



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

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Tuesday, October 19.

We had a number of discussions on appointments today. The NATO question was back up because Bob Ellsworth was in for a meeting. The President now wants to put Kennedy on the NATO assignment if he can. We also talked about Japan, the question of whether that is still available, and if it is, he wants to send Tex Thornton. I reviewed the final recommendations for candidates for the Price Board, including Kermit Gordon, and the President even agreed to putting him on, buying the recommendation on the basis of the Machiavellian approach that it traps them into being with us at Brookings.

And back into the Court again; he met again this morning with John Mitchell. He's now thinking of some different approaches and is not telling anybody what he's really up to, but he's forcing Mitchell to reevaluate. I think he's basically dropped the idea of Herschel Friday. He's decided now that, if the ABA gives Mildred Lilly a good rating, he'll go with her. If they don't, he'll drop her and blame them for it. So he wins either way. He seems to be intrigued with Howard Baker as a possibility, which was a suggestion that came in from Len Garment and that I passed on to him yesterday when I was making my pitch for looking for some more distinction.

He got into the Common Cause problem with Colson and me this afternoon. He feels-- apparently it came up at the Congressional leaders meeting this morning that Common Cause is very effective at getting letters into the Congressmen, and so on, in their lobbying effort. The President wanted us to try to do as good a job. Thinks we should regenerate our attack on Common Cause. That they're working now on the Mansfield Amendment, and they had done, apparently, a very effective job.

He had a Budget meeting this afternoon and, as a result of that, decided to have another long session with Ehrlichman on domestic priorities on Friday or Saturday and then another budget meeting, with Connally present, on Monday. He's, therefore, canceling his plan to go to Florida this weekend. He's been thoroughly enjoying throughout the day the possibility of coming down with a cold. Since he's not been outside or anything where he would normally catch one, he's



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decided that there is something to the virus theory and that he has caught Connally's virus, which seems to sort of please him also.

End of October 19, and end of this tape.