



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

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Monday, November 20.

The President had me over first thing this morning. Opened with schedule changes. He's dropped his Florida plans for this weekend and will go the following weekend. In the meantime he wants to set up all the possible activity he can for appointments to get cleaned up on Friday and Saturday, either here or in New York at the Waldorf. Load the schedule in the mornings. He's decided to go up to New York with the family after a Thanksgiving here at Camp David, to do Christmas shopping, go to the theater, and visit Tricia's possible new home in Brooklyn, etcetera. I think he's just getting a little stir crazy and wants to get out, which is probably a good idea, from a general appearance anyway. They've also decided to go to California for Christmas and have Bebe come out the day after, and he came up with the idea of trying to get Pat Nixon named as the Grand Marshal for the Rose Parade this year.

Got into a lot of general personnel items. Doesn't want Shultz to discuss the Secretary of Labor with Meany when he meets with him this morning, because he's basically decided to take Brennan. We have to take a Brennan-type. He's tilting strongly to Scali on the United Nations, because he gives us an Italian on the Cabinet and someone to really sell our foreign policy. He says to give Walter Washington an Ambassadorship, he won't put him in the UN. Wants to leave Morton in Interior and consider Whitaker as Under Secretary. Feels we've got to get Colson's input on the appointments and personnel since he understands the things that the President wants. Wants to be sure we have a bag of things to offer Hodgson, such as the SEC, etcetera, including an Ambassadorship, when we drop him. Wants to move Stan Scott in as the house black, vote him onto the social list and so on. Bring Ed Nixon into the White House as sort of a family ombudsman.

Brief session with me first, and later Ziegler, on transition PR. He says that he wants Ehrlichman to start his briefing on the reorganization by saying the change is nothing in relation to Congress, that the President's simply trying to make his and the White House's relations with the Cabinet more effective. So they're dividing the work of the Cabinet into areas that coincide with the Ash



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Council recommendations on the basis of their studies. The President will meet with these groups as required and will only have full Cabinet meetings when they're needed on great overall issues. This would be a much better use of the Cabinet. And the President feels this is a good way to present that part of it. We then got into transition PR on a current basis with Ziegler when he came in. Told Ron to knock down the Star story, that it is pretty far off the mark, and, of course, on the Kissinger story say "no comment." Says to tell the press they shouldn't expect an announcement all at once, that when the changes are made they won't be at once, and they'll be announced when they're ready, since the organizational changes involve the whole realm of government. The Cabinet has welcomed this opportunity to meet with the President. The President told them several months ago that he wanted new ideas and new thrust, not just to ride the momentum of the landslide. The normal tendency is to go downhill after a landslide. This is an effort to reverse this and to try to move to new heights. The Cabinet people are making excellent suggestions regarding their Departments. All of them agree with the President that there can be significant reductions, and that this is the time to do it. Provides an opportunity, because it's forced everyone in the bureaucracy to think. The Cabinet is speaking, not as prisoners of their bureaucracy, but stepping aside and thinking new. President hasn't determined yet what he's going to do, there will be no announcements until he talks to all the members of the Cabinet. There will be some like Laird who will want to leave, others will be moving to other posts. Every member of the Cabinet is a valued member of the team, an outstanding public servant, and should remain in the public service, the President feels, if they don't have to return to private life. The President has developed some imaginative ways to utilize these people. And then we'll start moving the stuff on Tuesday as to what we actually are doing.

He also got into image, PR. He had apparently gotten up early this morning and started in on a long memorandum to me on the subject, to use as a talking paper to discuss with other people. He says we need to be concerned about what people write regarding the Administration, we've struck out on the boldness, courage, and heart lines. Our problem is that all our people are technicians. Kissinger is interested in progress --process, Ehrlichman in programs, Ziegler in



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hard news. Moore understands, but has no ability to get it out, Safire's too hard, McRory understands it, and Niddecker-types do. Price's TV speech, versus the way that Gavin and the President wrote it is a case in point. Price was uncomfortable with this kind of thing. We have to get away from process and programs. The reason we won big was the four big plays the President made --China, Russia, May 8th and August 15th. There won't be any big plays in the second term, and we can't make another acceptance speech. He thinks he can pump this into Teddy White for a couple of hours, but we've got to find new ways to emphasize the positive. He agrees that Safire should go ahead on his book with a lot of access --talk to Connally and Moynihan and so on, get their views and cover how the press has pissed on us, and then Moore should work with him, and Colson and Kissinger.

