



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

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Tuesday, March 28th. Kissinger returned last night. Was in this morning to discuss the Russian trip and some of the plans for that, and...

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...that led into the whole business of Israeli situation. He makes the point now that we should really clobber the Israelis, but we should wait until after the election to do it. Which is kind of funny, because that's the line he used all through 1970 to stall off any action and now he's doing the same thing again. The President has said all along that he knew that's what Henry would do. He does have some merit to his argument, however, because there's a problem in dropping the Israelis before the election in what we gain and we're better off to set it up and then move afterword. The President's feeling however is that he doesn't want to leave office without making the Israeli deal and he wants to make it at the Soviet summit, so that we get the Soviets out of the Middle East and out of the Mediterranean. I think Henry feels we can do that, but still not move overtly vis-à-vis Israel until right before or just after the election.

ITT was a big item. The President this morning felt that he probably should pull the plug on Kleindienst using the device that we've talked about, of having him issue a blast, an ultimatum that if they don't clear him by April 15, he's going to ask that his name be withdrawn. The President is convinced that he can't be confirmed now and that somehow we've got to cut our losses. We haven't been handling the case well all the way along and there's no point in struggling along with it any further. He had me talk to Ehrlichman about it, and then John felt it was probably the right thing to do. Our group decided to try to close the hearings tomorrow by a vote, but there's a problem there in that Mardian and Mitchell are against that and are pushing for



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some other tactic. Also Mansfield now issued an ultimatum that if they end the hearings he'll put a hold on the vote. The President feels we have to end the hearings, and since we can't get a vote to kill a filibuster, we are really basically stuck. MacGregor met with Eastland, and Eastland said he was reluctant to push tomorrow for a vote in the committee, because it would kill Kleindienst, but he would do it, if it's our decision. He made a commitment to MacGregor that he would do this. He said first though, he must hear from two witnesses, the lawyer who interrogated Dita Beard and the typist Lickman. Hruska and MacGregor are engineering the motion to terminate. They think it'll probably barely pass. There'll be a huge scream from the Democrats, but we've got to do it anyway. Colson's afraid the Republicans will get antsy, and that they're afraid to do it, and that they won't get tough, and Eastland will back down. So we're trying to figure out how best we come out, whether try to, the best thing, of course, would be to confirm Kleindienst but not at the price of 30 days' more hearings. The other thing is to sacrifice Kleindienst in a blaze of glory if we have a confrontation against which we can do it with provocation.

This afternoon the President had Connally into EOB for a two hour session. And the first hour was discussing international monetary policy and Connally's concern about taxes and the Democrats' phony push for tax reform, but then he got into the ITT thing. And he thinks our Kleindienst ultimatum ploy is very bad move, because it's, it'll be seen through as what it is. He thinks instead that we should just take a flat Kleindienst to a draw if we accept the fact that he can't be confirmed.

There was some discussion also today about the busing foul-up, the President feeling, and quite rightly, that we haven't gotten anything done on this. He wants Ehrlichman to get at it as soon as he gets back. There's a lot of good stuff for the South, but we need to get it told, and it obviously hasn't been. They haven't called in the Southern Congressmen, for instance, to brief on busing and on how it affects them.



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End of March 28th.