



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

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Saturday, September 26.

President received the Scranton Report - we did all our little projects to discredit it and that is now underway, after all the agonizing about how to handle it.

Big day for political discussions as President tries to get the line set and some action underway before we leave. Went over a lot of ideas with me, then had Buchanan in, then later had Chotiner and Buchanan and me to EOB. Mainly concerned with not letting Democrats - especially Presidential candidates like Ted Kennedy, Muskie, HHH, etc. - get away with their obvious present attempt to move away from the left and into middle of road. He's right, our people are letting them do it and press is not nailing them. President says Agnew, et al., should not use the Johnny come lately line - instead should keep hitting them with their past quotes and votes - don't let them sell the idea they've changed. Get one really good line from each of them and keep hanging him on it. Use their support of Moratorium, opposition to Cambodia, sympathy with students, etc. He really got worked up, dictated a lot of rhetoric to Pat. Also some ideas on schedule - his and VP's.

The other issue of the day was the Kissinger-Rogers battle. Kissinger's in Paris - but President was reviewing it with me - I told him about Kissinger's call last night, and his Dobrynin meeting. President then had Haig in and went over whole thing with both of us. Made it clear he felt Kissinger had erred in briefing yesterday - Haig said Kissinger knew it. President gave Haig his whole theory regarding how to handle crisis - said we couldn't let Kissinger-Rogers battles get in way of dealing with substance. Recognizes both were tired and strained - but that will always be the case in a major crisis. Simply have to get them both to quit acting like little children, trying to nail the other and prove him wrong. Since President sees exactly what they're doing, it's obvious neither will get away with it.

I told President I had agreed with Kissinger that maybe he should think of leaving - he felt it was good to shake him a little. Said if Kissinger does go, he'd put Haig in the spot. But would really be a major loss - and then State and Rogers would run rampant which would be very bad.



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Anyway, the whole deal has come out well in spite of all this. Will now be interesting to see how the Cuban sub base plot develops.

And off to Europe tomorrow morning.