



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

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Wednesday, April 11.

I was out most of the morning...

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Audio Cassette 33, Side A.

Duration: 7 seconds

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Mitchell called, which I returned from home. He wanted to talk about the settlement of the civil suits. He'd been talking to Strauss of the Democratic National Committee, and he said this morning that he had cleared the whole thing with Mansfield and Albert and so on. And we could go ahead and settle, but Mitchell said after two-hours with Stans, he's still holding out for damages in the O'Brien libel suit, and we need to turn that off. That he had talked with Ehrlichman and thought he had that taken care of.

He also was concerned that Dean's testimony would be the one thing that could really unscramble the whole operation. We should try to get Dean not to go to the grand jury, in his opinion. I mentioned this to the President. He's quite concerned about it. Told me to talk to



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Ehrlichman. He was raising the question of whether that is the linchpin in the whole thing. And the President had Ziegler come in and we went through the whole question of the White House going up to the Senate. Ron argues strongly that we should not. His real fear is that it's going to focus the whole thing onto me and hang it on me and destroy me, and he feels that'll be extremely harmful to the President. The President made the point again that the key here is to protect Haldeman, but Ziegler feels that Ehrlichman's moves to lock up the Senate deal with Ervin is going to basically haul me in.

Chapin and Strachan both testified at the grand jury today, and both said that I had agreed to their approaching Segretti. And Chapin said afterwards, that some assistant DA that's working with Silbert made the point that this was a real bombshell and was gonna probably destroy the President, because it laid the whole thing right at the White House doorstep and, really, right at the President.

In the Ziegler meeting, Ehrlichman came in and there was general agreement that we should put out a preemptive statement of some kind. In other words, that I should make my statement ahead of going to the grand jury, so that we get our story out in writing separately from the Question and Answer session story. Try and establish our own position first, so I'm going to work on getting my statement ready with that thought in mind.

The President is still obviously very concerned about the whole issue and spending quite a little time on it. Ehrlichman meets this evening again with Ervin and Baker to try to resolve the ground rule question of whether we go up to the Senate and how. Dean is still concerned on the whole grand jury question. Magruder called and wanted guidance from me on what to do, and I had Larry call him back and say I couldn't give him any guidance. That he should do what his lawyer tells him to, and he apparently wasn't satisfied with that and said, well, he hated to do it, and he wanted us to know he was still on the team. But he was going to have to go ahead, if that's what we said, and he was going up to tell Mitchell that tomorrow. Looks like we're nearing the moment of truth and everybody's getting a little panicky in the crunch.



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End on April 11.