



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

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Monday, March 10.

Still in Key Biscayne. Kissinger came down this morning to meet with President. Arrived about 1:00 - President decided to see him on trip back, leaving at 3:00. Wanted to meet with Ehrlichman and me on domestic matters at his house at 2:15, which we did. President had long lists of odds and ends.

Kissinger and I had talk first. He is still very upset about the Rogers/Dobrynin meeting because he feels Rogers, in reversing our policy regarding private talks with North Vietnam regarding political matters as well as military - has seriously jeopardized our negotiating ability and our chance to end the war. Especially bad because it follows right on their shelling of Saigon, and at a time when Soviets are in trouble with China at the border.

I suggested he try to turn this to advantage by a maneuver designed to totally confuse the Soviets, and he thinks this may be possible.

Kissinger agreed not to raise with President the question of his leaving. The matter at hand has to be settled on its merits - then if he loses he's got that one additional move. Real problem is his conviction that Rogers' self-interest is so paramount that he can't adequately serve the President. Kissinger suggests only solution is to put Rogers in as Chief Justice. Too bad this situation exists. I feel Kissinger is basically right - and don't know how he'll handle it to his own satisfaction - but there must be a way.

Ehrlichman and I tried to discuss the new plan for him to coordinate domestic matters with President, but he didn't give us much of a chance.

President really anxious to move on California property - and Bebe agrees - urging that he buy the whole thing, which is a real possibility. Will try to work out a trip to inspect it in next couple of weeks.



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Lots piled up on return. President spent only a few minutes in the office, then to the Residence for the evening. Helene has gone – apparently Don Hughes worked it out – so he can relax again. The stories of her incredible behavior regarding staff, florist, pens in rooms, light bulbs, etc. Are pretty bad. I think I've thought through my staff set-up and it will work well. Dinner with Alex and Cole to discuss. First big staff meeting tomorrow.