



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

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Tuesday, March 17.

Biggest problem of the day came via phone call from President after I got home (early because Susan is back from Stanford). Kissinger had apparently hit him again on the Rogers problem - said Rogers is out to get him and takes a stab two or three times every day. Probably comes from Rogers having a meeting with President yesterday while Kissinger in Paris. President trying as usual to stay out of it, and Kissinger as usual obsessed with discussing it in detail. President wants me to try and get him turned off - and to take a vacation for a while to simmer down.

Some more talk on the Mayo deal - President pretty well settled on going ahead - now thinking of Stans to Finance Committee, then to Treasury after Kennedy leaves; Mayo to Commerce; and Rumsfeld to OMB. Good if we can do it.

Had Ehrlichman and me in for long midday session - wants some real action on interest rates, to force banks to lower them now. Wants to get on the side of the people and against the banks - same on meat prices. Talked to me alone afterwards and said we'll have to face probability of economic decline in fall, and thus count on foreign policy to salvage elections. He's afraid we can't avoid the recession - but will keep Flanigan trying.

I had long talk with Kissinger this morning regarding Paris. He's still very optimistic because North Vietnam was at least willing to discuss mutual withdrawal - which is first admission they even have troops in. Kissinger playing tough, uneager role - and they keep going for the next step. He wanted to wait four weeks for next meeting - they said no, must be in two weeks. So maybe there's hope - Kissinger says if we can hold here in United States for two to four months, he thinks we'll have it.

President pushing for more initiative on our part - in taking offensive - i.e., crime statistics today show last year rate of increase lowest in four years. Also wants to be sure 18 Year Vote Bill doesn't get through House; can oppose it on grounds that we are for Constitutional Amendment because legislation won't hold up.