



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

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Friday, April 21.

He called Ehrlichman and me over at noon for a three-hour meeting at Camp David. Obviously he had nothing particularly in his-- on his mind. We got into a long discussion about Cabinet meetings making the point that he wasn't going to go to many of them for the rest of this year. He wants some held with the Vice President presiding, he thought we ought to use Camp David for some of these and also use Camp David for campaign people to meet, but all of these without the President.

He then got into a discussion of who we keep in the Cabinet. The only one he feels important-- certain to be kept is Richardson, but not necessarily at HEW. He thinks we should watch Butz, Hodgson, and Peterson carefully with the idea that one or more of them might be keep-able. He says definitely Romney, Volpe, Morton, Rogers, Laird, and Kleindienst should go. Told Ehrlichman to work towards setting up a Cabinet meeting without the President, or while the President is in Russia, having Mitchell conduct it to get into the campaign thing, telling him that they have to work without the President for the rest of this year. Made the point that in the new Cabinet he's not going to consider any Eastern establishment people, except possibly Richardson.

He then got into a general political discussion following Colson's theory of McGovern being a real possibility for the nomination. Either he or Teddy Kennedy as the far left candidate. The President says this would not cause him to move to the center, as many suggest, because we can't compromise principle. We would rather make it possible for the people in the center to move to the President, since the alternative would be the far left. He talked to John about working on the Democratic platform when it's adopted, costing it out and hitting them on all the things that would have to be done as a result of that.

Then he got into Kissinger's point on the liberal establishment, that we can end the war and do everything else that they ask and they'll still be against us, not because of the Hiss case and that kind of thing, but because Nixon's not one of them and won't pay attention to them. He thinks we made the mistake in the first two years of talking to all the liberals and so forth where there's no



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hope of winning or changing them. We have to build the new establishment and should work along that line. The only way we can fight the whole press problem, he feels, is through the Colson operation, the nutcutters, forcing our news and in a brutal vicious attack on the opposition. You have to figure that 90-10 are against us, so we have to be 90-10 better in what we put out. It's harder to shape up the television, but we can have a big effect on local TV. We have to get the station owners and managers alerted, make them realize what their news people are doing. Got into the Sidey/Osborne question again, he's just determined to cut them down and to create a new establishment.

So we got to the point of trying to get rid of all the Presidential commissions and boards that we can. And in any event, those that we keep, the President-- it should be clearly understood the President will not meet with them.

End of April 21.