



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

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Friday, February 27.

Started off the day by refusing to sign a decision regarding glass imports because won't take any action now to affect American industry this year. After a hustle, and meeting with concerned senators, ended up following the original staff recommendation.

Wants Ehrlichman to move fast on developing a Constitutional Amendment regarding schools. Feels we should bite bullet now and hard - if it's called racism, so be it! Feels we have to take a black or white position (didn't even notice the pun), can't be on both sides because we just get hit from both and please no one. Feels the only good thing we've done in this area is to fire Panetta. Says an act is better than a statement, because it comes though loud and clear.

Flap develops regarding Laos. President decided to settle Kissinger-Rogers debate regarding how to get information out in NSC meeting today. Then thought better of it and told me to have Kissinger meet with Rogers, Laird, Mitchell and Helms first and get settled, then report to him at meeting. Kissinger tried, but Rogers refused to meet with him without President. So President went back to having NSC meeting. Don't know how it came out - but I spent lot of time with Kissinger earlier trying to figure a solution. He decided to go see Rogers and just to work it all out - the whole overall problem - between the two of them. But Rogers' refusal scotched that. Becomes more and more difficult as time goes on. Turns out Rogers wants to force issue about Symington hearings as well as Laos information.

Back into the Laird-ABM problem this morning. I had a tough talk with him - said he'd have to designate a man with total responsibility - he's still weaseling but said he'd call back.

Meeting with Ambassador Shriver about his resignation. I sat in. President played it straight until the end, then obliquely edged into politics. Shriver then asked his political advice - President said to make firm decision on plan, not make it public, but never waver from it internally. Then said he wasn't much of an expert on running for Governor.

NSC ran pretty late, then President ducked out for the house.



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President really concerned regarding Kissinger-Rogers problem, and talked it over in detail. Regarding NSC - didn't want to be put in position of having to make decision there and humiliate Rogers. Thinks this is just what Kissinger wants him to do. Feels they should work it out, not make him overrule someone.

Very funny twist in Shriver meeting regarding his replacement. President told him it would be Arthur Watson. Shriver said he and Dick Watson were great friends, etc. President said after meeting he purposely let Shriver get mixed up and think it was Arthur's Democrat brother. Then it turns out President was wrong, not Shriver, because Dick and Arthur are the same one, brother is Tom.