



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

National Archives and Records Administration, Online Public Access Catalog Identifier: 7787364

Wednesday, July 7.

The President got into the office at 7:00 this morning. I didn't get in until 8:30, and he called me in then and had me in there from then until nearly 1:00, which is a pretty long solid session. He came up with the way-out idea that he might build his "Five Great Powers" theme speech from Kansas City yesterday into a major statement, and then go to the Bohemian Grove, without announcing it in advance, and drop it there—it being the most influential and powerful group of people that are gathered, certainly in California and, really, in general in the country. He'd do it without any press coverage, and it would be for the purpose of using the leadership of that crowd to give them a lift. It could affect the economic conditions. It would have an enormous effect on California politics. The idea is that we'd camouflage the whole thing by telling them that Rogers is coming and ask that he be allowed to give the Lakeside talk, and then at the last minute we would substitute the President.

He came up with the idea on replacing the Treasurer of the United States—because of Dottie Elston dying—with a Mexican woman and told me to go ahead and find one. It turns out that this really was a suggestion that came out of some conversation that Pat Nixon had in the receiving line yesterday.

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Audio Cassette 10, Side A.

Duration: 50 seconds



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We had a long discussion of the Drowns. I had told him yesterday on the plane about my conversation with Helene so he'd know what had happened. I had had an hour-and-half with her on the phone the night before. I saved the tapes of that. He's concluded today that the problem isn't going to go away there's no reason to leave an impossible situation so he had Rose in asked her go see Helene. Tell her she's getting everything wrong, that they're friends that the Nixon's want to retain them. There's an enormous, difficult problem with the brothers and etcetera. That they should keep their relationship come down and all that, but understand the problem. Rose pointed out to him and I agree with her that this just won't work, and we sat around and talked about the whole thing for an hour or more and finally more or less gave up.

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Late this morning, he had a meeting with Rogers, Helms, Haig and me to discuss the whole question of security clearances, classification of documents, etcetera. It really didn't accomplish much of anything. It was sort of general talk as the President laid out his concerns, the problems of too many people having top secret clearances and of too many documents being distributed too broadly, but we didn't really come to any conclusions. He gave Haig some assignments of items to follow up on. One thing that came up was Rogers's complaint about Henry seeing Harriman, which Rogers also raised with me on the phone. The President talked to me afterwards and made the point that he thinks that Rogers is right, and that it was wrong for Henry to see Harriman, because it really does create a problem, and Rogers is trying to keep his people from dealing with Harriman and those kinds of people.

After I got home this afternoon, the President called while I was out sailing and left word for me to call back. When I did, he made the point, and was quite pleased about it, that as he said, the plot thickens. We now have a message from the Pakistanis, and the secret meeting that they set



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up is wrong-- is on, but for security reasons, they want it moved to Peking. He thinks this is very significant, because they want it at the highest level, and he thinks it's possible that he'll see the old man [Mao Tse-tung], as well as the guy who he originally was going to see [Chou En-lai]. He's concluded that he'll have to tell Rogers tomorrow about this, and that's obviously got him a little worried, but apparently, Henry goes over there tonight. So, this is highly significant and historic--