



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

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Friday, May 19th. The President is still at Camp David this morning. He left about 8:15, made the visit to Wallace, and then came on in to the office.

At the staff meeting we had a pretty good run down on the status of things: we're moving to take a hard anti-busing position in the Congressional conference today. The House is going to pass revenue sharing next week. It's going to be very light attendance at the Leadership Meeting today because they've all gone home for Friday. Our guys think they can beat Mansfield amendments when they come up in the Senate next week. We're going to have a good consumer price index today, only about .2 percent and food is down .2 percent, and turned out to be a pretty good meeting.

When the President got in he was in a terrible mood, at least by the time he got to me, which was after his meeting with the Vice President. The Vice President apparently really hit him on the problem of our limiting targets in Vietnam, and so on. The President jumped all over me, then Ziegler, then Kissinger in various successions. He was furious when Ziegler raised the point that Rogers was going to have a press conference today but it was too late to stop it.

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So he said to get out the story that Rogers, at the NSC meeting, had said the mining would sink the summit. And because Rogers now is apparently getting out a line, or, at least, someone in the press carried it that the White House was saying the summit was lost, but the State Department said it was going to go on. He's also furious because Laird and Abrams cut out the leafleting



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drop. He told Kissinger to call SINCPAC, tell them that he was very upset, and to do something about it. He's concerned about the SALT agreement, because it's going to look too weak to the Hawks. Kissinger argues that we can sell them on the basis that it would be more inferior otherwise. The President doesn't believe that's going to sell. He's very distressed because the whole propaganda operation is a total wash out in Vietnam—has been sabotaged by Defense. He wants to get rid of Helms. All of this covered in a devastating memo he dictated today, which is in the file.

He spent some time on Connally's trip plans. Talked to Connally on the phone, told me he wanted to go, to leave the day after the President returns to go to Columbia, Brazil, Argentina, and Peru, plus New Zealand and Australia, then some place in Europe. I suggested Rome because of Nellie's interest in Florence, so that's probably what he's going to do. He's supposed to take a Presidential plane and do it really first class. He called me again, tonight as a matter of fact to follow-up on the details on that.

He had the press reception late this afternoon after the leadership meeting. He did a superb job of briefing the press, although Henry was upset because he felt the President had oversold the possibilities. But Ziegler felt it had gone extremely well, and I think he really put the press in a good mood, because he gave them a good feel of what the trip was about and what to expect.

End of May 19th.