



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

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Monday, February 12.

The President had a call this morning while he was in his morning series of meetings from one of the POW officers who arrived in the Philippines last night, expressing his support of the President and his desire on the part of him and all of the men to meet the President and thank him personally. Scowcroft took the call, but we worked it out to have the President call the man back. He talked with him and was very impressed by the whole approach the guy had taken and is very much moved by the whole POW situation. They did a superb job last night getting off the plane apparently, as it was covered on TV, and then this call this morning was further evidence. As a follow-up to that, he said he wants to send orchids to all the wives as the men arrive back and wants to have a thing at the White House as soon as they're all back here, so that he can meet all of them. And then have a dinner for them and their wives in the evening.

He got into the Brennan appointment problem on the plane going back tonight.

[End of tape reel AC-30(B)]

[Begin tape reel AC-31(A)]

Continuing Monday February 12. The President on the plane coming back to Washington made the point that he was concerned about the appointments in the Labor Department with Brennan. Wants me to get Ehrlichman, Shultz and Colson together in the same room tomorrow and get it settled. Also make the point that Shultz can't override Brennan and Dent. That he's got to let Brennan come in and talk to the President about strikes and things, and that he should have Brennan talk to Meany about the President's appearance at AFL, not Shultz handling it, and so on.



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He asked for a general rundown on the Watergate thing, and seemed to be in agreement with our overall approach as covered on the weekend, although he feels Clawson should be the reporter type instead of Buchanan, that Buchanan's too close to the President, so he would tilt strongly the other way.

The return today was hastily called last night about dinner time, and we have yet to determine what the cause was, since the plan was to stay out in California all week.

End of February 12.