands. He understands that you're the one who's calling the shots here.

**Nixon:** Right.

**Felt:** It'll be done right.

**Nixon:** Right. Fine. We appreciate your help. Thank you.

**Felt:** Yes, Mr. President. Bye.