



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

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Monday, February 7th. Feature of the day today was my blast on the Vietnam critics, which appeared this morning on the Today show. Escalated gradually during the day to the point where it ended up being the lead story on all three TV network news's tonight. Mansfield has blasted me, Scott's defended me, and the thing has turned into quite a donnybrook. Ziegler was concerned about how to handle it, but seems to have come out all right in trying to sort of semi-waffle it, in the middle between repudiating me and escalating the attack.

The President made a point late this afternoon, when I was over at the EOB, of getting a chance to tell me not to worry about the whole thing. That it would blow away, and it was his very thoughtful way of trying to make sure I wasn't worried about it, which basically I wasn't.

We had a session, with Ehrlichman and Rose in part of it, regarding the Don Nixon problem this morning. That's come back up now, because Don's now demanded that he see the President this week, and he's going to go see Anderson also. It was agreed that Ehrlichman should talk first to Bill Marriott, tell him the facts regarding Anderson, that he wrote all the anti-Nixon stuff and so on—that we cannot allow Don to see Anderson under any circumstances. Tell him that the AG, no, then, Don, John reported that the AG had called John and said that Don Nixon should see Anderson, but then he reversed it and said he would turn it off when John gave him some of the facts on the thing.

The President made the point that he has to save himself as the big gun for the big problems, therefore, he can't even know what's going on with the Don Nixon calls. Maybe Ehrlichman and the AG should talk to Don, after Marriott has stomped on it. He pointed out that money's no object, maybe the thing to do is get him a retainer of some kind, a couple thousand a month to keep him out of all political and public activities.



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Later in the day, Ehrlichman discovered that Don had already talked to an Anderson reporter who he thought was just a personal friend of Johnny Meyers from the Howard Hughes organization. So he spilled the whole bundle of stuff to him, which Anderson has and is going to run in a series of three columns starting later this week. Don now knows this and that's why he feels he has to see Anderson. So it's left that Ehrlichman, the Attorney General, Rose, and I are going to meet with Don and Eddie on Wednesday, and just...

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Continuing Monday, February 7th, talking about the Don Nixon question. We ended up agreeing that Don would have to just be completely turned off and handled basically very brutally.

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Kissinger was in late this afternoon and reported that he had had a good session with Dobrynin, and had a letter from Brezhnev. The Soviet cooperation etcetera appears to be working out very well, so he's very pleased about that. The President then got into a long chat with him on this whole China business. And in the process pulled out Henry's memorandum of conversation with



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Chou En-lai, and with great glee pointed out some of the historical errors that Chou had made in there, which, to the President, proved that Chou's great intellect, which so enormously impressed Kissinger, was subject to some flaws. I think he kind of enjoyed catching him in these and particularly enjoyed pointing them out to Kissinger.

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He has to go to the 1990 conference dinner tonight, so he sat around the EOB until fairly late. Kept Henry and me there, just to talk about sort of odds and ends; seemed to be in a pretty good mood, as he's gradually getting himself into gear for doing his tough homework on China. Right now, he's primarily simply reading the background books, etcetera to get a basic flavor of the whole thing.

End of February 7th.