



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

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Wednesday, December 9.

Another day almost totally involved, on my part at least, with personnel maneuvers. The President had no schedule except for a presentation ceremony at noon. Rest of the day had been set aside for work on the press conference briefing book. Actually, he stayed in the Oval Office and worked all morning, mostly with me, and then for a while after the ceremony. He didn't get over to the Oval Office until about 3:00. Remained there the rest of the afternoon, for dinner, and into the evening.

As we discussed things in the morning, he decided that he definitely wanted to bring Bush into the White House on a general basis, and we were still hoping MacGregor would take the National Committee post. I found out later in the morning that (by calling MacGregor) that he had decided against the National Committee slot, and wanted to stay with Congressional Liaison, so that settled that. I then called Bush in, and gave him the pitch on taking a White House job. He was clearly disappointed because he had been hoping for the UN spot. Went down and filled the President in briefly, and then took Bush in to see the President. Bush made such a good pitch to the President about what he'd like to do at the UN in the way of really being an advocate for the President, not only at the UN, but in the overall New York community, that the President decided this was in fact a better use of Bush than having him at the White House. After we left the President's office, with the understanding that Bush would come into the White House staff now, and possibly take the UN job sometime early next year, the President called me over to the EOB, and said he definitely wanted to go ahead with Bush at the UN, and that I should talk to Rogers and get it worked out. I called Rogers, and it turned out there was no problem as far as he's concerned. He's seeing Yost tomorrow, to tell him he's through. He'll bring him back down to Washington tomorrow night. Yost will see the President on Friday with Rogers, and we'll go ahead and announce Bush on Friday, which will get him locked up before the Connally announcement, which is still planned for Monday. This really does work out better, because it gives Bush a more prestigious appointment and a seat in the Cabinet, which will help when the Connally blow strikes.



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All of this left us with a problem as far as the National Committee's concerned, and after considerable agonizing the decision there was to go with Dole, even though he is an incumbent Senator. We'll have to find a really top-level executive director to work under him. On this basis, Harlow and I had Dole in, and raised the problems with him so that he could start thinking about solutions. We did not tell him he was the President's choice, but did say that he was very favorably regarded. It will now be up to him to get some ground swell started for himself.

President had a nice chat with Harlow to say good-bye. This is Bryce's last day. Told him how we would be counting on him for help in the future, on a general basis and that he wanted him to sit in the leaders' meetings, and that we would be using him for a lot of other things. All this made Bryce very happy.

The President's going to meet with Kennedy on Friday to tell him he's out at Treasury. This is a tough one for him to do, and he's really agonizing over it. What he wants is for Mitchell to do the spade work, and then the President finish it up, later. But Mitchell basically refuses to do this on the grounds that he's already talked to Kennedy, and it would only exacerbate the matter if he were to talk to him again, so the President and Mitchell will do it together.

In discussing ways to screw NBC, the President, thinking Nancy Dickerson is on CBS, asked me to explore the possibility of his doing a half-hour or hour night-time special with her. It would be just a warm conversation regarding his personal views of the Presidency after two years in office. It would make a darn good show; the problem is, apparently Nancy Dickerson's with NBC, so it wouldn't really screw them after all.

In order to get the human side of things out, he's come up with the idea of having Dick Moore, or sometimes Safire, attend all dinners and sit in on all meetings, looking for anecdotal material, and general human interest stories.

The President was pretty upset about the fact that 25 of the White House press corps met yesterday to try to figure how they could trap him at the press conference tomorrow night. This



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kind of conspiracy, ganging up on the President by a small cabal in the press group, really is sort of a despicable approach, and he feels maybe we should publicize it and get some mileage out of it for our side. The public clearly wouldn't be pleased by it.

Henry was back in today, all disturbed about the Israeli situation. He thinks that the same kind of problem is building up now as he faced all last summer, when the President wouldn't consult with him on developments, as we moved closer and closer to the brink of war. He thinks the same kind of thing's building up now, his most recent evidence is the fact that the President doesn't want him to sit in on the meeting with Moshe Dayan, and was going to have Rogers sit in. It's now been set up that only Laird will be there, which somewhat pacifies Henry, but he's still concerned. He told me that if the situation developed into the same thing as last summer, he would definitely have to leave, that he couldn't go through that sort of operation again. This has been a frequently repeated threat, but I have a feeling he's more serious on this one than he has been on some of the others.

End of the day.