



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

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

Monday, March 20.

We got into some political follow-up. The President wanted to assure Ehrlichman gets moving on the *Pentagon Papers*, getting some attacks started now. He thinks we ought to get a column following up on Church's attack on Ambassador Watson, saying that the State Department has the files on lots of Congressmen and Senators who are guilty of disgraceful conduct abroad and if the Senate wants to investigate, we'll open the whole pot for them. He feels our only hope is attack, not defense, and that we should be moving on that basis.

He's concerned about the *Life* article out today, and that he can't figure out how they found out some of the things they've got. Our general analysis is that Gleason must be the leak on it. He's concerned that we've let China dissipate as an issue because we didn't exploit it, that we have to be blatant about these and we need something to build them up, our strong suit is foreign affairs, and we need to figure out how to play it.

Also, got to thinking that we should move all the political operations, primarily Colson, out of the White House, and into Mitchell's operation. The White House has the aspect of appearing to use the superpower of government unfairly; he sees a campaign building up on this, as evidenced by Ziegler's problem on it, and that we've got to get Colson less visible because he offends people and rides too hard.

On the plane going up to New York for the drug trip, he came up with the idea of a club for the group that made the trip called the "New China Hands", in contrasts to the "Old China Hands" with the idea of the symbol being the handshake, and the point being made that the old hands knew everything but-- about China, but yet knew nothing, whereas the new China hands know nothing about China, yet know everything. With Nixon as President, Pat Nixon as the Chairman. Wants to have a party for the press, adding the members of the Kitchen Cabinet and all of the press we'll be taking to Moscow.



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

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

Gridiron was a big issue again today, because Ziegler raised the point that the women are up in arms, and also Pat and Julie both hit him on the fact that he should not go, it would be a very bad thing for him to do. So he was getting the feeling again that he should back off of it, and started doing some checking on that, and he decided he shouldn't go that we should try to get the VP to do it, on the basis that it would be very helpful if the Administration. He's getting good press now, and it would help his press, and that we'll play into the hands of the radicals if we're not represented. The President thinks he ought to do it.

I tried that on the Vice President, he played back to me the point that the President had told him in writing he didn't have to do it this year, and he argued that neither of them should do it that we shouldn't play into the press's hands at all or try to cultivate them, that there's no hope anyway. He then told me to call Bill Rogers and get his view, and Rogers said that he felt the President definitely should not go, and he really thinks the [Vice] President should, but if neither of them goes, then either Connally or Rogers should, and it ought to be Connally. Thinks we should be careful not to have an Administration boycott. Thinks it would be especially vicious this year, probably heavy on ITT. He emphasizes that you won't lose a damn thing by not going, and then suggested that the Chief Justice could respond for the President that he doesn't mind the Gridiron and would be good at doing it. I played that back to the President, he liked the idea, and made the decision he won't go, he won't make the VP go, he will have Burger do the response, and so that's where that was left. It was interesting the way everybody I discussed it with copped out for himself and passed the buck to someone else.

The drug trip to New York went pretty well, but the President felt that we were reaching too far. That we have a problem of finding the right things to do that aren't too obvious, which he felt this really was. On the drug penalties question, he called on the trip for the stiffest penalties. And Ron was concerned that it might be interpreted as death penalty, but he made the point that his idea was there should be no reduction of penalty for drug pushers, the prosecutors should ask for the highest penalty under the law. Too many are getting off with a slap on the wrist. He told Ron to use exactly that line.



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

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

He had some discussion with Colson on the ITT thing, not much developing today, except that the FBI has now partially refuted at least the typewriter expert's testimony.

Rogers raised with me the question of his memo on Moscow, said he wanted to simply avoid the thought that State can't be advised because they can't be trusted, that he doesn't think the Staff realizes that under the law that State has the re-- State Department has the responsibility, the Secretary does. The other Departments can't start exploration with other governments without going through the Secretary of State, therefore he wants to be informed, and he says "I'm going to find out all that's possible about whatever one is doing, I'll be goddamned if I'll operate in the dark". For instance, the Commerce Department's last negotiations with the Soviets, we had to back out on because they done them illegally. He said he was sending a memo to the President on this, and we need to get the word out. For example, he's heard the Secretary of Agriculture's going to Moscow, and he thinks he should be in touch with him. So on. Still worrying about his own position rather than how to be of assistance to the President.

End of March 20.