



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

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Wednesday, August 11.

The staff meeting this morning started with a report on the busing problem in Texas. The Mayor in Dallas has said he wants to meet with the President. Then we got into the problem of the President's statement on busing making no sense, because the federal government under the court order has forced busing, and then we have come out under the President's order and are supplying no funds to do it, which lends validity to the charge that the man in the White House speaks with forked tongue. We got into some further discussion on that with the President and really didn't get very far.

There was a flap on the new White House health unit today, because Congressman Shirley and his staff were investigating it, fired some cheap shots about it being a "Roman Romper Room", etcetera, and this got the President quite disturbed, because he thinks it's the kind of story that is going to build and keep getting thrown back at us. He went through quite a bit of agonizing over it this morning and kept coming back to it during the day. His main concern is that we get off the idea that the President is using the health unit; he wants to be sure it's known that he never uses a masseur, and make the point that he fired the Johnson masseurs when he came in. We're going to try and do a job story on the House gym to get back at them, because they, of course, have a much more elaborate setup, and all, than we do.

Henry was in talking with the President about the Chou En-Lai interview in the *New York Times*, in which Reston really took some shots at the President. As a result of this, President has ordered that Henry not see Reston at all and that we enforce our rule throughout the place of no contact with the *New York Times*, and he's not going to take them on the China trip. He feels that Reston's motive was clearly to sabotage the trip, and that we've got to recognize that. Henry was in, following up on his meeting with Dobrynin last night in which he got a confirmation of the Soviet Summit, and that led today into some schedule discussion of how we go about both the trips. We agreed to go to Southern California and spend a couple days of preparation, and then a night in Wake on the way to China. We'll set China for February 25, and the Soviet trip for May



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22. The idea on the Soviet thing will be to stay at Mulcahy's on the way over, so that we get to take care of the time shift.

Back on the busing thing, the President told Ziegler to say that, first of all, the President's against busing, period; secondly, that the Supreme Court has held that steps must be taken, and they've held that busing could be used as one of the methods of meeting their criteria. Therefore, the President will carry out the law, but he has directed that every appropriate Cabinet officer is to carry out the law, but because the court does not require compulsory busing, they are to carry out the law wherever possible without busing; and also he's asked the Congress that no Federal funds be used for busing. He's also to say that he's issued both a written and oral directive on this. Ron put this out and got into quite a flap because nobody knew there was a written directive, and the press all started asking to see copies of it.

We got into a stir on textiles today, because Peterson wanted to see the President, then Mitchell called me to say that Peterson was end running the political people and going in with a textile solution that would not be acceptable and would ruin us politically. The President thought he had already gotten this settled with Flanigan. So we went round and round on it, and the ending was that Pete, who had left town, stayed on it; and the group set up to meet tomorrow morning and try to follow through on it. Problem is that they're apparently committed to a decision on Friday; and so the President said to have Flan-- the others get together, try to pull the factions together, that there's no reason to battle, but he will not use the national security authority to get the textile quota, and that's what Mitchell's pushing for.

He decided to drop the press conference tomorrow, because too many things are cooking. He's going to go ahead with the radio speeches, and he had a long talk with Ray Price about that. Feels that they now have a good approach that makes the point that a lot of people are running down this country, but let's take a look at it, and that they should be directed not to the intelligent reader, but to get the attention of the listener, take on the attackers that were running down America. Feels people hunger for good, decent, patriotic approaches rather than the destroyers.



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End of August 11.