



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

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

Wednesday, February 2nd. We got into a discussion at staff meeting this morning about approval or the textile agreement memo for approval, that's waiting from Peterson for the President's signature. The problem here is that the President has told Flanigan to pick up on this and follow-up with Connally to get the thing worked out Connally's way rather than Peterson's. The President talked to Flanigan a couple times today on this, then late this afternoon Peterson came in to tell me that he wanted to review several problems. First, that Flanigan can't handle the textile industry because Milliken and the others have said that they won't work with him. Second, the problem, there's a problem with Connally, with Kennedy's assumed role in Europe on the economy, and Peterson used that as a springboard to expand on the Connally problem, saying that he's very difficult to deal with, that he overreacted to the Vorst column, and kept Peterson out of the meeting, that there's a risk of tilting everyone else out of joint. State has been putting out a line to try and sink Connally or split Connally and Peterson. So Peterson's pitching that Kennedy be the textile man instead of Flanigan, and with the clear understanding that it's all cleared through Connally.

Flanigan came in a little later and said that Kennedy, he is the real problem bugging Connally and he thinks maybe the President should order that Peterson head the council thing on textile rather than Kennedy, but then he decided that really wasn't feasible, so we left it the way it was.

The President was somewhat disturbed with the Bob Semple piece in the *New York Times* on describing his day yesterday, because it concentrates on his seeing Boy Scouts, football players, and Republican governors. Makes it appear that he does nothing of substance, and he thinks we've overreacted in trying to get out the personal interest stuff. I think basically he's right.



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The big thing today was Muskie's speech. He was supposed to give an environment speech to a church women's group, and at the last minute changed it to what he billed as a major foreign policy address, and then used it as a platform to blast the President on Vietnam. We spent considerable time working on the approach to answering him, the feeling that we need to take him on pretty hard. The President wrote a memo covering some of the points he thought ought to be covered. We ended up having some Senators hit him today, and then Rogers is going to go at him hard tomorrow, if Scali's successful in getting him to do so. This will be a good chance to smoke Rogers out also on whether he really will do this. Before the NSC meeting this morning I got into a thing with the President and Henry about the latest Kissinger-Rogers flap...

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DECLASSIFIED - E.O. 13526, Sect. 3.4: by MS, NARA, June 12, 2013  
Audio Cassette 18, Side B, Withdrawn Item Number 13 [AC-18(B) Sel 6]  
Duration: 27 seconds

...regarding Rogers's plan to meet with Dobrynin. As a result of this, we made our point to the President and he's agreed to write a memorandum of instructions to Rogers regarding the meeting as a way to try to keep him in line and handling the thing the way we want him to.

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Late this afternoon we had a long talk at the EOB about the polls, particularly in the primary states, and about schedule planning for the year, and most particularly for March and April. The President's ranging back and forth on basic schedule approach. Had the idea today that we ought to go out to the country some, but not be concerned with the national television play. That we should just try to move the movers and shakers, work live audiences, on the basis that people are sick of so much stuff on television, and that we should do things live. Cahill got to him at the Governor's dinner last night, obviously, and made this pitch, suggesting that he come to New



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Jersey and meet with 100 of the top fellows at the Governor's residence, like the six top bishops of the church, etcetera. This probably would be a pretty good idea, and we're going to work up a plan on it, but the President then started to extend it to doing some political type rallies and all, which I strongly objected to, and I think he backed off of it. It was agreed that there shouldn't be that sort of thing, at least at this time. We left the meeting on the basis that he wouldn't get into anymore polls or that kind of planning until after China, but that we should be getting some plans developed for review when we get back. Then he wants to move quickly into some overt activity using that two month period for that purpose.

End of February 2nd.