

**General John D. Lavelle, USAF
1916 – 1979**

**Transcript of audio-taped conversation of
October 23, 1972 of
President Richard M. Nixon &
Major General Alexander M. Haig, Jr.**

Nixon Presidential Materials Staff
WHT Reference CD. 371B
Dates: 20 October 1972 through 23 October 1972
Conversations 371-12 through 371-19

White House
Old Executive Office Building
October 23, 1972

The President met with Alexander Haig.

10-23-72, Monday; Old Executive Office Building, conversation
between NSC advisor Brigadier General Alexander M. Haig and
President Richard M. Nixon

RN Otherwise, But all of this goddamn crap about Lavelle!

RN And I feel sorry for the fellow, because you and I know we did
tell him about 'protective reaction' being, very generally-

AH Very liberal.

RN Ya, very liberally, very liberally.

RN Remember I said it was, if they, if they hit there, go back and
hit it again. Go back and do it right. You don't have to wait
till they fire before you fire back. Remember I told Laird that.
And I meant it.

RN Now Lavelle apparently knew that and received that at some time.

AH He did. The real bad part was that he falsified the reports.
Frankly, if he hadn't done that

RN Hey, Laird agrees with me. . . .

AH What do you mean?

RN There wouldn't be any crap at all if we hadn't stopped the

bombing.

If you look back, all he did was hit the goddamn SAM sites and military targets!

What in the name of God are you talkin' about?

RN So what does Lavelle guilty of here about falsifying records?

RN He would have never, he wouldn't have, he wouldn't have ever had to falsify the records unless there'd been an order out that we weren't bombing the North!