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[The President and H.R. Haldeman talk]

Nixon: [. . .] But after you've dealt in two summit meetings – one in Peking and the other in Moscow – with major subjects, it is really terribly difficult to deal with even a country as important as Mexico. And frankly, for that matter, you could say the same for the British, the French, the Italians and the Germans. You know what I mean? There are certain countries that matter in the world and certain countries that don't matter in the world at the present time. And when you spend the whole damn day talking about salinity and—

Haldeman: In the Colorado River?

Nixon: Yeah. And of course the problems with the newly developing countries and the rest of the countries. . . [tapers off, inaudible].

Haldeman: The amazing thing to me is that Henry can come off of that peak and move in and sit down and just grind away with the Mexican foreign minister on salinity. And, you know, go over the details on it.

Nixon: But it has to be done. But you know you stop to think that Eisenhower and Kennedy and Johnson – I mean they had the state dinners and the state visits and so forth and so on, but they would never see them [?]. And they were...And of course, in Eisenhower's period there was the Churchillian period and there was the [MacMillan? inaudible] period, when you had still the problems with building NATO up and so forth and so on. But during the Kennedy and Johnson periods there really weren't many of these people in countries that were *worth* that much talking to. You understand?

Haldeman: Sure. In terms of stature.

Nixon: You just can't imagine how damned unproductive the conversation [was]. And this is a smart fellow, this Mexican President – he's bright, energetic, and an awfully good friend of ours. Wants to see us reelected, he says, and so forth. He'll tell his friends that.

Haldeman: Yeah he's gonna run around campaigning for you for the rest of the week, for next week.

Nixon: Yeah he's smart – I don't *how* he's gonna say I understand their problems. . . [inaudible].

[Conversation about Leon Sullivan, a Black nationalist]

Nixon: You know, you should have heard this Mexican President. He sure took on Angela Davis.

Haldeman: Oh really?

Nixon: Yeah, it's a funny thing – the impression is that the Mexicans are liberal as hell, but they're anti-communist. And he says that he learned that some of them were going to picket him in San Antonio, he'd learned earlier – because political prisoners, they've had [inaudible] probably hundreds – they had to keep, keep up the pressure [inaudible] groups for Angela Davis – Chicanos and that sort . . . [several pauses and skips in tape, poor quality, static].

[Conversation continues with discussion of recent clash between Chicano groups and police in Chicago.]