



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

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Wednesday, January 3.

Back at work. The President had me in at 11:00 for about three hours on just a general recap of where things were. He went through a lot of odds and ends -- the question of whether the Heath visit is a dinner, and if so, he wants to go on the new rule of very limited staff and Cabinet. Wants to have Ed David in after the Inaugural. Wants to hold all that kind of thing that he can until after the Inaugural. He was asking about Hodgson's status, which I didn't know, and Klein's, which I also didn't know. Plans for Cabinet meeting on the 22nd, wondered about Safire's status, which I didn't know. Wants to keep the OEP post position open for someone that he might want to use, just as a good hard intellectual and as a foil for Kissinger on the NSC. Wants to be sure Ehrlichman handles the reorganization at the leadership meeting on Friday morning, and that he does not go into a lot of detail about the Counselors and their big staff and so on, but rather to make the point that we've cut the White House staff and we're putting the responsibility out to on the Departments. The President will provide offices in EOB for the Counselors, but not with staffs, all staffing will come from their departments. Wants Conger to check on other possible Presidential desks for the Oval Office and says he's gotten some expert to agree to do some redecorating in the Oval Office, apparently somebody that Mrs. Nixon has been using at the Residence, so that may work out. He's at least getting rid of the Boehme birds on the shelves.

He's concerned about David's Congressional seat and wants to be sure we're getting that set up. Had a lot of ideas on the news summary, to leave off the magazines and local Washington papers, emphasize the positive, rather than dwelling so much on negative things. He said he'd have a reception for the National Committee after the Inaugural, wants to hold up on the diplomatic reception until Vietnam is settled. Was pleased with the Senate resolution today on Vietnam, wants the House to go for the same resolution. Met with Henry last night, again today, and will meet with him again on Saturday extensively on Vietnam before he leaves Sunday for the new talks. Wants Ehrlichman, Kissinger and me to establish three major goals in big terms-- not a laundry list-- but the real problem is what there is to do in the domestic area. There really



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isn't anything. One goal would be destroy the establishment, the intellectual and media and so on. Was very pleased with Schlesinger's idea of knocking off MIT funds from DOD before Elliot Richardson gets in. Agreed to see Elliot tomorrow at 11:30 after the NSC meeting.

Kept coming back to the concern about Rose and her attitude. Apparently she's been very negative and unpleasant. That, as usual, worries him.

Also a lot of concerns about Henry, saying that he's been through a awful lot in trying to keep his dauber up, and so on, while I had been gone, that he had been using Colson very heavily for this, which the record indicates is correct. He spent hours talking with Colson during the period I was gone. Colson also said this was the case. He thinks Henry is at least partially responsible for the media efforts to separate the President and Kissinger's positions, and is concerned that he not get away with that. Basically, however, he seems to be in very good spirits, no major problems.

End of January 3.

As a general comment, it's clear to me that he still hasn't really focused on getting down to work on the second term. He's using the Inaugural as an excuse for not scheduling things, but he's not working on the Inaugural. I think until he gets Vietnam settled, everything else is going to pretty much stay in the background, and there won't be much concentration on anything.