



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

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Monday, April 2.

Big news story today was my involvement in Watergate as charged by Weicker. Major headline in the *L.A. Times*, not so big in other papers. Spent most of the morning working on that, with time out for the Thieu arrival, which went very well. Mitchell called to say that O'Brien had met with Dean and that Dean's taken a "unique stance," as Mitchell put it, and that the only salvation is for me to talk to him. What he's after is to try to get him to put his story differently regarding the meetings. Mitchell says if Dean does say what he suggests, he will unravel the whole thing, and after the meeting the other day, John thought Dean understood. But he says Dean's using me as the reason for taking the position he does, on the basis that I have to testify in the same way Dean intends to. He says some of the post-June activities will also be a problem, and we should consider the solution of having Dean not testify. That would solve several problems and we have ample grounds for doing it.

I talked right after that to Dean. He says his lawyer has told him that he must not talk to Mitchell or Magruder. He says that he would rather take a contempt citation or the Fifth Amendment than to cause anyone a problem, and if it comes down to an impossible position, that's what he'll do, but that opens the potential for indictment. He said Strachan is being worked on by Magruder that Moore had lunch with Kleindienst and got into the special prosecutor thing, and John feels that's simply a device on Kleindienst's part to avoid Kleindienst having to do in Mitchell. If Dean has to testify and tells the truth, it'll start the whole finger pointing exercise that he feels would be unbearable. He has no idea what Mitchell said before the grand jury, but Mitchell must consider it will conflict with Dean, or he wouldn't be so worried. O'Brien told Dean Saturday that Jeb was not now concerned with Dean's testimony. He says O'Brien knows all the facts.

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[Begin tape reel AC-33(A)]

This continuing Monday, April 2. After the Thieu meeting this morning, then a trip over to the house for lunch, the President came back, had Ehrlichman and me in for a couple hours this afternoon. Said he wanted to make a couple of points on the whole Watergate situation that he felt were very important. First, that the President must be isolated from the discussions. That we've got to tell all parties—or that John does—that the President has other problems during April and May, with the Congress, the Soviet Summit, Vietnam, and so on, and he can't talk to the people that are concerned, that is, Dean, and Mitchell, and Moore, Colson, George Bush, the Vice President and all of them. Ehrlichman must get the confidence of all those people and handle the thing for the President. He commented on the side that the schedule for the first three months of this year was all wasted as far as anything public was concerned, and that he's got to concentrate on that side of things for the next few months. Second, that there must be no falling out amongst our people, having all of them going off in all different directions. We can't have a situation of every man for himself. They're all on the team. No one's going to flush anybody and they must understand that.

He then launched into a fascinating review of the Hiss case, making the point as to how he conducted the investigation and worked around to where he trapped Hiss and, using that as an object lesson in terms of what we've got to watch out for, and what Weicker, et al., are doing wrong in their conduct of this investigation.

We then got into a strategy review and the question of whether I should go out publicly. We agreed that I should not, but that we should consider my doing the newspaper interview with the *Washington Post*, but I should definitely not go on television. He felt that we've crossed the bridge on Dean, and he's not going to permit Dean to go up and testify. And John said, "Don't make a final decision on it," but that's basically John's position, too, as the way around conflict testimony-- of testimony.



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He got into some personnel things. He feels that we probably should move Kleindienst out and discussed possible Attorney's General, Ruckelshaus being Ehrlichman's candidate. The President feeling Lynn would be better. He ruled out any of the other Cabinet people and he also discussed a replacement for the FBI, and felt that Matt Byrne was really quite interesting as a possibility. We decided he should not do a press conference this week after the Thieu meetings, so he's not going to. Then we dropped that, and we spent a lot of time just going round and round on the various aspects of the whole Watergate situation as it now stands. He's pretty much in line with our thinking. Told us to go ahead and develop the possibility of Chapin, Segretti, and Kalmbach exposé following my statement release. Now we've got to work out the question of whether that's what we really do want to do.

End of April 2.