



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

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Tuesday, April 18th. Back to the Kleindienst strategy again, mainly concerned about the steps to keep Gleason out of testifying, offering other people, and so forth, trying to develop a plan that will work there.

We're going ahead with the Flanigan testimony. That's now set for Thursday. We've got to deal with Ervin on our terms, and actually, even a little better, through a committee vote.

I had a long meeting with Connally this afternoon, over two hours, covering the resignation question. He's obviously determined that he's got to go. He admitted that a lot of the problem he has with the White House staff is his fault and that the way he works, he wants to control everything that affects him. He will not allow others to make decisions for him, and especially he will not allow low-level staff people whose judgment isn't as good as his to do so. He assured me that he would leave on a very sound political basis. He has no intention of supporting any of the Democrats, and in fact suggested that he could, after the Convention or the primaries, perhaps surface as the Chairman of the Democrats for Nixon or something of that sort. I'm convinced after the discussion that it's better for him to go. That we're going to continue to have relational problems with him and that they will deteriorate, as he feels, into a point where at some point he's going to blow up and walk out mad, which would be highly undesirable. If he leaves and stays solid politically and is willing to spend time counseling and speaking for the President, as he says he is, he perhaps could do more than he can at Treasury, so we may be gaining rather than losing on the whole thing. He completely agreed with my suggestion of Shultz as his replacement, and we're going to go ahead on that basis, as far as he's concerned. We had a good talk. I think he is leaving for a combination of reasons rather than any single thing. The staff problem is one factor, but it's obvious he's concerned about his health, he thinks his blood pressure is up and he's doing a lot of doctor checking. He's, Nellie wants to get back to Texas. He's concerned about his ranch and financial interests. And I just don't think he likes Washington



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very well. I reported all this to the President and he asked me to meet with Connally again tomorrow to work out the details, then the President will meet with him on Thursday.

Kissinger came in with a fascinating story. He had a message yesterday afternoon...

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DECLASSIFIED - E.O. 13526, Sect. 3.4: by MS, NARA, June 12, 2013  
Audio Cassette 20, Side B Withdrawn Item Number 20 [AC-20(B) Sel 18]  
Duration: 1 minute 3 seconds

...saying that the Chinese had a message to deliver in New York. It had to be delivered at 1:00 am last night. Henry tried to get the time changed, but they wouldn't do it. So he finally agreed to receive the message. Sent someone up to get it, stayed up 'till 2:30 to get the report on it. He was afraid that they were cancelling the Scott-Mansfield trip or the ping-pong team visit today, or something worse. Turned out that the note said that the Chinese wanted to point out that when our bombers went to bomb Hanoi and Haiphong, one of them flew over a Chinese island, and the Chinese request that in the future we not fly over their islands on such missions. This was a laughably and surprisingly mild protest under the circumstances, and leads, lends further credence to the point that we're having an effect by our hard line.

The Russians still want Henry to come. The North Vietnamese still apparently will not meet with him on Monday.

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So as of now, our efforts appear to be working in the way we want them to. The President went out tonight on the *Sequoia* all alone. It was a beautiful spring evening for the first time and I guess he couldn't resist the lure.

End of April 18th.