



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

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Thursday, October 14.

President had no schedule today. It was set aside for unscheduled meetings with Connally, Kissinger, etcetera, getting ready for Henry's trip and following up on economic policy. He, nonetheless, spent the morning in the Oval Office, not conducting those meetings, but instead meeting with me, then with Ziegler in and out, with Colson, and with Ehrlichman. He discussed some of the Senate problems for instance, the corn situation is up for need for a decision, and he said to have Ehrlichman get the decision made and then the President would call Senator Curtis in and tell him about it. He wants MacGregor to set that up. He's particularly determined not to succumb to Jack Miller's demand for a meeting. He also wants to avoid meeting with the Senate candidates and wants the Attorney General to pick up on that. He raised some concern about the Mansfield Amendment. His feeling is that we should go now on a House vote while it's hot, rather than waiting, as some of the strategists think we should do because they're afraid we may not be able to hold the vote.

The Colson meeting mainly was a follow-up on what we're doing on the Efron book. The President's determined that we not let that die. He then got into some political discussion, specifically the Kennedy rise vs. Muskie, which does seem to be taking place now. Apparently Lou Harris had quite a few comments on this whole thing in his meeting with Chuck and the President yesterday.

Later this afternoon, the President had Henry and me over to the EOB for a discussion of the China trip. He went into the whole question of Pat Nixon going, making the point that people contact is more important than meetings in terms of public reaction here, and that Pat would be one way to get some good people pictures. So he wants Henry to raise the PN question. If she goes, then the President doesn't have to go out into the people. If not, he will have to. If she goes, she goes solely as a prop. No Mrs. Rogers along, or anything like that. Later, Henry summed it up that, at some point, he would discuss this with Chou alone, making the point of the enormous interest in America in Chinese people, and so on, that Mrs. Nixon would be going to Russia, but



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that we recognize the problem and we want them to be honest with us. This is an opportunity to convey the human side of the Chinese to the American people. Then Kissinger is to feel his reaction and not press it on him.

The President said at the beginning of the meeting, he wanted his schedule cut to three days and to stay in one city only, just Peking. He then expanded that to four, and then agreed to move it to five and to consider doing one other city for one day, maybe on the way out—hopefully, not overnight, unless the Chinese want it, and will give us publicity and get us on television and mean a big public reception. He points out that on TV the American President received by a million Chinese is worth a hundred times the effect of the communiqué, and that we're not to miss an opportunity for the Chinese to give a good welcome. There must be masses of Chinese people somewhere, and we must have some chance for pictures with the people. Or try-- Henry is to try to find some way to get color into the trip. He should point out to them the receptions the President received in Yugoslavia and Romania. He says sightseeing, no; Great Wall, no; people, yes.

Then he talked about the press and said in order: first, we have to have the ground station; second, the most important thing is TV, even if that means no writing press at all; third is the writing press; at the bottom of the list are the individual papers, then the magazines, then the wires. He talked about having to go to one pool on TV if necessary. In terms of our interest, TV and the wires are more important than Secret Service and WHCA. The President said he needs Monzon, and no one else, to take care of him. There should be only one doctor. Not one for the press. Then he grudgingly decided that we'll have to take women secretaries, but they will attend nothing, unless Mrs. Nixon is there, in which case, Rose can go. The only ones who have to attend public functions or formal functions are Kissinger, Rogers, and the President. We talked about the question of Mosbacher, and Henry says he'll resign if he doesn't get to go. The President took that on head-on at first, but then backed down, and I think we'll probably agree to let him go when we get right down to it.



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End of October 14.