



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

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Tuesday, March 7.

President had a Leadership meeting this morning, then had Henry and me in for sort of a general review of things. He made the point that we've got a problem with the news summary, and its totally negative approach to the whole China issue, even though Buchanan has now changed his attitude some. Then we got into the Rogers problem, with the President trying to figure out how he ought to approach that. He has to meet with Rogers in the afternoon and is not sure how to go about it.

He had me sit in the Rogers meeting this afternoon, and Bill made a pitch for the need to solve the problem of his apparent downgrading and the press coverage thereof. His solution was for the President to announce that Rogers was in charge of the planning for the Russian trip. The President finessed that, as he should have, and made it pretty clear indirectly to Rogers that he wasn't about to be put in charge of the trip. I hit Bill, as I had last night, on the point that if he would just take a positive view himself, and get the State Department people to take a positive view of what's going on, instead of carping about all the problems, and how they're being undercut, that he'd come out a lot better. He argues that he can't control the Department, which, of course, he can't, and that he does personally take a positive view. The problem is, he does to the extent he says anything, but he doesn't go out of his way to build up what's being done in a way that makes it appear that he is a part of doing it. He's decided not to go on his Latin American trip because of the problem of adverse demonstrations and this whole anti-Rogers kick that's moving around now. He's thinking of going to Romania, Poland, and Yugoslavia, which the President tentatively agreed to, and overall he cut a rather pathetic figure as he sort of pleaded for his own self-interest, without really making much of a case for what he could do for the President, which is, of course, the only thing that really matters.

President got into the busing question again with Ehrlichman today, making the point that they've got to follow-up now on the legislative leaders' meeting, especially the President's point



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that he doesn't buy the theory that the—that if education does not mix, then it's inferior. He feels just the opposite, and wants Ehrlichman to develop the case on that basis.

End of March 7.