



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

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Sunday December 20.

I went in to the White House early with Susie, who had to rehearse for the staff church service today.

The President called while I was working in the office and was on the phone for about 40 minutes. Wanted a review of my conversation with Connally last night and talked a little about how valuable Connally is going to be. Then got into quite a long discussion of the various possibilities in trying to work out a change in the Director of Communications. He's absolutely convinced that Klein's got to go and the question is who we get to replace him and how we structure that office. He was intrigued for a while with my suggestion of moving Ehrlichman in there, but then backed off on the grounds that he needs him more on the domestic policy thing, and that John really wouldn't really be the best for communications anyway because he's not tough enough on the press.

What he wants is someone with real stature, to whom he will listen and to whom others will listen when he comes into a room and says this is what ought to be done. Also, someone who will totally take the initiative on everything that needs follow-up or reaction. He wants to explore Tom Shepard as one possibility. He still thinks we should move Colson into that area, but recognizes that he's not the one to head it up and would not have the command that he's looking for.

He was also very intrigued with the Vice President's suggestion of bringing Chotiner into his office and wants to go ahead on that, on the basis that he would be excellent for the follow-up in the intergovernmental relations operations. The President says he's still going to write me a memo on the whole need for change here. And, I fear he may have done so since I heard nothing further from him the rest of the day.



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Church service went very well and I imagine he spent the afternoon dictating, so we'll probably have another Monday morning of five or six tapes tomorrow. Unfortunately, also, he has no schedule until late morning since we canceled his breakfast with Senator Williams.

End of December 20.