



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

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

Thursday, April 12.

The President was pretty well tied up all day with NSC, other meetings, a couple long sessions with Ehrlichman on Watergate strategy, and a follow-up with Kissinger on the problem in Southeast Asia, plus a Congressional thank you reception for those who supported him on the vetoes in the House and Senate. I had only a short session with him at midday and that was mainly a Watergate discussion as usual. He didn't have anything really new to add. We had some review with Strachan on his testimony. He had made one factual error and Ehrlichman and I talked it over and advised him to go back to the grand jury to correct it, which he did by calling Silbert.

Kissinger came in late in the day and had a long session with me. He's very concerned, because he thinks there's a serious strategic mistake in putting me out front on this, because it will put all the focus on me and, therefore, render me practically ineffective, and he went into all kinds of threats that if the President dumped me or set it up so that I had to leave, he would leave, too. That he wasn't going to stay if I wasn't there; and he thinks Ehrlichman should be sacrificed, or someone else, rather than me. I tried to explain that it wasn't either/or and that I didn't feel I was being sacrificed. That I felt I had to have the opportunity to clear myself. But he feels that, no matter what the merits of the facts are, that whoever goes out front on this is going to be killed by it, and that, at any cost, it should not be me. So, that's another factor to weigh in the equation. I am going to have to get my statement redone, which I keep talking about but never doing, and get ready to put it out, maybe the first of next week. Ehrlichman's pushing even for getting it out this week, but everyone else feels strongly, that is everyone being Kissinger and Ziegler, and, of course, my staff feels strongly that I shouldn't get out front, so I may hold up on that for the time being.

End of April 12.