



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

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Saturday, January 13.

The President had me over this morning for I guess three or four hours going through a lot of miscellaneous things. Got into the media relation question. Said that I should talk to Price about his view as to what we did wrong three years ago regarding the media. He disagrees with the President that they're all liberals and that the worst thing that could happen to them is to be proved wrong. He says that the thing they hate most is being proved out of fashion -- that is the peer group thing -- they don't want to be out for four years, which is of course Kissinger's theory, too. The President feels that this may be partially right -- they're whores, and so some of them can be had, and maybe we should try to do something with them. With that thought in mind, he wants to be sure we follow-up with Timish on being the President watcher. Wants to push the Marge Beyers deal for Julie and wanted me to have a talk with Klein on his role. The President's been doing a lot of thinking that Colson will be the outside man for labor and ethnics, Dent for the outside man on the Southerners, Kendall the outside man with business, and that Klein should be the President's man on the outside for media and so forth. He needs to get more stroke in the television field in order to do this, but we'd put him on as a consultant to the President on media -- and on how to build the new establishment within the media.

He went through a whole bunch of miscellaneous personal items. He wanted to be sure the writers get the point about what he said to the Chinese acrobats yesterday, as contrasted to what they sent in for him to say. Wants to use Gregg Petersmeyer as second aide and have him record everything, also work with Julie on the young. Wants to be sure Sinatra and Sammy Davis know that the President wants an "Evening at the White House" for each of them. Is interested in Connally's point on color, and also Moynihan's that the country doesn't see the real Nixon, and that maybe Greg can help on that. Wants Riland to do him a couple times this week and next, if he's back. Wants to be sure Rose is making notes on all the personal things and also that Bebe is dictating tapes on the personal vignettes on the President, what happens at Walkers Cay and all that for the President's tape record. Wants to be sure we have a superb executive director for the Bicentennial that has lots of imagination. Wants to get in the 75 Democratic Congressmen and



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11 Senators who stood with us on Vietnam for a cocktail to express his appreciation for standing with us in this difficult period. Wanted to read a copy of Fairley's book on Kennedy and the Rossiter book on the Presidency, which I sent over to him later. Wanted to check out burial opportunities at Yorba Linda, as well as Rose Hills -- I don't know where that came in from left field.

I had a report this afternoon from Dean on the Watergate. Apparently there is going to be a Hersh story in the *New York Times* saying that the Cubans told them that they're all still on salary, that there's a \$900,000 fund at the Reelection Committee for them, that they dropped bugs all over town, that the chain of command went from Barker to Hunt to Liddy to Colson to Mitchell. Shumway and Colson and Mitchell have all given flat denials on this. The Cubans have sent a letter to dismiss Rothblatt, and he was dismissed because they want to plead guilty. McCord is off the reservation now. He had a meeting last night, he thinks he can get him back on, but he has a plan regarding calls he made in September and October. He thinks he can get a tainted evidence thing on it because the calls were bugged by the government. He's playing a blackmail game where if I fall, all fall, but he has no hard evidence. That won't be settled for a while, but Dean thinks he can settle it. Apparently, McCord was distressed at the judge's severity. The Cubans will plead on Monday.

The main thing today was, of course, Vietnam. The President said he wanted to see Kissinger alone first when he gets back tonight, and that his chopper should be brought directly to the President's pad. And the President will see him, if he's awake, and will pound into him, and then Haig and I are to follow-up -- that he must not talk to the press and that we're going to do all possible to be sure that people think that nothing's happened in Paris. In other words, we need to mislead them.

He talked to Ziegler about how to deal with the press, said that the speculation has led to universal optimism and pessimism both, and for your guidance I would not speculate. Kissinger wants to leave it totally open that both sides agreed that there would be no comment during the



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course of the negotiations and that's all we can say. The President's concern with Kissinger tomorrow and with Ziegler that we have to have a plan on the PR side that we can ride with through the week, and so that we can control Kissinger. We have to get our enemies out on a limb. We should go ahead now on an attack on sabotaging the peace. Hit the past and the rugged time the President's been through, but that's all. We should be set up for a significant assault if we succeed, we must continue to fight against the old establishment. We should use Scali; let him and Colson go a little bit, otherwise the attack won't get done. I should call Colson tomorrow and tell him but tell him he can't inform anyone. Then when Henry goes to Hanoi, he's got to have our press man and photographer with him to handle the press. So we need game plans with a line to handle this week with the Congress, with Rogers and Laird, and with the press. We should use Ziegler, Scali, Colson this week and next on all of this. There is a critical decision for example on how to brief the leaders on the 23rd. He doesn't want a big meeting with Moss because of his going out and screwing us before. Also he doesn't want Fulbright, so he's going to limit it to the Big Five -- he doesn't want to argue with Fulbright and so on. Then, he said maybe we have to have the Big Five press the chairman and just take Fulbright and let Kissinger take the questions. Rogers and Laird shouldn't be pampered on this whole thing; that they've got to be straight-armed and do what they're told.

He'll have the Cabinet in and give them a five minute briefing and then the leaders, and then move the leadership meetings that are scheduled to Wednesday. And then he got into juggling that schedule around and really didn't end up with anything. The decision, firmly though, is that he wants Kissinger to do his press briefing the second day -- not before the President's announcement as he usually does. The problem is how we keep the leaders in the meeting at 8:00 before the President goes on TV. We could say we have an understanding with the Vietnamese that it's not announced until 9:00 -- and there's a question of a plan if Thieu doesn't go along which we need to work out.

He then had Ziegler in. He made the point that all the calls and consultations should be Monday morning, saying, that we've suspended all military action above the DMZ, and this will remain



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enforced so long as the negotiations show progress. There should be no discussion of the substance of the negotiations and no characterization. He agreed to do a picture with Henry on Sunday morning. Told me to wire Henry to tell him to ignore the press when he gets off the plane tonight, don't wave, don't smile because we have to maintain the proper mood here -- also Haig should wear his uniform. He's worried about Rogers. Says I've got to tell him that he should not come down. We don't want to build expectations, and that he has to take the Ziegler line regarding consultation with Congress. With Colson and Scali, he wants to lay the foundation that the critics are screwing things up. Ziegler should say that it is totally irresponsible-- it can only have the effect of endangering the negotiations and prolonging the war.

He called me this evening and made the point again that I have to straight-arm Rogers, that there is nothing more to say except that we made progress. We have to be ruthless and, if necessary, absolutely brutal with him -- there is nothing to be said beyond what Ziegler says. Kissinger must not go back Monday; he must at least stay here till Tuesday. Thieu has to go along. The President will ask Congress, himself, for no funds, rather than let Congress chop him. It's better for the President to take the lead on this, if it's going to be inevitable anyway. The operators are to be instructed that no calls at all are to be put through to the President, except the immediate family, they're all to come through me.

End of January 13.