



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

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Tuesday, November 7.

The President got into some discussion early this morning about the reaction to the TV last night. He says Manolo thought it was the best that the President has ever done on television-- this was the election eve tape that we produced yesterday. Manolo's point was that the President was talking only to me, and that's the best way for him to talk on television. That lead the President to the need to look at the documentaries, and put together one really good hour documentary on foreign policy and the breakthrough for peace.

He got into a lot of miscellaneous political items, checking on whether we got all our "get out the vote" stuff going. The need for a game plan tonight on calls for him to receive, and calls to make. He needs to determine what he should do, wanted to be sure we got the letters to contributors and the mementoes out. He'll spend part of the time in the Lincoln Room tonight and was not sure exactly how he'll go at using his time through the evening.

On the plane going back to Washington, he got into a sort of review of personnel and Cabinet, the question of what John Connally thinks of Roy Ash, and what we can use him for. He wants Chappie James as his military assistant, thinks that's an ideal place to put a black in a high White House spot. Wants to put a Catholic VFW man in the veteran's affairs.

I raised the point with him-- in this conversation, because it seemed to be the right time-- that I thought he ought to seriously consider letting Ehrlichman and me resign, and get a complete new posture as far as the close-in White House staff is concerned. He obviously has to keep Henry for a while because of the ongoing foreign policy activity, but I made the case that he would be better off changing John and me. He didn't buy it, and I rather suspected that he wouldn't. But it was a good idea to have raised it. He makes the point-- or I made the point that both of us are tarnished, not just the campaign scandal question, but more importantly the problems of isolation of the President, riding roughshod on Congress and on the press, and so on-- and that he could clean a lot of that up by changing us. He made the point that from his side, some of us were essential to stay on, and that John and I would be in that category. That he wouldn't be able to



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function with new people in those jobs -- where he can in some others -- and, therefore, it's worth paying the price of the negatives, which he said he had thought about and recognized the validity of the points that I was making. He did say that he thought Flanigan was one for whom it was not worth paying the price, and also, that Chapin fell in that category, and that both of them would have to go.

We got into quite a broad general review of personnel, Cabinet staff, and so on. His feeling as to what he wants to do which generally sorts out that he's ambivalent -- to a degree at least -- about Rogers, whether he will keep him or not, although he realizes he shouldn't. He's inclined to think now that he should keep Kleindienst, along the lines of MacGregor's recommendation, and he's interested in considering Rush, or maybe Rockefeller, for Defense. Doesn't really know what he wants to do at State, if he does let Rogers go, thinks maybe we can keep Butz in Agriculture, should drop-- definitely drop Hodgson in Labor, and bring in a Catholic Democrat labor man for that post. Of course, Romney is going anyway, and he wants to force Volpe out. He's somewhat ambivalent about Rog Morton -- can't quite decide whether he should stay or not -- and definitely feels that Peterson should go at Commerce, because he just doesn't feel comfortable with him or trust him. He was satisfied that we were getting ready to move on that whole project, and seems to be willing to leave that to us for follow-up at Key Biscayne after the election.

We got back to the White House, and all the staff were out to greet the President on the steps. It was quite a cheery thing after the long flight across the country. The President went right to the Residence and had dinner with the family, and we got set up for the election night processing. Unfortunately, we totally over-organized on data-processing and analysis, and totally under-organized for just getting the simple returns in a form that we can get them to the President quickly and understandably.

One of the first losers of the evening was Louie Nunn in Kentucky, and the President couldn't believe it, and wanted to call into him, but Nunn confirmed that he would lose. The President then said, this was early in the evening, that we would have to postpone the departure tomorrow



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for Key Biscayne until 4:30 because he had a funny thing happen after dinner tonight. An old bridge that he had, had fallen out, and he had lost a tooth. He was going to have to go to the dentist at 9:00 tomorrow morning and then again at 1:00 to get the bridge replaced. He was surprised as the evening went on at the loss of Fletcher Thompson in Georgia, the closeness in Rhode Island and ultimate loss and the question of how we were doing in Wisconsin. As he called me from the Residence -- I worked in my office -- I could hear his "Victory at Sea" record playing loudly in the background. He was amazed at the losses in Maine and some of those, and delighted with Bartlett picking up Oklahoma.

Was, of course, mainly interested in how the Presidential thing was going, which was sensational. He had Colson and me come over to the EOB, where he had gone about midnight. He had us join him over there about 1:30, and at that time, he called Hubert -- returning Hubert's call -- and they had a long chat regarding Hubert's attitude towards the President and national security, etcetera, versus McGovern's. It appeared to be quite a friendly conversation.

He was concerned about how we answer the question of losing the House and Senate, was particularly interested in an analysis of California and the break down there. But we couldn't find anybody; they were all out celebrating, so we had a terrible time trying to get through to get that, but finally did. Along about 2:00 in the morning, maybe it was 2:30, he suggested that we ought to have some bacon and eggs, so we ordered them up from the White House Mess, and the three of us ate bacon and eggs, and they finally brought us some toast and some milk. After that, we chatted a little bit about the general reaction of the returns and then went on to bed. I didn't get actually home and in bed until 4:00 this morning. The President did do his two speeches, although there was some debate about that earlier in the evening. He told me-- right up to concession time, at 11:30, whenever it was-- that he didn't think he would do the Oval Office speech, that it wasn't a very good idea, but, at the last minute, he said, well if you think I should, I will, and he went ahead and did it before going over to the Shoreham. Afterwards, he-- in thinking back, thought it probably was a good idea. And Trish and Julie both told him that it was



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a superb idea, so I got credit for coming up with one good one, which was actually Chapin's idea-- with his thinking group.

End of November 7.