



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

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Thursday, November 30.

Bush/Dole thing got moving again this morning. I talked to Bush, filled him in on Dole's status. Bush met with Dole and called back and said he thought everything was okay, that Dole seemed to understand, was cooperative, and will be willing to go along with things. President had the big flap today on a whole bunch of leaks. One a Dole story in the *Washington Post*, saying that the President had told him he could stay on, which Dole claims he didn't leak. Another leak on the economic deals, some understanding the President and Mills have regarding taxes, which the President says he told Ehrlichman and Shultz and no one else, but thinks Shultz went out and told Charlie Ryker, who reported it to Eileen Shanahan. This got in the *Times*. Also a State Department leak on the contents of the Vietnam meeting, under a Henry Beecher dateline. This is something only Bill Sullivan had, and they think he must have put it out, so we've got another problem there.

Henry explained the whole Vietnam deal with the Vice President, makes sure he doesn't undercut us in any way. He's afraid that he might not be on track with it the way he should be. Klein problem came back up, President wants to be sure we announce his leaving on Saturday, and say maybe that he's considering another position in government or something to cover for him. We also have the Rumsfeld problem, I had a long talk with Rumsfeld tonight. He's still hanging for trying to get the NATO post and playing innocent on thinking that the President was going to get back to him on that. He's clearly trying to set himself up for the Senate, doesn't want to take anything that's going to make him look like he's been downgraded.

Then we got into a flap on Finch's big California Party, which he set up --

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[Begin tape reel AC-28(A)]

Continuing Thursday November 30. The problem came up with Finch's California party which he's planned for next Tuesday night, which he apparently just launched off on his own without clearing with anyone other than a preliminary discussion with me in which he indicated that he was going to do it, but didn't give me any of the details or the specifics. He's committed the President to attending and this creates a problem, but we'll work it out. It's sort of the typical Finch thing.

Connally met with the President this afternoon, and afterwards the President asked Ehrlichman and me to go over and meet with him and with George Shultz. Connally had sort of a hodgepodge of names and possible appointees and that sort of thing, which we reviewed with him. He seemed to be in good spirits, but a little bit at loose ends and vague about things.

End of November 30.