

**DRAFT**

**Conversation No. 33-60**

**Date: November 8, 1972**

**Time: Unknown between 1:16 am - 1:28 am**

**Location: White House Telephone**

**Participants: Richard M. Nixon, Henry A. Kissinger**

*In a telephone conversation between President Nixon and National Security Advisor Henry A. Kissinger, Kissinger calls to congratulate the president on what appears to be a landslide reelection, following his opponent's concession speech. Nixon notes winning "every state except Massachusetts and maybe Minnesota, although I think we'll get that too."*

*Nixon also mentions his disdain for Democratic presidential candidate and South Dakota Senator George McGovern, noting that, "you know this, this fella' to the last was a prick." Nixon takes pride in noting that the GOP campaign "came up to bat against their candidate and beat the hell out of him." Kissinger says that the reelection was a "tremendous personal triumph" for the president.*

[*"Uhs" removed to improve readability*]

Nixon: Hello?

Operator: Mr. President?

Nixon: Yeah.

Operator: Dr. Kissinger; and also from Senator Humphrey [*but*] he is speaking and it'll be a few moments before we can get him.

Nixon: Yeah.

Operator: I have Dr. Kissinger.

Nixon: Hello?

Operator: Dr. Kissinger, go ahead please.

Nixon: Hello?

Kissinger: Mr. President?

Nixon: Well, Henry, how are you?

Kissinger: I just wanted to extend my, really, warmest congratulations—

Nixon: Well—

**DRAFT**

Kissinger: This is great.

Nixon: We all knew it was going to happen, and uh—

Kissinger: Well—

Nixon: We, uh—But we got our, we got our 60 percent!

Kissinger: Well, we didn't, one couldn't really be sure until one had seen it.

Nixon: And every state except Massachusetts and maybe Minnesota, although I think we'll get that too.

Kissinger: It's an extraordinary tribute.

Nixon: You know this, this fella' [*Democratic presidential candidate Senator George McGovern*] to the last was a prick, did you—

Kissinger: Oh yes—

Nixon: —see his concession statement?

Kissinger: Oh! He started out—

Nixon: He was very gracious at the beginning—

Kissinger: —and then he went right back to saying that, uh—

Nixon: Yeah. And [*speechwriter*] Ray Price just sent me in a wire saying that "I look forward to working with you and your supporters for peace in the years ahead." And I just said, "hell, no, I'm not going to send him that sort of a wire."

Kissinger: Absolutely.

Nixon: Don't you agree?

Kissinger: Absolutely.

Nixon: I mean, I, uh, just arguing with [*Chief of Staff*] Bob [*Haldeman*] here about it, but I said, "Ray just doesn't have the right sense of this sort of thing."

Kissinger: No, [*McGovern*] was ungenerous—

Nixon: Yeah.

**DRAFT**

Kissinger: —he was petulant—

Nixon: Yeah.

Kissinger: —he was unworthy—

Nixon: Right.

Kissinger: —he was, he was—

Nixon: Because you probably know, I was responded in a, [*laughs*], in a very decent way to him.

Kissinger: Well, I thought you were a great statesman.

Nixon: That's as far as I could go, though. But I'm not going to say much to him, I'm— Well, anyway it was a good day. We had a terrible time in the damn Senate. We're going to end up with probably 44, but, it isn't worth a damn anyway. Frankly—

Kissinger: Well, it's a pity because we lost some people we never—

Nixon: Well, we lost Margaret Smith, but she's 74 years old; we lost Jack Miller because he's a jackass.

Kissinger: That's right.

Nixon: And we lost Caleb Boggs, because he's too old. He's 68.

Kissinger: Yeah.

Nixon: You see? There's your problem.

Kissinger: Those, with those three, we would have come much closer.

Nixon: Yeah, well, it's all right, it's all right.

Kissinger: But at any rate—

Nixon: We worked with—

Kissinger: —it's a tremendous personal triumph, Mr. President—

Nixon: And you know something, it's hard for even, all these left-wing columnists can do now is to piss on the [*Republicans*] not winning the Senate and the House and building the party, but they couldn't care less about that. The main thing is, they know, we came up to bat against their candidate and beat the hell out of him.

Kissinger: And came up against their issue and turned it into an asset.

Nixon: That's right. Don't you think so? Don't you feel that?

Kissinger: You made Vietnam your issue—

Nixon: Thank God it does—

Kissinger: —without fear of weakness—

Nixon: That's right.

Kissinger: —the whole approach, year after year the media were harassing you, all the intellectuals were against you, and you've come—

Nixon: That's right. That's right.

Kissinger: —out and have the greatest victory, I'm sure in terms of margin that anyone has had.

Nixon: Right.

Kissinger: It's a tremendous—

Nixon: Yeah, yeah.

Kissinger: —triumph.

Nixon: Well, anyway Henry, have a good night's sleep.

Kissinger: You have my warmest good wishes.

Nixon: Give 'em hell tomorrow.

Kissinger: Right, Mr. President.