



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

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Thursday, December 24. Correction: That's Friday, December 24.

I didn't go in the office today, as it was a holiday. The President was in a good part of the day, bouncing around, touching base with people. He called in the afternoon to say we were still dealing with the Kissinger problem. Basically, it's Rogers in India-Pakistan, but he's so blinded now that he can just see no good in Rogers at all. Apparently he had quite a tantrum with Ehrlichman this morning, and John then laid some of that out to the President, right in the middle of which, Kissinger burst into the President's office. So the President went through a big therapy session with Henry and then spent quite a long time talking with John about the problem afterwards. The President made the point to me that there's going to come a time when Kissinger's going to have to shape up and start worrying about the President, instead of worrying about himself. And he feels that Kissinger should now stay out of the line of fire and avoid backgrounders and the press, and that we should let Scali know that we'll get him out front at the proper time. I covered with the President my talk with Scali yesterday, which John expressed his view that Henry had really become so obsessed with all this stuff that he was irrational and thus doing some real harm that he was lying to, not only the press and Rogers, but also the President. The President didn't seem unduly concerned about that, and I don't think gives it too much credence, but does feel that we've got to find a way to deal with the Kissinger-Scali problem. So that was it, other than wishing me a Merry Christmas. And then he called me late tonight after the Julie show to ask how it had gone. I gave him the details on it, so he had something to talk to Julie about. Overall, it was a darn good half-hour program, and we came off extremely well, I think, which is what I told him.

End of December 24.