



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

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Wednesday, March 22nd. The President spent the day at the EOB, preparing for his press conference. He had me over at 11:00, reviewing mostly trip plans and general foreign policy questions vis-à-vis our political needs. He wants to be sure that I go to work on Haig and Henry, through him, to make the point that some of the decisions have got to be made on the basis of the effect they'll have on the election. For example, the President feels strongly he should go to Poland after the Russian trip, while Henry is equally strongly opposed to doing that, so we've got to convince Henry that his position isn't right. It's going to be hard to do.

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Henry feels that the Russians are trapping us in a sense in the Poland thing, by trying to get us crosswise on the German treaty negotiations...

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...but, the President's view is that the political benefit here, of a stop there, greatly overrides the risks. The same would apply to the question of whether Marshall Green does something about the press follow-up on his Asian trip to get China back in the news, which Henry's also opposed to. We got into some discussion of the Canadian trip, and the questions of whether the President should address their Parliament, which he thinks he probably will do because it's a good chance to talk about his China-Soviet initiatives, and shift to the world peace issue.

The other big item today was the AFL-CIO walkout from the Pay Board, which they did at about noon. Shultz and his crew met all afternoon and we all went over to the President's at about 5:00



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to report on it. This was a meeting with Connally, Shultz, Rumsfeld, Stein, Colson, Ehrlichman, and me. Shultz reported the status that Fitzsimmons was going to stay on, but Woodcock would probably go off, but we hadn't known that yet, and that the public members had a press conference this afternoon, shooting down Meany's allegations regarding the failure of the Pay Board. And on the consumer price index, even though food is up badly, the areas that are under the control mechanism are okay, so we actually come out pretty well. He then said the possibilities for our action now are to drop to a five man public board, but it would be difficult to kick Fitzsimmons off when he's indicated he wants to stay on. So the recommendation is to stick with the five public members, keep Fitzsimmons as a labor member, and keep one business member to counterbalance him. Call it a seven-man public board, but if Woodcock stays go five, two, and two. The President agreed with this but felt it wasn't a good idea to wait to see what Woodcock is going to do. That we shouldn't have a vacuum, and that we should have an announcement on it tomorrow. So they agreed to put it to Woodcock tonight to try and get a decision from him. The President then said how he was going to kick Meany in the ass on this. He doesn't care how the labor people vote, the country's too important to let them get away with this. He told Colson to get to the construction industry guys and make sure they hang with us, because we don't want to polarize labor versus government. Then he made the point that we can't allow Meany to thumb his nose at the country. Connally said he thinks the President should make the statement rather than Connally doing it, which was also suggested, but Connally will do it if that's what people feel is best. The President decided he'd make a statement and agreed with my recommendation that he should do it on TV. So he'll do it at 4:00 tomorrow and then do his press conference on Friday so as to separate the two stories. Then it was decided to release a more complete written statement, because the one he does for TV will be very brief. He wants to be sure that the statement has heavy rhetoric with a kick in the ass for Meany. That we have to have a devil, and he's a good one. He then came up with a couple good quotes. He said the only thing that bothers me about this is thinking about all those free breakfasts that I gave the son of a bitch. His other thing, in referring to Humphrey in the fact that he was playing in concert with



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Meany group, on this issue and on busing. The President said, Hubert is modern music with all the discords, he won't stay in tune no matter what.

It was agreed to call a meeting of the Cost of Living Council at 3:00 tomorrow, and then the President would meet with them and go out at 4:00 to the press room, and make his announcement. Ziegler should say in the morning that the President should meet with the Cost of Living Council, and then have an announcement at 4:00, and that he's made his decision, so it sounds like he's got it set. It was decided that Rocco Siciliano is the one to keep on as the businessman, although Biaggini would be better, but he wants to get off the board anyway. The President emphasized the need for some follow-up orchestration, that we're in a battle now, and everybody's got to get into it.

He's decided to drop his Florida trip, because he doesn't think it's right for him to go off to Florida when we're in the middle of this kind of a flap, so he'll go to Camp David Friday night instead.

End of March 22nd.