



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

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Monday, April 12.

Back to a regular schedule at the office. We started our new 8:15 staff meeting setup in the Roosevelt Room, and it went reasonably well, considering it was the first day. The President had me in at 9:00 and went through an hour of odds and ends that he had stacked up over the weekend—a lot of notes, mainly regarding some schedule changes. He's decided to skip Florida on the weekend of the 24th and go the following weekend when he can stay longer. He's not worried about being around during the demonstration, but probably will go to Camp David for that weekend. Also, he's juggling around the press conference and doesn't want to do it, the in-office press conference, the day after the ASNE, but rather will put it off until the middle or end of the following week. Then he got into the question of the televised press conference and decided that it would be good to do it on the 28th, and so he would go to Florida the 29th. We juggled all this around and, I think, can work out a schedule that will do it. In the process, he also agonized over whether he had to go ahead with the Cabinet meeting and decided he did, but wants to move it to Monday afternoon, not worrying about busting the Tuesday morning pattern, at least this time.

Yost wrote a piece for the *Washington Post* that ran yesterday and caused some concern. The President asked me this morning to have a heart-to-heart talk with Bill Rogers. The President agreeing that he'll talk with him later, but he wants Bill to know ahead of time what it's about. He thinks Rogers should really hit the Foreign Service, because now we have Yost out talking within two weeks after he's retired, which was not a proper move. He feels Rogers should step up and publicly put Yost down, before the President has to do it in answer to a question Friday night. He also thinks Rogers should step up and say publicly his support of Vietnam policy, which he hasn't done since the end of Laos. I called Bill and went into this with him. He indicated he was leaving for Costa Rica tomorrow morning and wanted to see the President this afternoon. Basically agreed with the points I had made, so we set up the appointment.



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He apparently also agreed in the meeting with the President, said that he had met with the senior Foreign Service types and really blasted them on the Yost matter, as a result of which Alex Johnson had called Yost and told him. Yost, in turn, had called the Secretary. But the Secretary had refused to accept the call, which should help to put him in his place a bit.

Mitchell-- the President got into the question also of talking to Mitchell about Hoover. He feels that with the *Star* editorial calling for Hoover's resignation and the other pressures that are mounting, that we're going to have to move on it. The President talked to Hoover over the weekend, and he had told the President he would be happy to resign whenever the President, or the Attorney General, felt that he should. The President feels that we've got to work something out on this and do it fairly soon. Maybe the best idea would be to have Hoover retire on his 77th birthday, which is January 1. In any event, the President will talk to Mitchell on this. Later this afternoon we had a-- Oh! Another point on Hoover was that he got to thinking it would be a good idea to have a Congressional letter of support of Hoover, so we can build up some strength before we let him resign. Obviously, he can't resign now under pressure; so we've got to do something to shore him up, in order to get him out.

Later this afternoon, the President held a meeting with Stans, who also brought his Under Secretary Jim Lynn along. It was almost unbelievable. Maury had a whole wad of stuff he wanted to go through regarding businesses problems, and the President short-circuited him by listing the points that he had told Flanigan to get to work on in relation to business. Stans then proceeded to go through his whole prepared material, which covered exactly the same ground the President had already summarized; but Maury had to outline each of the problems and the reason for it, and then go through his whole list of suggested solutions. It didn't do Stans much good in the President's eyes, which is too bad. But it is just amazing how he could have the lack of sensitivity that was evidenced.

Late this afternoon, the President had Henry and me in, just a little talk before he went home for dinner. He reported on his meeting with Rogers, and Henry seemed to be pleased with that. We



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then got into a general talk about China policy. All of them very pleased because of the Ping-Pong exchange, which may be a good lead-in to our trade announcement on Wednesday.

The happenstance that the President met today with the Chinese Ambassador, and also with Anna Chennault, should make the press sit up and wonder what we're up to, and could be kind of intriguing. Henry feels that our whole policy and the current moves on China will help to shake the Soviets up, as will Brezhnev's need to make a big peace move of some kind, which should play in our favor for a SALT agreement and a Summit conference.

The President got to talking about timing on these. Rogers made the point to him that he felt we were at the bottom of our cycle now. We have all the worst behind us and can start moving our way upward, which is basically what the President and Henry also feel. He talked about his trip to meet with Thieu, which he'll be taking in June, and the hope that right after the demonstrations in the early part of May, we can announce the SALT Agreement and a little later announce the Summit meeting. Then make the Thieu trip in early June, get back and get to work on Summit planning, announce the "No more draftees in Vietnam" idea in mid-summer, have the Summit meeting right after Labor Day, and then a new troop announcement in December. All of which should carry us pretty far up the ladder. Henry's basically very optimistic on this. The big thing now is to make sure we get credit for all the shifts in China policy, rather than letting them go to the State Department, who of course, had nothing to do with it—in fact, opposed every step the President took because they were afraid any moves towards China would offend Russia.

End of April 12.