



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

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Tuesday, December 19.

Some discussion today on personnel. The President wants to keep pushing to get some punch into the Under Secretary selections. He's concerned about still going ahead with the "dull, gray manager" types. Decided he wanted to change his decision on Commerce and take the guy with more pizzazz instead of Bob Frye, a good, safe manager. He wants to keep the OEP job open, to consider using it for Anne Armstrong as an additional assignment, and decided to send Marshall Green to Australia. Had some discussion regarding a letter he'd received from Bunny Lasker on SEC selections.

The main object of concern today was Vietnam. He had Kissinger in this morning and is talking about the Haig report on his meeting with Thieu yesterday, he says Thieu is really shaken by the President--

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I was talking about Vietnam. Kissinger reporting on his meeting with Javits and Javits' advice, saying don't play to me, on the Vietnam thing, because I'll oppose you in any event, but use your mandate and play to the House not to the Senate. Nothing is going to happen in the Congress anyway for six months, and you should go ahead on the basis of what you're doing, even though some of us will have to publicly oppose you. Henry said the first bombing wave today got in and out with no losses, so that's a little better than yesterday's run.



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Talked about the POW's, and the need to work on them. Have to keep the League of Families in line and all -- discuss some points of contact with them via Haig and Scowcroft. The President then emphasized that the main thing now is what happens as a result of the bombing, all that matters is getting it done. That is, getting the settlement, we shouldn't worry about the press in the meantime. They're worse now because we won the election and that frustrates them. The President obviously was trying to shore Henry up, as he seems to keep feeling he has to do.

After Henry left, he made the point that we can't let the line develop about the point that Kissinger had peace, and the President pulled him back. He can't let the President take the blame for the thing breaking down. For example, the theory that some columnist is [unclear] that presidents seem to do foolish things in their second terms. As he got to thinking about it, he said he was going to put off his Florida trip for a day and get everyone in and give them the line to get it out -- Ziegler, Colson, Klein and so on. He thinks that we need to keep that moving to keep everyone suppressed on the adverse stuff, such as Dole and Human Events and all that. Feels we should be fighting that part of things better, and that he's got to get control of it.

He did later today get Ziegler and Colson and me in. And Ron gave him a report on his briefing on Vietnam and all, then discussed the question of what should be done on our PR on Vietnam, especially on the "Nixon broke Kissinger's word" line, and that "Nixon pulled Kissinger back from peace". How do we answer the point that we raised false hopes; that answer being that North Vietnam was the one that raised the false hopes -- by putting the talks on; not us. And now we have got to make it clear that North Vietnam needs to pull back from their POW position, and that the President wants an absolute, unconditional agreement from North Vietnam that all POW's will be returned in 60 days, before he'll do anything. He's very strong on this point and on his concern that we aren't getting the right basic line across, although all of us felt that it was coming across right and it would be the worst possible thing for us to start trying to push the line at this point, so he gave up on his idea of leaving.



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Had a long meeting with Stans this morning, he reviewed with the President the same things that he reviewed with me last week. The President generally agreed with his recommendations for recognition of major donors and so forth. Wants to have him hold the surplus \$3 million in some fund under his control until we decide what we want to do with it. Some discussion of RNC finance chairman and Stans is pushing Bill Middendorf. And some discussion of the House Congressional Campaign Chairman -- Stans thinks Bob Wilson is going to go for it. The President said he would not do the March 28 fundraising dinner if Wilson was the chairman.

After the President met with Ruckelshaus today, called Cole and me in today to see what we thought of Ruckelshaus as FBI director, which might be a very good idea.

Also, Colson was in. The President got into some discussion of Connally and the need for him to make a move now, that he can't just stay on the Democrat side and hope to come in later and pick up the Republican nomination. He's got to move for it now, or he's got no chance of getting it.

End of December 19.