



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

National Archives and Records Administration, Online Public Access Catalog Identifier: 7787364

Tuesday, February 27.

At staff meeting we got into a discussion of the trade bill, and the question of timing on it, and the joint leadership meeting to cover it. Mills apparently wants a delay at least until after he does one of the TV shows on March 11. We could hold until late March, which Mills prefers, or we could go sooner even next week. They're having a final session here on the bill Thursday or Friday. It would be good to have it out before Shultz' trip to Europe, so that he could be consulting on it, that sort of thing. No decision made, just general discussion.

I was in with the President, Kissinger and Ziegler. We were discussing the problem of Rogers objecting to our making a statement regarding the POW's. The North Vietnamese have held up the release, and the intention now is for us to make a statement saying that there will be no further discussion at the peace talks until they let the next batch out, or until it's worked out. The President said to have Ziegler make the statement saying that he has directed the Secretary of State to seek clarification and that we will not continue the conference until we have that, and there was some discussion of our reaction to the North Vietnamese hold-up for the release, question of how we should deal with it, and this is the way that the President wanted to leave it.

The President decided to have Frank Sinatra do the Italian dinner, and told me to call him. Got into a lot of general items. Wants to change the format of the news summary to separate the opinion section from the news section. Was concerned about the mail to congressmen project and whether Baroody is really on top of it. Feels this is our major need now. That we have to keep the battle on our ground, which is taxes and prices and make the point that we do have a compassionate budget. We've got to keep pushing on that.

End of February 27.