



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

National Archives and Records Administration, Online Public Access Catalog Identifier: 7787364

Monday, January 4.

Big day for the television conversation. The President spent the entire day locked up in the EOB. And only called over a couple of times to get some statistics and other information.

He did in one call, however, get into a discussion of his concern about the Tony Lake situation. Wanted me to talk to Haig, following up the President's conversation with Henry yesterday, saying on the Lake matter. Henry told the President that Lake didn't leave because of Cambodia, but because of disagreement on domestic policies. The President thinks there's more to this than appears on the surface, and he wants to know what the situation really is with him. He's concerned because he was Henry's closest confidant and he wants to know why he really left; so he's asked that Haig, Kissinger, and I meet tomorrow in California and develop a plan, and then get to the President Wednesday morning on it. He's afraid that Lake could expose the whole Paris thing and would destroy the Administration internally, because, if this came out, Rogers would quite likely feel that he had to resign in protest to the President, for having this kind of thing conducted without Rogers' knowledge. He feels that Henry's got to work out a way to tell Rogers about this and get the thing set up so that if the word does come out, either through Lake or indirectly through Harriman, that we'll be covered. He also had a few things for California scheduling thoughts and the plan for tomorrow before we leave.

The show tonight was excellent. The President did a good job. He spent an hour and half after the program on the telephone. He finally checked with me and I gave him the rundown on comments, etcetera. He seemed to be pleased, although he professed to think that it had been too long and dull. I don't think he really felt that way, but decided he ought to say so anyhow. In any event, all of our people seem to think it was his best effort so far. So, overall, it was a great success.

End of January 5 [January 4] and end of this reel of tape.