



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

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Monday, April 5.

San Clemente, and then to DC. Bill Rogers called this morning with some thoughts on the speech. He felt the President should consider, at the end, getting away from the text and speaking directly to the people, making the point that now the time has come to withdraw and that's what we're doing. He feels that he's got to come across as assuring the American people that this is our policy, that logic won't have much effect, that it's the man, and he's got to convince them of his sincerity and give them assurance. The President had a long session with the movie people before we left San Clemente, then had good sessions with Henry and John on the plane on the way back. He had me up for just a few minutes to go over some insignificant odds and ends that he had notes left on. And now we're back to the Washington grind.

The President called me after I had dictated the above, late in the evening at home. He had just read the *Washington Star* report on Congressman Boggs' attack on J. Edgar Hoover and his call for Hoover's resignation. The President wanted me to call Hoover and tell him not to respond, to be silent and let his friends respond for him. I called Hoover, and he appreciated the whole thing very much. He told me that Boggs was drunk today when he made the attack, and that he, Hoover, had talked to the Attorney General, who had issued a statement demanding that Boggs repudiate his charges and deny all the allegations. Hoover also made the point to me that he had testified two weeks ago and had said that, since 1924, there had never been a phone tap on any Senator or Congressman, and that even when he had people under surveillance, he had lifted the surveillance when they went onto the Capitol grounds. I reported this back to the President, and he made the point that we should also use Johnson's influence on Boggs, that we should attack Boggs on his drunkenness and try to destroy him, and that we should release the ORC poll that we have on Hoover. He then made the comment that we will have an interesting week and said good night.

End of April 5.