



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

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Friday, December 4.

I stayed in New York and did some shopping and worked at the hotel. President worked most of the day on his speech for tonight, and then came on up to New York at about 7:00. Called me in right away, got back into the State Department problem. Wanted to be sure that we had the lists racked up of those who had leaked, etcetera. He wants me definitely to go ahead on the talk with Rogers, making the point that there are two different fights involved here. One is with Kissinger and Rogers, and that the President, of course, has to side with Rogers on. But the second one is much more important: that's the foreign service versus the President. There it's unforgivable, and the President is going to have heads rolling. Since Cambodia, they've been taking on the President, leaking, etcetera. These things don't just happen, and from now on, it's us or them. State can't be told anything, and that's the way it is.

Speech went very well. On the plane on the way home, the President had me up for the whole trip, because he didn't want to talk with the Cabinet officers. We got into the Connally thing. It turns out that he had meeting with Connally this morning for about an hour, the last 15 minutes of which he used to make a pitch to Connally to take the Secretary of Treasury. He now wants me to call Connally and give him a further push on it. He had originally thought of having Billy Graham call, but decided that wouldn't be too good an idea. In reviewing this, the President wanted me to make the points that he had only discussed this thing with me, and then had asked me to call John. That the President wanted him to know that he feels urgently that Connally is desperately needed in this position now, and for another more important position in the future. That he needs you as an advisor and counselor, that we've got to change the Treasury's system and that's important, but really he wants you here as a counselor, advisor, and friend.

He wanted me to say that I hope and pray you won't turn him down. He's fought a long, lonely fight. He has no one in the Cabinet to talk to. If you come in, you and Mitchell will be his closest confidantes. The President does not want to use you politically, he doesn't want you to give up your Democratic registration; he wants you because he thinks you're the best man in the country



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that he could have as his advisor on national and international affairs. He feels you're the only man in the Democratic Party that could be President, and that we have to have someone in the Cabinet who is capable of being President. In some way, the President has a simpatico feeling for you. Please don't turn him down on this. The President, as you know, is a man to keep his own counsel; nobody except me knows that you're under consideration, and I want to tell you how strongly I feel that this will change the future of the country. The President doesn't have a man in the whole shop that he respects in this way, and he's very concerned about the whole question of determining whether the US or Russia is going to be number one. He's not interested in the idea of political purposes, either in Texas or to get a Democrat in the Cabinet, and you'd be free to do what you want. He wants you because of what you are. That occupied most of the trip home.

End.