



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

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Friday, February 11.

President had me come over early this morning about 9:00. Wanted to get into the basic line for our people to use: mainly that we've got to make the point that the Democrats-- that we've got to be careful that the Democrats don't succeed in making the point that they're more for peace than we are. The answer there is that they're prolonging the war, and hurting the peace. The answer with Muskie is, who has the best credentials: those who stood silently by while we were getting into the war and the deaths were going up, or those who were part of the group-- and those who were part of the group that got us in, or those who were getting us out? Who are you going to trust, the one who stood by silently while we were getting in, and now criticizes the peace or the one who said he would get us out and is doing so? Somehow, in other words, we've got to get over that we're more for peace than they are. Another problem is they'll hit the point of Nixon trying to keep Thieu in power, and we don't want to get the argument on to this basis. We can't let them make Thieu the issue, and we need to figure out how we get off of that. We have to make the issue of their sabotage of the peace plan, and not let the issue be the preservation of Thieu.

The other principal point discussed this morning was the upcoming Rogers confrontation. The President feels again as he has before that he may have to bite the bullet on Rogers, but I should talk to him first. Then he backs off of that and says we've just got to find a way to fuzz it, and ride through it till after the election, and I think that's right, I don't see any way that we can bite the bullet on it now. President then adjourned that meeting, and shortly late-- afterwards left with Connally and Bebe for Walkers Cay for tonight.

End of February 11.