



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

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

Tuesday, April 4.

Well, we're back at the Catholic speech again today. Problem still being to decide whether to go and if so what to say. President wanted Ehrlichman to get on top of it, have him go over to Connally and get his view, but Connally got sick and went home. Meanwhile, Ehrlichman saw the opportunity to drop the whole speech but Colson kept fighting and the net result by the end of the day was we were back with a speech that's probably going to be acceptable, but I still won't go ahead and schedule it, we'll wait for tomorrow morning.

Got into several political discussions, President's concerned that we've got to get moving on the attack, that we should have someone attacking Muskie as a defeatist because he's saying that we shouldn't react to the Vietnam attack by the enemy. He thinks we should get Tower or someone to hit him on this, that we shouldn't let him build that line about just getting out of Vietnam. That it shows no concern for the POW's or protection for the 70,000 GI's that are still there. We make the point that the President has the responsibility for these people and that our continued withdrawal can only go if South Vietnam is able to hold. He told me to call Hersch-- Bruce Herschensohn at the USIA and tell him the President stood behind him and very-- was very pleased with what he'd done in attacking Fulbright and resigning from the USIA.

He's concerned that we really move on tying the Democrats to big business with the contributions to Humphrey in '68, the deals Muskie's made, the antitrust fixes in the previous administration, the use of ITT airplanes, and all that sort of stuff. We met with Mitchell today and went over the key-state things but the main discussion was on whether to move the Convention. Mitchell has now concluded that we probably should move it to Miami. We'll base it on the problem with the arena in San Diego, but actually Mitchell's main reason is the cost figure and the demonstration probability.

President's also concerned about giving our list of contributors out, thought we should try to work out a better statement than we're using. I talked with Mitchell about that and he feels that



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we've got to stay with exactly what we've got and just play it cool, that the President should relax and not worry about it.

The President came out with a plea today that we cut off Osborne and Sidey completely, primarily because of the stuff in the news summary pointing out their adverse reaction to his press conference. He thinks we should spend the time that's now spent seeing them on seeing the guys that are favorable to us.

The Vietnam action goes on today. President has moved in quite strongly according to Henry in taking control. He really banged Moorer around yesterday on the Air Force's inability to get moving. Problem is they keep saying that the weather is such that they can't bomb. The President's massing a huge attack force, Naval ships for gunning from the sea, and tremendous number of additional bombers, and he's going to start using B-52s for the first time to bomb North Vietnam as soon as the weather clears. We'll base the bombing on the violation of the DMZ and move in hard. He feels that this will give us a fairly good chance at negotiations, which he has never really felt we've had up to now, but thinks they're doing this as a desperation move and then will go to negotiate. Henry has the same view.

End of April 4.