The Kissinger PR problems. He's very distressed with the Kissinger interview, which gave away the moral ground in Vietnam, plus praising Tho and knocking Thieu, which was bad. He wants to set up a situation for a social engagement with General and Mrs. Haig as a cover, and then he wants to talk to Haig candidly about the Kissinger problem next week sometime. Wants me to knock off Kissinger's going to China before the Inaugural, which Henry wants to do. We've got to leash Henry more than we have up to now. He wants to be sure that I get from Kissinger's office all the files and memoranda from and to the President, and get them into the President's files-- especially all of his handwritten stuff, the originals, physically move it into the President's files now. Ziegler again on the *Life* picture, and wants Colson to run an all-out effort on *Life* and all their advertisers and so on. Talked some about getting a real good secretary, his description being, "The most brilliant, loyal, experienced, fairly young, single secretary, who is very fast and totally loyal." This to replace Rose. In terms of the President's reliance since he can't really count on Rose anymore because of her temperament.

He had quite a series of meetings today; I sat in on several of them. With Richardson there was no problem, he was ecstatic at being offered the Defense Department post, which I discussed with him before he went to see the President. He, I think, was genuinely surprised, but clearly pleased to be selected. The President emphasized the need for shrinking the Pentagon bureaus,



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especially the DIA, told him we were going to make the appointments, the President was going to make the appointments of the key spots, and that the President will have a direct relationship with the Joint Chiefs. Said the President will make the decisions on what has to be done, not Kissinger --that is, a look at the service schools that are too big, DIA must be cut, we won't fill all the posts at the Pentagon; the assistant secretaries, we'll thin down the service secretaries, do more of the Haig type thing of boosting lower level guys. Said he had great confidence in Haig, told him that he was going to get Clements up right away and go ahead with that appointment. He suggested that Elliot sit in the WSAG meetings instead of having the Deputy Secretary sit in and felt that would be a better way of dealing with Henry. He made quite a point of Elliot's ability to deal with Henry, and his understanding of him and so on, as being one of the major pluses. He met with Helms, we had no preliminary meeting. The President told Helms he was going to make a change, gave him a good buildup first. Offered him an Ambassadorship. He asked for an evaluation of personnel, said he'd like his recommendations for the President's eyes only and not through the NSC, and also any recommendations on reorganization that's never taken place, that now is the time to move on "the establishment." They talked about specific Ambassadorships and Helms lobbed in Iran, President responded very favorably and agreed to hold Iran open until Helms decides whether he wants it or not. He urged him to take it. Helms pushed Colby and Karamessinas for the CIA head. President said there's a question of whether to promote from within or whether to go outside for the new Director. It was basically a friendly meeting, although I think Helms was a little surprised and obviously very disappointed to be moving out after 25 years, but there didn't seem to be any problem.

Flanigan meeting went pretty well, Shultz laid it out to him ahead of time that he was not going to be given any post that required confirmation. And that the problem of re-opening ITT and everything was too great, at least at this stage. And then Shultz gave him a pitch on wanting to keep him in the CIEP and working with George on a general basis on international things. And I moved in and made the same pitch. Pete wasn't overly pleased, but I think was not overly startled either. Talking with the President --he made the pitch that he really wanted Pete as Deputy



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Secretary of the Treasury or Under Secretary for Economics at State, but couldn't do it because of the confirmation thing, at least now, but maybe in a few months or a year it could be done. There was also some discussion about the Energy Program, the need to settle how to handle it. Flanigan suggested making the Atomic Energy Commission the National Energy Commission, with Schlesinger as head of it in the Natural Resources Department. Going to consider a plan on that.

