



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

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

Sunday, April 16.

The President called at about 12:30 and I asked how church was. Said, "Well, it's always good for the soul to take an hour off once in a while." He commented that the strikes, the B-52 strikes, were exceptionally effective, the best ever in the war. That the Pentagon was jumping up and down. We really left a good calling card. Now he's knocking off the bombing while Henry takes his trip. Then they'll see what they do from there. He says Rogers is prepared to take a hard line in his testimony on Monday to attack the attackers. He commented that Humphrey was really absurd in his idea of turning it over to the UN Security Council, overlooking the fact that Russia and China are both on the Council and will veto it.

Said he was going to go to Camp David, coming back tomorrow in time for the Cuomo luncheon, but as the weather developed during the day, he wasn't able to go, so he stayed here and spent most of the afternoon calling me on and off. He raised the Connally question in the first call, said he probably should see him on Monday, but he'd wait and see how that worked out. Thinks I should talk to him first and lay the groundwork, and that if he is going to go, he shouldn't do it before the Summit, because that would weaken the President's hand. But it would be a good time for him to do it right afterwards. Says he's got to keep free of all the knick-knacks stuff this week, except maybe the Cabinet meeting, which he might do. Having Moorer and Laird brief the Cabinet officers on the military situation, maybe have a Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet at the Pentagon to do that. He, on a later call, raised the point of the Apollo shot, said they'd gotten off all right, and he watched that on TV and did his duty there. He obviously doesn't have much interest in it.

Then he raised the point of Kleindienst and IT&T. Said we'd have to decide on Thursday what to do on that. I told him about the Flanigan ploy that Colson and MacGregor were recommending, that is, that we let Flanigan testify only on the Ramston matter and try to make a deal with Ervin on that basis, recognizing that he'll undoubtedly turn it down, but then use the turndown as the means for Kleindienst to withdraw. And do it Monday before Gleason testifies to avoid that



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testimony. The President agreed with that, said we should make the deal today, not wait until tomorrow, we should get the story riding without any delay, and we should get Kleindienst to withdraw tomorrow and close the hearings if the deal isn't taken.

I then called Mitchell. He said he was going to present a similar pattern on Monday but he felt we needed to carefully define the germaneness of Flanigan's testimony and see if we'd come out all right. He wanted Fannin to work on Ervin to try and work out a deal because he thinks there's a real chance of Ervin accepting it and our getting Kleindienst through that way. The theory being that Ervin would be happy to have a way out of this now. Mitchell says that Gleason is definitely not going to testify until Tuesday, and maybe not until Wednesday, so he'll have time to work it out and so he's in basic agreement.

I then talked to the President again who said we should go ahead, that Fannin should get to Ervin immediately, get the offer worked out. If it's not done, make the public offer and then move quickly ahead on it.

I then talked to Colson and MacGregor. Colson was concerned that Ervin would start negotiating regarding Timmons and Ehrlichman, but we'd just say no on that. He figures there's only a one in ten shot of this working and MacGregor figures there's no chance of it working but if it does we haven't solved the Gleason problem, which, of course, is true, but at least we'd have the Kleindienst hearings cleaned up. The main point, they felt, was that we had to make it clear to Mitchell that if it fails we've got to have Kleindienst move on Monday.

I talked to the President again, he said he was concerned that Mitchell was going too far to try to confirm him instead of to make the setup so that we can pull him out. He wanted to be sure that the Kleindienst speech was drafted and ready to go, get the work done on the plan for that.

He talked to Mitchell a couple of times later and the President called a couple of times for progress reports, finally Mitchell told me to see him at 7:30, that Ervin was at the space shot and



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not back yet. Fannin and Mardian are ready to talk with them. Said no problem with Flanigan on his testimony, so we can go ahead on making the offer. So that's where it stands as of now.

End of April 16.