



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

National Archives and Records Administration, Online Public Access Catalog Identifier: 7787364

Thursday, November 11th. The President worked at the Residence this morning until time to come over and meet with Earl Butz, the new Secretary of Agriculture nominee, whom he announced this afternoon. He then went to Arlington Cemetery to place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the placement there of the Unknown Soldier. It was a nonspeaking ceremony, very impressive and came off very well. He then spent the rest of the day at the EOB in preparation for the press conference tomorrow, except for the Butz announcement at 4:00 this afternoon.

He had Henry and me over to discuss the European trip plans. We've got a problem now of a place to meet with the French, because Pompidou won't come to French Guyana and doesn't want to come anywhere in the Western Hemisphere.

DECLASSIFIED - E.O. 13526, Sect. 3.4: by MS, NARA, June 12, 2013
Audio Cassette 15, Side B, Withdrawn Item Number 11 [AC-15(B) Sel 8-1]
Duration: 42 seconds

The problem is, we want to see the three leaders—Brandt, Pompidou, and Heath—separately. And if we go over to Europe, we will have to do each of their countries, which would be highly undesirable, but may turn out to be necessary, if we can't get Pompidou to come over here. The President laid down some very firm rules that he will not visit any uncontrolled countries such as the Netherlands, and he doesn't want any trip after the Russian trip, and he doesn't want a trip to Europe if we can avoid it.

We left it that Henry would try and work it out with Pompidou, see what we could develop.



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That led into a discussion of the international economic situation. Kissinger kept raising the point that we have to settle the European economic situation. The President told him to talk with Shultz. They, he also told him to drop the Burns line regarding return to the gold standard, and so on. But Henry argues against Connally's strategy, because he thinks that we're linking structural problems with special interests and that this makes a mistake. He feels that Connally is like all Texans and is just basically anti-foreigner. He argues that we should state what we want to the other nations and then start negotiating on the basis of an established strategy. The President told Henry to see Connally immediately when he gets back, and to get into this with him. See if he can't get him lined up.

DECLASSIFIED - E.O. 13526, Sect. 3.4: by MS, NARA, June 12, 2013
Audio Cassette 15, Side B, Withdrawn Item Number 11 [AC-15(B) Sel 8-2]
Duration: 13 seconds

Henry made the point that the Europeans, unlike the Japanese, who are SOBs, are really more petty than evil, and that we've got to deal with them that way.

This led into a discussion of the Peterson problem and the fact that Peterson says a lot but concludes nothing. And that basically he's an operator, not a staff man, a tactician, not a strategist, and he just doesn't know what he wants to recommend. The President said he felt we should never have set up the Peterson deal to begin with. We should have just put an economic man in the NSC and set up a division there. He thinks that it's essential now that we have to



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move Peterson out and put Flanigan in that role, and told me to talk with the AG today about the necessity of doing that and getting Stans out quickly, so we can move Peterson to Commerce.

Henry is still going through a super series of flaps. He thinks that Laird has sabotaged us as usual on the troop withdrawal announcement for tomorrow by leaking a stronger position than the President is actually going to take. He also thinks that Rogers has declared total war on him and is maneuvering to sabotage him on all fronts, except Vietnam, which is an area that Rogers isn't interested in. He's convinced that they're moving on Middle East, India-Pakistan, and other areas without our knowledge, and it's driving him right up the wall. Probably some merit to it, but there's no way I can evaluate that.

The President called at 5:30 to say he didn't want any more phone calls, but both Rogers and Laird were trying to reach him and obviously just wanted to get in their views on the record before the group announcement thing. So he said to tell them he was tied up in a crisis on the Pay Board and wouldn't be able to talk with them this evening. We shifted the press conference tomorrow until 4:00 to give the President more time to prepare since we cut so heavily into the day with the agriculture deal, and he's going to do it in the press room on the film cameras.

End of November 11th.