The Garment meeting, the President told him he wanted him to stay on, praised him for his unsung heroism, etcetera. Len made a pitch for being included in more meetings and policy matters and get a new title and be moved into the White House, which the President more or less bought. Also said we ought to replace the whole Bicentennial Commission and staff, and suggested Scranton or Frank Stanton as the new head. President was a little shocked by that. Garment also suggested putting the money in the Foundation for the Arts and Humanities for grants to support traditional stuff like libraries, museums and orchestras, and put the country in the shape to celebrate. President made the point that the arts are not our people, that we should get into academia with a committee of our scholars, have a competition on what's right with America. Also musical competition and painting, etcetera, but more in terms of writing and speaking, a massive thing with a lot of prizes --not too big and involve all the kids in the United States. President gave him the lecture about having to find a way not to pander to our enemies, that we have to do something for our friends, the 61 percent. We have a different problem than in '69. Now we should do as FDR: reward the friends, punish the enemies, and build something that was strong. Len then mentioned the Nobel Peace Prize in connection with Stanton, who had boosted the President for it, and the President said that he wouldn't accept it --a public man must never accept an award for doing his job and he will never accept it. He hopes they're foolish enough to offer it to him so he can turn them down. He said to try to find a way to use the Bicentennial to change the thinking of the country, affect the thinking on the core values of America, and sort of charged Len up on that basis.



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During the few breaks I got out from the President's office, I had two major phone calls. One, with Mitchell, who re-raised the Nitze thing about the guy that's writing a book on the SALT talks, thinks Kissinger can get that cleaned up. On Attorney General, wants to be sure Peterson stays on, as well as Kleindienst. On Stans rehabilitation, says Maury has taken his lumps and is now going to get his integrity re-established. Maybe an Ambassador-at-large with some economic assignments would do it. Mitchell pushed Rita Hauser, who is bugging him for the UN, or Solicitor- General. Arlen Specter, he wants put in LEAA or something like that which would get him out of Pennsylvania and make Rizzo happy. Reagan is pushing Bill Smith for Attorney General or the Court. Marriott is jumping up and down about the Inaugural. Mitchell says George Bush would be great for the National Committee, but he won't take it, and he agreed that Lee Nunn would be the guy to start moving on shaking up the Dole thing in the National Committee.

Henry called from Paris to say that the press found out about their meeting place, so there'll be a lot of pictures and stories, and so on, because they tailed the Vietnamese there and were there when Henry arrived. He's proposed to move the meetings to the city, but the Vietnamese haven't agreed as yet, said he's sending a report that things are going about as expected-- no worse, maybe a little better. They're tough, but not unmanageable. They're going to meet again tomorrow afternoon. They're studying the proposals, we should say nothing. He'll call again tomorrow, and that was about it.

President had Colson, Ehrlichman, and Ziegler and me to dinner tonight. Spent a lot of time discussing specific personnel things, especially Secretary of Labor. Agreed to put Usery in the Curt Counts job, consider Counts for an Agency Head or Commission Chairman. Ehrlichman got a call from Bush, who met with the President earlier, and the President pitched him on the RNC. Bush saying that he would do it, if that's what the President wants. Some discussion of Arch Davis for HUD, and Stazney [unclear] for some key job.



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It was a long, full day, covered some pretty good ground, got a few things established, and no major problems except apparently Rumsfeld, who had his meeting with the President after a pre-meeting with Ehrlichman and so on, where he agreed that he should go on out to HEW-- correction go on out to Illinois and run for the Senate. But then when he got in the meeting with the President, he said no, that just wouldn't do, that he'd have to have an Administration job for a year, which was a complete shock to the President and Ehrlichman, and a typical Rumsfeld, rather slimy, maneuver.

End of November 20.