



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

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

Friday, November 24.

Kissinger woke me up at 7:00 this morning, on the day I had hoped to be able to sleep a little late and go into the office late to say that they'd had a meeting in Paris this morning. Very private, just the four of them: Kissinger, Haig, Le Duc Tho and Xuan Thuy. Henry laid out our position in a private way, that we can't make the decision until the meeting tomorrow as to follow the President's instructions to break things off, that the President should go ahead and go to New York, there's nothing for him to do at this point. He's sending-- Henry's sending a message regarding today's meeting. Essentially we'll know tomorrow what the situation is. He'll either be back Sunday or stay a couple days on technical matters. Probably not be back Saturday. He says even if it goes the other way tomorrow, he wouldn't come back until Sunday. If it goes okay, Tuesday would be his return. No decisions are to be taken now, he has the instructions but can't apply them until late tomorrow afternoon, and then no decision to be made immediately. Today they just had a clear explanation of where we stand.

The President had meetings this morning, then called me in at noon. His meetings with Romney and Volpe, apparently he felt, went pretty well. He expected those to be the two hardest, and thanks to Ehrlichman's preparation work, they apparently both went okay. Romney definitely wants to leave anyway, Volpe did not want to leave, and told Ehrlichman he was going to stay another year. John told him that wasn't in the cards, made him the pitch on Rome, and Volpe doesn't know if he can take that...

---

PRIVACY- Reviewed and released under Deed of Gift, DR, NARA, September 11, 2014

Audio Cassette 27, Side B.



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

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

Duration: 2 seconds

...because of his retarded son...

---

...but will in any event get out of Transportation, which is the key point.

President then got into the whole Watergate-Segretti question, making the point that while all of our discussions relate to the legalities, the main thing involved here is to protect the Presidency. We need a clear, simple statement early, in the form of a Dean report to the President, saying that I have checked and found that there is no present member of the White House staff involved; I have also found that neither Stans nor Mitchell is involved, if that's possible.

He thinks we ought to try to clear Stans and Mitchell, at least Stans, as far as the Campaign Committee goes. Regarding Segretti, he says there has to be a flat categorical statement that I've investigated pursuant to your instructions, and then name names and answer the implications regarding Haldeman, he didn't do anything; regarding Colson, he didn't do anything; Chapin did receive information but didn't direct the activities; and so on. He makes the point that we should not harm any of the other individuals if we can possibly help it. Then Ziegler should say, there's the statement, we stand on it.

He feels we can't just let it "hang out", as Ehrlichman puts it, in the hope it's clear to people. Dean has to draw the conclusion specifically, that the White House was not involved. Have to say that Mr. Chapin recruited Segretti for the job to conduct campaign activities, but there's no evidence that he directed his activities. Before this is done, Chapin and Strachan should both be out of the White House. That gets to the problem of what we do with Chapin and Strachan,



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

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

which concerns the President greatly. He's very determined that we not do anything that's harmful in any way to Dwight especially, but feels that we can't keep him in the White House. He says Ehrlichman shouldn't think in legal terms. That what we need is a clear-cut categorical statement from Dean, saying this man was not involved, that one was, and so on.

We then talked about the Cabinet presentations. The President's idea was to do the whole thing on Wednesday in a big deal, which he thought Ehrlichman was arguing. I made the pitch for doing it step by step with the President may be doing an appearance on Tuesday to lay the groundwork, that doing it all out of Camp David which he basically agreed to. He got into some personnel things on the basis that Volpe had made some suggestions for Transportation. Checking over some of the other items that we had.

I had a call from Pat Moynihan who was all disturbed about Samuel Popkin, the Harvard professor who was in jail, because he won't tell who he talked to regarding the Pentagon Papers. Moynihan says if the President or Attorney General acts well on this, we can make some good points. If nothing happens, it will be a calamity, and just what the President doesn't need. Everyone at Harvard is holding on now, but it will blow up if it goes on. He then gave me the background: he is 29 years old, was doing his doctoral dissertation under Ithiel de Sola Pool on Vietnam village politics, and two years ago he was nosing around Washington to get information. Gelb and others were studying it, actually they were doing the Pentagon Papers. He became somewhat of a blabbermouth when Ellsberg released the papers, although he had no relationship with Ellsberg. The grand jury asked him who he talked to in DC, and he decided not to answer. The case went to the Supreme Court, they said he had to answer. He refused to do it, they put him in jail. It's the first time in United States history that a University professor has been put in prison in a case of this kind. He's sentenced for the duration of the grand jury, which is scheduled to end January 12, but might be extended for as much as a year. This would be a disaster in Moynihan's view. He says the Harvard view is it's questionable whether the President's best interests are being served, that we have the wrong guy in jail, it should be Ellsberg. There isn't any information they can get from him, it's just a point of principle now.



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

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

And Pat says it'd be a good thing in Thanksgiving week for the President to call the Attorney General and say this kid's been in jail for four days, the purposes have been served, let's let him out. This would be a good moment for clemency. I told Moynihan I'd pass it on to the proper authorities.

Talked to Mitchell on the Dole situation. He has Nunn doing some further checking and will get a report by noon today, he says. Mitchell feels he should take the first shot, on the basis that we're all receiving signals regarding the need for a full time Chairman. He doesn't feel there will be any problem, but the basic sentiment throughout the country is for a move, that we should then set a meeting for Dole with the President on Tuesday and let that work out. Colson's going ahead on Brennan and is supposed to know by later on Friday what the situation is on that.

Had a talk with Connally. He thinks there's no problem in our Camp David operation. There are several things he wanted; such as not letting Stans block John Rollins if he's being considered for Transportation, he has some names for Ambassador, Lady Bird wants to keep Hartzog in the Park Service. Connally wants to see the President next week on the Russian gas deal, the government needs to get into it and so should the President before it gets too far. Also he wants to talk to somebody about the CAB and the appointments there because there's some alarm in the air transport industry that we're going in the wrong direction on some of that.

President left for New York at midday, and Ehrlichman and I had a long meeting with Dean on the whole Watergate thing. Decided we'd have to follow the full disclosure route on Segretti, and that we can't do anything much on Watergate because of the Court case.

End of November 24.