



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

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Thursday, April 13.

President stayed up at Camp David last night and didn't come down until a little after noon today. I slept in and got to the office late. When I arrived at 10:00, I found urgent messages from Ehrlichman and Shultz, and I learned that there had been a big flap with Connally regarding the plan for a Troika plus a Council of Economic Advisors meeting this afternoon. Turns out that our PR planning group had decided it would be a good idea to bring Johnnie Walters in to get a little publicity on the IRS efforts on over-withholding, and they'd gone ahead and contacted Walters, who had then gone and contacted Connally before Parker got to Connally to clear it. As a result of this, Connally blew his stack, called all of them and raised all kinds of hell. Called Steve Bull and said he wanted to see the President. So I called John as soon as I got the facts on the matter, tried to explain it all to him, he was very upset, made the point strongly to me that that was the last straw, he'd had it and he was through. I went through the whole rationale about how he couldn't do this and all that, but he at least says that he feels there's clearly a conspiracy, or at least a series of actions against him by the White House staff. And he named Kissinger with some meeting he had on Chile, Ehrlichman, Shultz, Stein especially, Flanigan. And that there's just too much participation by other people, that everybody calls his people and issues orders to Treasury and so on. He wants to run the Department himself, he will not take orders from the White House staff, their judgment's not as good as his, he's got a good track record in Treasury and obviously some of our people don't think so, and he's not going to stay around and fight them, he's going to get out. He was firmer and madder than he's been before on this, and we had quite a long talk on the phone but I didn't really get anywhere. I debated whether to inform the President of this before the Canada trip (Connally said not to), but told me I could if I decided it was best.

So this afternoon, President had me over at the EOB for a while and I did tell him about it, and it obviously concerned him a great deal. He raised a lot of questions of points to be covered which I'd already covered. And I argued strongly that we shouldn't do anything further but rather let Connally float over the weekend and then see what we do on Monday, which the President



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agreed to, although I think he felt it would have been better to take some action to try and solve the thing.

We-- Kissinger came in and the President reviewed the Canadian Parliament speech with him. Henry asked that he cut out the sentence about the fact that nations that supply arms to other nations bear the responsibility for what those other nations do with the arms, that direct dig at Russia on the current Vietnam action. Henry argues strongly that we should not initiate an attack on Vietnam in the public relations area but it's OK to hit back if we're attacked.

Henry reported that Rogers is talking to Laird about the B-52 strikes. Both of them are backing into a position so that they can bounce both ways. If the opinion goes against us, they can say they were against it, if it works out satisfactorily, they can say that they had been right with it all along. Sort of a typical maneuver. The President ordered some additional strikes and pushed Henry hard for developing some other even stronger action in the next few days in terms of bombing action, blockading, etcetera. The President and Henry agreed that they should drop the press conference for next week and the ASA Q&A because as of now Henry is going to go to Moscow secretly on Monday night to meet with them on Vietnam, at their request prior to his meeting on the 24th in Paris. So that changes the picture some.

After Henry left there was some discussion as to how Rogers should be informed on this, and we agreed that Kissinger should do it, or Kissinger and I together give him the whole story on the trip. Telling him that Brezhnev sent a message to the President asking Kissinger to come to Moscow before he went to Paris and explaining that this is what Henry's doing, it has bearing on the trip, etcetera. Henry's canceled his Japanese trip, so he'll be around this weekend, then he'll head for Moscow midweek next week.

We took off for Canada at 5:00, arrived for the standard arrival ceremony and then into the guest house and a white tie dinner. I sat next to the Finance Minister Turner, who is an extremely impressive young guy of 42, very handsome, very articulate, consummate politician, left-wing type but very admiring of the President and a guy that will undoubtedly be a factor in the future.



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End of April 13.