



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

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Tuesday, March 10.

President met with Timmons' attack group first thing - not too impressed with either the group or Timmons' planning. Had me in after, for long talk regarding how to build up the whole attack operation. Wants a new group set up to go hard on this. Also wants to be sure we are doing an all out hatchet job on the Democrat leaders, through IRS, etc.

Upset because he signed a Kissinger paper regarding meat imports which should have come through domestic and political staff. And mad about Flanigan flap - wants counteraction. Sessions with Blount and Hardin, for Cabinet therapy.

Had Ehrlichman, Mitchell and me in regarding Mitchell's PR and need for a stronger fight on crime. President eased into it pretty well - then came on full bore regarding Mitchell's need for major PR buildup as tough crime fighter. Alluded to his talk with Braun - John reluctant about Braun because of his ties to Rockefeller. President made point it's not so important what we do on crime (because we can't do very much at federal level), but rather the appearance and attitude. Wants John to go at it like Hoover used to - play tough SOB role and get credit. Especially hit narcotics hard because everyone worried about it.

All this at EOB - then Mitchell and Ehrlichman left meeting with Kissinger and Rogers about Symington testimony - with President instructions to go against Rogers' recommendation. President then reviewed whole deal with me - wants me to take on Mitchell PR project, take it out of Klein's hands, maybe use Safire and Buchanan. Then he ordered cigars and settled down to a chat regarding Mayo problem. Has pretty well decided to let Bob resign - he's not the man for the new management job. President really wants Connally - but shares my concern regarding the political potency of the job. Also considering Shultz and Weinberger. Is very reluctant to dump Mayo, wants me to talk to Bob to analyze his concerns. But not talk him into staying.

Talk interrupted by call from Chapin - saying Kissinger had to see President - new break in Middle East. President won't see him - Kissinger very upset. Problem continues. President wants



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me to try to untangle him too. I learned from Haig this morning that Kissinger had really battled with Rogers on phone yesterday regarding Laos, and the whole deal is really building up. President refusal to see Kissinger today won't help, but it is just because he doesn't want to get into Middle East with Kissinger. Going to be hard to keep this on track.

We left EOB after another hour, President to the Residence. I was confronted first by Garment - wanting to know what was wrong - Ehrlichman had dealt him out of school statement, then got into whole Jewish problem and gave me a handwritten letter from Golda Meir to President. Then in came Moynihan with a new internal memo that has been leaked to *New York Times*, this time from clear back in January '69. Someone's really rolling on the memo leaks.