



H. R. Haldeman Diaries Collection, January 18, 1969 – April 30, 1973

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Wednesday, March 8.

Last night the President called several times after I had gone to bed to check on New Hampshire results, and some more discussion on it this morning. He was especially cranked up this morning because Dent's report mentioned Harry Flemming's analysis that we had lost the undecided vote, and that the International Telephone and Telegraph [ITT] thing had hurt us, and the President was very disturbed that Flemming was involved at all. Wants to be sure that we get out the point that the total Republican vote was bigger than the total Democrat. Generally he was satisfied with both the results and the way they were played, but concerned about making sure we followed up on it.

The Rogers problem re-arose today as the Attorney General reported to me that he had a long meeting with Connally, and Connally had a very strong opinion about Rogers, that we have to get him out. Kissinger had reported the same thing. Mitchell thinks the whole thing should be reassessed now that Connally has some solid backup on his opinion, and that Connally thinks Kissinger should be made Secretary of State. We got into a discussion this morning of Kissinger's TV appearance. President feels we need to get a feel of how he would handle it, and to do that we can look at his backgrounder, which does the President no good because it's all on substance. He lectures on China, makes no reference to the President's analysis of the world, and so forth. So Kissinger really in these things is no asset after the meetings, about the President's performance, what went on, so on. He misses in terms of writing the story for the press. We've got to be concerned about his proclivity to build himself as the power behind the throne. Maybe we just can't change him. We've got to face the fact that he can't be a good salesman and not try to make himself one.

The International Telephone and Telegraph [ITT] thing is still a building story, very discouraging because all of the press goes the wrong way. We haven't been able to make the point that this is not a contribution to the National Committee or to Nixon that it's to San Diego. President felt Dole should make a speech and hit a hard counterattack, disclosing who



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contributed to the Republican host committee, and then calling upon the Democrats to do likewise. In other words, attack the attackers, saying they're playing politics with us, trying to smear an innocent man, and that sort of thing.

He then got a-- I got a recommendation from Ehrlichman and Colson that the President cancel his press conference idea for tomorrow, because there's no way he can adequately handle the International Telephone and Telegraph [ITT] question. So, I went over and told him this and he agreed to drop it. Thinks that maybe we should give the money back to International Telephone and Telegraph [ITT] or Sheraton, with a real blast by the mayor of San Diego, saying this is a smear job, and so on, that we've always refused the \$400,000, and knock down that the President had any knowledge of the money at all.

He was concerned that we don't seem to have any dirt to throw back at the Democrats, that there's been no statement from Mitchell or Kleindienst on the thing and that we've got to find a way to turn around the PR on this, because we're getting screwed unfairly.

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Audio Cassette 19, Side A.

Duration: 18 seconds

After he got to the residence this evening he called and said I'm afraid we have a real crisis. He had just talked to Pat in California and she's bringing Helene Drown back with her for 4 or 5 days. So the President decided he should go to Camp Hoover for the weekend which of course he can't do in the wintertime.



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End of March 8.