



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

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

Wednesday, January 20.

The second anniversary of the Inaugural. To mark the occasion, we had a meeting of about 60 top staff people—White House and OMB. Ehrlichman opened it with a general overview briefing of the State of the Union. The President came in at 9:30. We let the press in to cover his opening remarks, then tossed the press out, and he talked for about half-an-hour more. A very inspiring message to the troops. He kidded them along some, but also really took them to the mountain top on the tremendous importance of the first change of direction of government in the 190 years of the country's history. The whole thing, fortunately, was taped, and we have transcripts; so this one won't be lost as was the oration at the Cabinet meeting yesterday.

He then spent the day at the EOB working on the speech, alone most of the time. He had me over for one spell between drafts, primarily to get into some PR items. He particularly wanted some very strong reaction to the *Life* and *Newsweek* blasts this week. We had already initiated these, but he suggested a couple of other ideas, such as a major advertiser blasting one of them, a Cabinet officer doing a letter to *Life*, and some of that sort of thing. He also wanted me to call Shepley and level with him on it, and wanted us to get across to *Life* the story-- to get across to somewhere, the story that *Life* had offered Tricia a cover picture and story with the understanding that she could have editorial control, as they gave to the Kennedys, and so forth. Tricia refused, saying that she didn't like *Life* and the way that they handled things, and therefore would not want to be a part of such a thing.

He also got into the whole conservative problem. He had just read Buchanan's latest memo, hitting him pretty hard on the feeling among conservatives that we've let them down. The President's made a decision that he wants to go after a replacement for Moynihan, who will be a totally accepted conservative to put the balance on that side. He does feel, however, that the conservatives are being totally unreasonable, as they are, in criticizing; and he dictated a long memo giving a lot of talking points for the conservatives. He also thought Ehrlichman should



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make a conscious and open tilt more to the right, so that he'll be regarded more as the house conservative, so they'll feel they have someone in court.

We had a long meeting this afternoon with Ehrlichman, Shultz, Mitchell, and Kissinger, at Henry's request to discuss in detail his problems with the State Department. It-- He walked into the meeting with huge thick folders for each of us with all kinds of papers documenting his case on the terrible things State has been doing in the public press, and how they've been undercutting him in internal operations, and how they've disobeyed Presidential orders in cable traffic and all sorts of stuff. He did an extremely good job, for a change, of presenting his case quite unemotionally and very rationally; this made it far more effective than it usually is when he gets going. He really wrapped it up by saying that he wasn't going to discuss it with the President, but was hoping we would find a way to approach it, and that the problem had to be resolved. He would not continue this method of operation. And if it couldn't be resolved, he would leave; if it could be, he'd be perfectly willing to work within a new approach, as long as NSC has complete control and Rogers is, as he puts it, "brought to heel."

I also had a meeting this morning with Mitchell regarding the whole political structure. He claims the President has never asked him to take on the assignment of running the campaign; so I confirmed that that was, indeed, the President's intention and John agreed that he would do it. He then discussed his plans on retiring from Justice and felt that he would have to do so later this year. He could not continue as Attorney General and still run the campaign, but that didn't seem to bother him. He's ready to resign when it's necessary and says there's no problem because he can go on back to the law firm after the election, and would be happy to do so. When I mentioned this to the President later, he agreed that was the right way to go about it, and said that he had, indeed, discussed this with Mitchell, although perhaps he hadn't been exactly precise and specific about the role he wanted him to take. Anyway, it's now all set. We've got to start working out the arrangements with Finch, the National Committee, and others who are involved, but it's really going to help to have John in command of the whole thing.



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Audio Cassette 03, Side B.

Duration: 1 minute 7 seconds

After I got home tonight I got a series of three or four phone calls from the President. The first one at 8:15 when he had just discovered that Rose had gone home when he called her to get some more typing done on the speech. This is incredible considering that it's the night he's trying to wrap up his final draft of the State of the Union address. She told him she'd just had a shot and didn't feel well and so she'd gone home. He implied that there was work to be done so she said well she could come in and do it for him but she had a date at 9:00. At that point he apparently blew his stack and called me. He's decided that she's now become a primadonna, her whole office is cleared out there's nobody to help him out. We've got to setup a system for someone to back her up. The obvious answer to this of course is Marge which I suggested and after calling back two or three times he agreed that was the right way to do it. In any event, Rose hasn't done herself any good with this type of maneuver.

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End of January 20.