



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

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Friday, May 14.

A lot of discussion this morning about both the Mansfield amendment, NATO battle, and the SST thing. He wants to be sure that Scali and Kissinger understand that NATO is necessary and that we've got to win the vote, but we shouldn't kid ourselves into thinking it's a good, popular issue. He also got back on the point of who's in charge of the SST now until Magruder gets back, wanted to be sure Volpe was in on this. The-- Kissinger got all excited about the NATO thing, because Cy Vance told him that both Hubert and Muskie will support our position, and we want to move now to put them on the spot to really go for other votes. He was concerned about MacGregor's count on the deal there, and so forth.

On the plane going down to-- Let's see before we left, the President got into the Tower question. It turns out that Connally told the President at breakfast this morning that he had worked out the arrangement so that Barnes in Texas—the Lieutenant Governor—would run for Governor, and not against Tower for the Senate. This would be announced in the next few days. The general ploy is that Tower must run on his own, as will Barnes, as will the President, so that we don't get into a ticket thing. So Tower must avoid, at all costs, running a Governor candidate that would drag Tower and the President down. The President asked me to call Tower and tell him this, which I did. John, of course, was delighted, and it looks like we've got Texas pretty well set up now.

On the plane on the way down, the President got into some personnel questions. And after general discussion, we agreed that the best parlay would be to move Rumsfeld into the OEP position, let him keep his Cabinet status but not as a counselor and have Peterson take on the special trade representative job in addition to his present assignment, which was Rumsfeld's recommendation and sounds like a pretty good idea. He then got into the SALT question. He wants to set up Kissinger briefings, using Scali as Kissinger's advisor, first of all with the top three network guys—Sevareid, Chancellor, and Smith—and then with all the rest of the reporters



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in a large group. He wants to be sure Kissinger's disciplined on how to do this, so that we don't go wandering off in his usual fashion.

His big problem is trying to figure out how to tell Rogers about SALT, and it obviously really concerns him. He ended up telling me to call Rogers when we get to Key Biscayne; in fact, he wanted me to call him from the plane to say that the President has something, a development, coming up that he doesn't want to talk about on the phone, and that it may not gel in any event, but wants to know where Rogers will be late Monday or on Tuesday morning so that the President can meet with him and fill him on-- fill him in. He told me to throw Rogers off the track a little by saying I assume it's something regarding Vietnam, but that I shouldn't get into it and say that the President will want to see him on it. He also wanted Rogers to try to get Mansfield to withdraw his amendment on the basis of the Brezhnev statement and this development. I called Rogers after we got to Key Biscayne, covered this with him. He fell for it pretty well. He didn't think there was much chance of Mansfield withdrawing his deal, but he said he would try, and he seemed to be in pretty good spirits after his testimony today. He really blasted Fulbright, and I think the battle did him good in his own mind. He also said that Hubert and Harry Bird have both committed to vote with us on the Mansfield deal and to make a strong speech in favor of it, as Muskie already has. So he was pleased at that.

End of May 14.