



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

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Friday, March 19.

The President had kept the morning clear for preparation for the press conference, which was canceled, so he had considerable free time. He had Ehrlichman and me in for quite a long session the first part of the morning, covering a lot of miscellaneous odds and ends, mainly regarding Cabinet therapy and a program for how to schedule Cabinet meetings. The final conclusion was that we'd go ahead with the plan for biweekly Cabinet meetings, but rather than having an open agenda as Bill Rogers had recommended, we would have a specific agenda under someone other than the President's control. For instance, next week we'll do one as a Domestic Council operation with Ehrlichman conducting the meeting, leaving a few minutes at the end for the President to summarize. There was also considerable discussion of the apparent insurrection within the Cabinet of the Romney group and the others who had been meeting secretly.

Ehrlichman has now invited himself to their Monday morning breakfast, which is supposedly a culmination of the whole thing, and then he's going to schedule that as the topic for the Cabinet meeting on Friday before we leave for California. This ought to throw something of a wrench into their plans. The President is concerned about maintaining enough contact with especially the dissident-type Cabinet members—Romney, Volpe, Hardin, to a degree, Stans, Morton—but feels that the Rogers' plan is not a good way to do it. So we're going to try this other way.

We untangled, or partially so, the problem of Senator Allott's opposition to Schlesinger as Under Secretary of the Interior. The President feels that this is something Morton must handle, and that we should buck it back to the Interior Department and not worry about it at the White House. He also got into quite a discussion of what Arthur Burn's game is and what he's up to. It's clear that he's at least a part of the instigation of the Romney group and is using it to further his objectives of throwing over Shultz in some way.

The President also had Colson in to get caught up on his general activities, and had a couple of fairly long sessions with Henry and then an hour meeting with Arthur Burns just before he left



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for the funeral. The Dewey funeral trip was uneventful. The President met with Bill Rogers on the plane all the way back. He had me up most of the time on the way going up.

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Audio Cassette 5, Side B.
Duration: 1 minute 22 seconds

The Drown problem reopened as it appeared earlier in the day that Jack was staying through Sunday, so they could go to Camp David, and then was going to go home; but Helene was going to stay through the end of the week, and then apparently go back to California with us on Friday. As a result of this the President decided he couldn't go to Camp David for the weekend. He then called Rose in, she came up with a plan and carried it out of calling Pat, who was up in New York with the Drowns during the day, and explaining the situation frankly with her. That the President needed to go to Camp David to work on his TV thing and would have to be there alone. Could not go if the Drowns were going. She said fine she'd take care of it. So we worked out a rather involved process whereby when the President returned from the Dewey funeral he went right to the NAB reception. Covered all of that and instead of going upstairs went down got in his car and drove over to the Pentagon helipad, and from there took a chopper up so that he could escape without having to make excuses or explain to the Drowns. Hopefully it'll work out alright. He at least got there without being caught and-- so he's got a chance for it to work.



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End of March 19.