



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

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Friday, January 19.

Back in Washington. Got into some discussion of the Vietnam settlement in the staff meeting this morning, since everybody's assuming that something may come about now -- the point of the need to deal with the economic situation in Southeast Asia, and that there's a real problem of Congress cutting that off. Also, the question of what Congressional support or involvement we want in the Vietnam agreement. Do we want a resolution of support from them, and that sort of thing?

The President got into some other areas of Vietnam: the Agnew problem, because he wants to negotiate all these things, and wants Mitchell and me to talk with him and try to get him straightened out; he wants to be sure that all the game plans are underway, that I keep prodding Colson and all on the peace plan, so that we enlist all the troops; have Haig set up to brief the staff on Tuesday afternoon before Henry gets back. On domestic, he wants Ehrlichman to develop a game plan on executive privilege and ways to finesse it, and get ready for that battle. Also to set some benchmarks on domestic goals, that he should sit down with a group and distill this. Also, we need more staff participation in the whole area of domestic goals. That also led him to the question of the speech that Ehrlichman wants the President to give, which he's concerned about. He thinks that there's a problem in his coming on with a domestic speech right after the Vietnam announcement, and also is concerned about his series of State of the Union things, in that they may interfere with his effort to get away for some time in February. He did agree, though, to do the TV speech, but with a TelePrompTer, hopefully taped in advance.

He went to the concerts tonight. Called me afterwards at 1:00. Analyzed the concerts, said he liked the idea of having the three. He thought the youth music was very interesting, even though he didn't understand it. He kept referring to the drummer, who he thought was fascinating, and the Australian group. He was raving about Claiborne and Ormandy's skill at conducting with a piano, and said he was wrong in his objection to the Grieg Concerto, that it was perfect.



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He then raised the problem of where Finch was, and wanted me to check on why he wasn't here. I was going to do that tomorrow, but he called me back a little later and said to call his home in Los Angeles and find out tonight what the problem was. I checked out there, and Kathleen, his daughter, said that he and Carol were vacationing in the Virgin Islands. I then called Klein to try and get a reading on what was happening. And he said that Finch had been there last weekend but left Tuesday to go to the Virgin Islands to give a speech at the YPO meeting there, that this was a chance to get a vacation and also to get in some business licks. Herb assured me he wasn't at all disturbed -- he was in good spirits. That he had said between Christmas and New Years that he was going to do this, that there was no problem involved, and all that. So Herb feels that it was just a typical Finch-ism. The President was deeply distressed by it, felt it was a very bad thing for Bob to have done, for his own sake, and in a sense a rather serious slam at the President, and he obviously was concerned about it.

End of January 19.