



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

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

Monday, January 10th. The dominating factor today was Kissinger problems again. Starting with a call this morning to me, he said he had talked to Laird on the troop announcement, and Laird was dragging his feet, saying the President couldn't go as high a number as he had planned, but he would review it and confirm this afternoon. He also said Laird was raving about all the papers that the Joint Chiefs got from us legally, and that what a big problem we had on that.

DECLASSIFIED - E.O. 13526, Sect. 3.4: by MS, NARA, June 12, 2013
Audio Cassette 17, Side B, Withdrawn Item Number 8 [AC-17(B) Sel 5]
Duration: 22 seconds

He also said he had had a call from Rabin, that he's been called into the State Department to discuss supplies and negotiations. And Henry says that if the President has any serious interest in going ahead with the, his plan on the Middle East, he's going to have to take the strong move with Rogers and get State under control.

He then got into his general basic problem again, saying that now he can't brief anymore because of terrible coverage he got in the magazines this week, and his credibility was destroyed, and so on. He abruptly at one point said he didn't choose to discuss it any further and hung up on me. He apparently immediately called the Attorney General, because I tried to, and it was busy. Then I got to him a few minutes later, he said he had been talking to Henry also.

DECLASSIFIED - E.O. 13526, Sect. 3.4: by MS, NARA, June 12, 2013
Audio Cassette 17, Side B, Withdrawn Item Number 9 [AC-17(B) Sel 6]
Duration: 13 seconds



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

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

And he suggested to Henry that he have Rabin go ahead and have his meeting with State, then report back to Kissinger, so we'll know what was covered. Then we can use this as a case history with Bill when the Attorney General and I meet with him.

Mitchell also said that in discussing this whole problem, Nelson Rockefeller had suggested the tactic of firing Sisco, which would give us great pluses with Kissinger, as well as with the Israelis. It would be retribution for what he said in the WSAG meetings, and all of our problems at the moment are in Sisco's ballpark, so this could be quite a good move. I filled the President in on these problems this afternoon over at the EOB, and he picked up the phone, called Laird, on the pretext of discussing Rush, and got that pretty well locked up, and then told him he's going to have to go for the 70,000 troop withdrawal. That they'll announce it Thursday morning, and he wanted Laird to go out to the press with the President. Henry had reported this to me earlier, saying as usual we're following our policy of rewarding traitors. The President said he wanted Laird to brief on the details after the President makes the announcement. And the President then told me to call Henry and tell him Laird was locked on the 70,000, completely on salvo, no problem. Also to tell Henry I had a good talk with Rush, and that Laird was going to work out things with him tomorrow. That he would be a tower of strength in the WSAG. He's delighted, he'll work closely with us, and he's very close to Mitchell, so on.

Then we discussed the whole Kissinger problem in considerable detail, as the President tried to untangle what can be done about it. He raised the question that really Henry's gotten past the point of basic stability to where he is no longer useful and maybe even dangerous. This is



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

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

something I think we do have to seriously consider. He said that the Attorney General and I should go to Rogers, but we should make the point that we have to keep the President out of it until the State of the Union. We should put the blame on Sisco, and suggest moving him to an ambassadorial post.

He wants to check out the idea of a State Department white paper on India-Pakistan, see if they can do it right. Then he said we should try to convince Rogers...

DECLASSIFIED - E.O. 13526, Sect. 3.4: by MS, NARA, June 12, 2013
Audio Cassette 17, Side B, Withdrawn Item Number 11 [AC-17(B) Sel 8]
Duration: 8 seconds

...to take the Israeli issue away from Kissinger by playing the part of being pro-Jewish, realizing that we have no choice in the matter anyway.

The President, in pondering the whole thing, also wondered about the question of how big an issue Kissinger is in the public mind, or whether this is just something that we're worried about internally. I talked to Kissinger a little later, and he said that the latest thing today, now, is that there are rumors all around that he's resigning, and he said the real question that they ask is why is a Presidential assistant under such attack with no word of support from his boss? He says that the leaking has provided the occasion for everybody in the State Department, etcetera, to brief the press. That Frankel, Valeriani, and Doyle all had the same story, obviously from a State Department source that was some anti-Nix--, anti-Kissinger story.



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

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

DECLASSIFIED - E.O. 13526, Sect. 3.4: by MS, NARA, June 12, 2013
Audio Cassette 17, Side B, Withdrawn Item Number 12 [AC-17(B) Sel 9]
Duration: 23 seconds

He said Rabin told him they are pressing to go back into negotiations. They are giving ground on the airplanes, which is what State is supposed to be doing. But, the real problem here is that they give us no advanced notice before they set up the meeting with Rabin. Henry says his authority is so shaken now that he can't handle the bureaucracy. We've got to hit them on the basis that they cannot call in Rabin without telling us.

He says we may be beyond the point where anything can be done, that there's clearly a major campaign working on the combination of leaks and briefings. The whole thing is a complete disaster. He said a senior official told Craswell and one other reporter, that Kissinger refused new instructions for SALT, because he was afraid that the Chinese would be mad and it would louse up the visit. Actually, the real reason he has held up on instructions for SALT, but that's because he wants to settle it after China, so that the President can sign the SALT agreement when he's in Moscow. He obviously has been talking to a lot of reporters and reading all the magazines and really suffering as a result.

Then the upshot later was that late this evening the Attorney General called me to say Nelson Rockefeller had just called him, and was extremely upset and very concerned, very apologetic for calling him. But said he had a traumatic call from Henry, who says now that he's quitting on the 27th. And Mitchell is wondering if he's trying to use Rockefeller for leverage or what, but



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

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

thinks we ought to get Haig, or someone, to go out and hold his hand. He, Henry apparently also said something to Rockefeller about the fact that there's no defense of him by his boss. Mitchell feels the President should find some excuse to call him, and that Ziegler should find a way to put something out about the President conferring with him and tie the Haig trip out there into this so that Henry gets some publicity, which, of course, is the thing that helps him the most.

On other subjects, we, the President got into substantial schedule changes. He's very anxious to clear his calendar, concentrating whatever he has to do into a few days and keeping a maximum amount of time open for study and preparation for his State of the Union speech, and the big Vietnam speech next week. He, we also discussed the Attorney General move. The President has been pushing for him not to move over to the campaign, but I made the point that he's really needed there, and the President agreed that we should then go ahead and get it worked out as quickly as possible. But, the problem as he saw it was that Ehrlichman says Kleindienst can't be confirmed, and Mitchell insists that Kleindienst be his successor.

End of January 10th.