



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

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Monday, January 15th. The President had me over at noon for a brief meeting. He mainly wanted to get into some attack follow-up things on Vietnam. He wants Colson to mobilize now for an attack on the people that opposed us with a contingency plan of speeches, op-eds, editorials, a little book, and so on, working with Buchanan, Scali, Klein, and Clawson. And wants to get as much planned as we can now, with, in the conviction that the left is going to take us on right after the announcement...

[End of tape reel AC-29(B)]

[Begin tape reel AC-30(A)]

Monday, January 15th; was making the point that the President wants to get moving on the attack follow-up on Vietnam, pending the obvious moves that the opponents will make to try to clobber whatever we come up with. He wants them to mobilize now for the attack with a contingency plan for speeches, op-eds, editorials, and all that sort of thing. He wants to hit, for example, the effort to cut Kissinger down and to divide him from the President that they all went into after the October breakdown. And we should hit hard on our critics in Congress and the media and don't let them forget. Colson and I agreed that we'd try to hit eight or ten prime targets rather than going on a general attack on the critics this time.

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He also wants to work on the Swedish and Austrian and Canadians. For one thing, the President will not receive their ambassadors when they send them. And he wants to do a study now on how to delegate receiving ambassadors to the Vice President so that we can set that up.

He thinks Goldwater ought to start whacking the irresponsible critics now and give them something to take on, so that, because obviously they will be hitting us.

He also got into some discussion of schedule; he's agreed to swear in the Undersecretaries, as well as the Cabinet officers, and to do the swearing on Saturday after the parade, if they're all confirmed by then. He wanted the speech draft for the inaugural address by 7:30 tonight from Ray so that he can get to work on that, so as to keep February clear, so that he can take off a week or two to rest up after all this is over. He thinks we should figure an office press conference before it builds up too much, possibly Wednesday the 31st, and that will be the last one in the office. From then on, we'll do them in the press room: as a matter of fact, he may do that one in the press room, too, since it will be the day we announce Henry's trip to Hanoi and China.

He feels he ought to do something with the POW's and their wives in the White House when the first batch comes home.

In the midst of this, he was interrupted with a phone call to Don Shula, or whatever his first name is, the Miami Dolphins coach, to congratulate him on winning the Super Bowl yesterday. He said to tell Ron to tell the press that he'll spend another day or two here; his actual plan is to stay till Thursday night and maybe even Friday noon.



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He told me to talk to Ehrlichman about Ruckelshaus for the FBI Director, and that John should discuss this with Mitchell, also that he should discuss DeLoach, the President thinks he'd be the best. He was particularly upset with Mansfield who made the point to Colonel Kennedy when he talked to him, to say, be sure to have the President note how responsible the Senate was last week, which, of course, is totally irresponsible since the Senate had been a disaster the week before, and only quieted up this last week, because they were afraid of what the President was actually accomplishing. He wants to be sure we don't let any of the opponents clamber back on the bandwagon; that we maintain the heat against them.

This evening he was quite anxious to get reports on the news reaction, and also that he'd know how to tone his inaugural address, which he'll be working on into the night and tomorrow.

End of January 15th.