

**Date:** 1971-07-01

**Time:** 13:08-14:05

**Participants:** Richard M. Nixon

**Location:** Oval Office

**Tape:** 534-012

SCROLLER TITLE: "Horrible Things"

SCENE SETTER: Attorney General John N. Mitchell had balked when President Nixon revealed that he wanted to leak grand jury information about his perceived enemies. In this conversation with Chief of Staff H. R. "Bob" Haldeman, Nixon expressed the hope that Deputy Attorney General Richard G. "Dick" Kleindienst would be more pliable about doing "horrible things."

**President Nixon:** When [John N.] Mitchell leaves as Attorney General, we're going to be better off, in my view. I think that—I think that—I think that while he is less [*unclear*], one thing about [Richard G. "Dick"] Kleindienst, he has got more of an instinct for the jugular and is less influenced by, you know, the press and the responsibility, and all this. Now, John is just too damn good a lawyer, you know. He's a good, strong lawyer. It just repels him to do these horrible things. But they got to be done. We got to fight this thing. Huh?

*End of excerpt.*

CITATION: "Richard M. Nixon and H. R. 'Bob' Haldeman on 1 July 1971," Conversation 534-012, Draft Transcript, Presidential Recordings Program, Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia.