



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

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Monday, March 13.

International Telephone and Telegraph [ITT] was the big item again at the staff meeting. We got into a sort of a round robin discussion on what the general perception of the senior staff group was. They all seem to feel the American Telephone and Telegraph [AT&T] attack by Dole was counterproductive, that we just escalate the issue by counterattacking. They think Anderson has been very effective. Rumsfeld argued we should take our losses and get out. Finch argued we should keep the drumbeat to stand by the decision, the more we deplore raising the President's name, the more it gets tighter connected to the case. Most of them seem to feel that bringing American Telephone and Telegraph [AT&T] in, it indicates there must be something to the International Telephone and Telegraph [ITT] deal, otherwise we wouldn't be counterattacking. Question is whether we can turn the hearing to the merits of the decision. Problem is that we have no administrative-- Administration spokesman, such as the *Star* story or Geneen talking to McCracken and so forth, also we need a facts sheet explaining how the antitrust operation works. Maybe we should call in the wires and the network bureau chiefs, and point out their misstatements of facts. Our speakers need witnesses to quote, saying this was a sound settlement, such as past antitrust heads. Kennedy apparently is now asking for Price Commission data on International Telephone and Telegraph [ITT] requests, because they've asked for more than anyone. Also suggested by MacGregor that we should sell our subcommittee data, where Geneen testified and all, since that would help us. Mitchell feels that we're not in too bad shape that the American Telephone and Telegraph [AT&T] thing helped, because it confused the issue, and that we have renounced the hotel contributions, but there will remain in the end a way out, by demanding that the Democrats do likewise. President didn't seem overly concerned about that whole issue today, although he did have a long session with Colson this afternoon on it.

Rogers called me this morning at the-- before the start of the staff meeting, and he was really furious, because he said that some Congressmen were up at Clark MacGregor's last night for dinner, and he was, too. And an argument arose about the Kissinger briefing on Wednesday, at the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and Rogers had heard nothing about such a briefing.



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Rogers says therefore he won't testify on Tuesday, as he's scheduled to do. He says Wayne Hays and some others said they wouldn't go to Kissinger's briefing that they were on Rogers's side, and so on. Problem is Reilly Evans was sitting there listening to all this. He thinks there's a problem with Kissinger having a private briefing, Rogers does, so he's going to cancel his own committee appearance. He thinks it's going to make a huge flap. He thought the understanding was that he would be handling the Hill. But there's a problem of doing it both ways, one in public and one in private, and that we shouldn't have this kind of thing, that we can go on through it before, and so on. I found out that State was aware of the Kissinger briefing plan. That Charlie Browd from State sat in the meeting on Friday that Henry insisted on doing the meeting after Rogers testified, so he wouldn't interfere with Rogers' testimony. And Dave Asher regularly attends the Kissinger briefings of this kind, so Rogers really has no complaint other than once again his own ego.

The President, I raised this with him this morning, and he felt we should postpone the House meeting on Wednesday, but that Kissinger has to see the House group at some time. We should postpone it because Throckmorton can't make it. Have MacGregor put it off, and then when we do schedule it, include the House leaders as well as the committee members.

President had MacGregor in a little later, and raised the same point with him. Said that if the problem is, that if Kissinger doesn't meet with the committees, then we're going to have the constitutional issue on the White House mystery man, which does us even more harm, so we've got to work it out.

The President asked me to talk to Mitchell today about disclosure of campaign contributors, and I did raise it with John. He said we'd have a substantial problem if we did that, because our money was raised on the basis that we would not report it. He thinks we should just say that we'll follow the statutes, and we should just straight-arm it, saying we're complying with the law. Our answer would be that the President's not involved, this is a private committee for his reelection. He thinks it will all go away April 7 when we start reporting. We'll include all the dollars we've



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collected then, and since we've had a mass mailing, we should have a large number of people, which we can also mention, although we won't give them names. He thinks the whole issue will go away April 7, and it's just not possible for us to do anything any other way than by straight-arming it as of now.

President felt that we should work up a statement for Stans on the contributions, using the line that we will report everything according to the law, that we have absolutely nothing to hide, that we are setting up the machinery now for reporting, mention that the President's not doing any campaigning now in the primary campaigns.

President also got into the Gridiron some more, he seems to be glad he's made the decision to go. And he decided today to give the Chinese panda bears to the National Zoo in Washington, called Crosby Noyes to tell him so, quoting my story about the pandas needing to have mating lessons before they came over.

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Audio Cassette 19, Side B.

Duration: 6 seconds

The President left for the day went over to the EOB to have dinner so as to escape Helene Drown.

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End of March 13.