



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

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Wednesday, November 24th. The President had a super solid schedule of meetings today as a result of restacking the schedule to set up for early departure. Although it was all to no avail, because he then postponed the departure until 5:00, so he could have a second meeting with Connally this afternoon. All of this mainly on budget, domestic, and foreign policy, with Ehrlichman and Kissinger in on parts of the meetings.

He had Stein and Shultz in for a quick discussion, and then went out and announced that Stein would be replacing McCracken as new Chairman of the CEA.

He agreed to move on Taft-Hartley on the dock strikes in the West--, East Coast and Gulf ports and told Shultz to put that into motion. In talking with Stein, he told him he's got to be mean. And he's got to work with Shultz and Connally, and should bring, and he told Shultz to bring Stein into the international economic group, the little group of Shultz, Connally, Kissinger, and now Stein.

I had to call Rogers today to tell him we were going to drop the Latin American trip, and that turned out to be no problem. He was all for dropping it. Also, volunteered the fact that he doesn't want to go to Russia, even though he discussed that with me earlier as his idea of advancing the President's Moscow trip. He now thinks that there's no need to do that, but he will, however, have to sign the Berlin agreement at some point, and that when he does that, he and Gromyko could talk at that time about any plans we wanted them to cover for the Moscow trip.



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He said he'd had a long talk with Dobrynin, and that the Russians are very anxious to have a trip a success. That they were concerned on the Eisenhower trip and the Kennedy trip, and so on in the past, and they didn't want any repeats. So they would go all out to make sure this one worked out as well as possible. He also told Dobrynin that there could be no European Security Conference next year until after the election. And then he suggested to me that if we don't get a Berlin settlement we could announce at the Moscow summit that there would be a European Security Conference in 1973, which would give us some carry over value out of the conference.

On the plane out to California this evening, the President had me in. He had talked to Colson on the phone and was concerned because we had tentatively, he and Connally and the group, had tentatively decided to go ahead with the federal pay increase, allowing them to have 5.5 percent retroactive to January 1 to avoid a 6 percent increase in June and another 6 percent in October. Colson thinks that that might indicate that we're not holding the line on pay increases and might just look like we're rolling over for the union. So the President wanted Ehrlichman to think that over and discuss it with Connally. And the President's view was that, having taken the Meany step, he shouldn't indicate any give now and that, in any event, it wouldn't satisfy the federal employees anyway. The real question is the psychological effect of the President agreeing to raise pay and the detrimental effect on holding the line against pay increases. This being a bad time to do something like this, our best position now is to be very tough. The President said he didn't have a very strong feeling, but he was wondering about it.



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We now have the letter in hand confirming his selection as *Time*: Man of the Year. So he's agreed to do an interview with *Time*, but wants to make it as late as possible, to, so that it'll be as timely as it can be.

End of November 24th.