



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

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Wednesday, December 8th. Considerable discussion in the staff meeting this morning about the OEO veto strategy. Apparently, no problem now on the veto, because we'll have a supplemental on the continuing resolution, that will provide OEO funds—even if the President vetoes the bill. The question now is to determine the strategy of vetoing, because it's imperative that we dramatize our side of the story or else the opposition will, and we've got to be sure it's on the philosophy of the bill, not just the technicality of bypassing the states.

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The big thing at the staff meeting, however, was Kissinger tirade that cut loose on India-Pakistan situation in answer to a question and he basically sort of lost control of himself and went into a real tirade. He said that the problem, we're going to have a monumental problem on this in the second term. That we're safe through the election because the results aren't going to have any effect for two to three years. And he says we're on the right side of the immediate issue, but the consequences will be dramatic later in two to three years. For instance, Thailand, Iran, and so forth would draw the obvious conclusions from our lack of support of Pakistan and they'll see our friend murdered with no help from us to save him, and therefore, conclude that they've got to go on their own. They can't rely on us. He feels it's wrong--, it was wrong not to stifle this, it was obvious it was coming. He said he'd held meeting after meeting and was sabotaged by the bureaucracy in the last several months. That we could have been tough with the Soviets, or we could have done to the Indians three weeks ago what we're doing now, that now it's too late. Any country now within the reach of Soviet power or Soviet satellite power will adjust to the facts of life. But, on the other side, it may help us marginally with the Chinese. He says three months ago we should have started screaming about Indian intervention.



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Then he reiterated one of his standard Kissinger quotes: When you have the margin for maneuver, you don't have the evidence to back it up. By the time you have the evidence you no longer have the margin of maneuver. And he, of course, blamed this whole problem on the State Department and their bureaucracy. The whole thing startled people considerably, and was very unfortunate. Because the full staff group was there and it didn't need to be said in front of them, and it once again showed, pointed out the Kissinger-State Department problem. The President had already been very much aware of the problem with Henry as it arose yesterday, and I, so I filled him in on my meeting with Henry yesterday and his threat of resignation, also his tirade in the staff meeting this morning. The President said he had felt, even over the weekend, that there was something wrong with Henry, but he thought it was personal and went beyond the, simply the immediate substantive Pakistan problem. I think it does too and, as we talked about it, agreed that there was the personal problem involved: the President on Monday calling on Rogers at the dinner, as well as on the TV, at the midday meeting in the OEO, and the EOB office, and Henry feeling that he had been slighted there. But there was also the personal disappointment in that Henry knew that he was to blame, partially at least, in the current problem, and he didn't like that feeling. Also the President feels he's very tired physically and that's a factor in this too. In any event, the President kept coming back to it as we went along. He told me to talk to Haig about it and then later said not to. He kind of bounced back and forth on the whole question. Really trying to figure out in his own mind what the problem is and how to deal with it.

End of December 8th.