



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

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Saturday, October 2nd. Late last night, we got rumors that Poff was considering withdrawing, and that was confirmed this morning. He made it irrevocable. Told Kleindienst to call off the ABA consideration of his nomination, and he drafted a statement hitting the controversy on civil rights and saying it would be divisive and not in the best interest of the country, the Court, or his family for him to stay in. The real reason for his withdrawal is that as our guys were working him over on the problems he would face on confirmation, they got to the point that he has a very substantial net worth and is unable to document the sources of this money. He just doesn't have the facts. They're convinced there's nothing wrong, but that a lot could be made that would appear to be wrong. John Dean is concerned about Poff on the purely human side. He thinks that he's okay, but he needs some feeling of support and all, that he's quite shook by the whole thing.

Bryce Harlow called worried about the FBI situation because of Sullivan being kicked out. He thinks it's going to blow up big and that Hoover will come out very badly on it. That it's a political football of major proportions, that the other side's going to use, and that Sullivan will probably sing, and that we should really be careful of this.

Shultz called with reports on the West Coast and East Coast dock strikes, both of which are still hung up with no real progress. On the coal strike, Hodgson's had a request from Boyle to be called into the White House to be lectured, which Hodgson thinks Boyle is just doing to build himself up.

Apparently, things are going pretty well on putting Phase II together, and on textiles.



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On Poff, the President wanted to be sure that we hang it tight on civil rights, and he says he's going to go for a real Right-Winger now, that is stronger than Poff on civil rights. The worst thing he could do is go to the left. He wants to get someone worse than Poff and really stick it to the opposition now.

He's concerned about the textile thing and thinks Connally may have to get into it to handle the industry, because he's not convinced that Peterson has the ability to deal with them. He thinks he can't risk leaving it in Peterson's hands, especially the textile people themselves. We've got to have a deal set, and it must be done without the President getting involved in it. So he wants to get all the key people in, get them all on salvo, play it cold...

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...make the point to them that, legally, we can't use the Trading with the Enemy Act. That it's this, or it's legislation, but we don't think legislation will work, and there's no other avenue. He also wants to be sure Connally's handling the Yen question, not Petersen.

The President called me at noon today, all cranked up about the Efron book, because Julie and Bebe apparently been reading it. He was not satisfied that our people recognized the importance of it, and the massive effect that it can have. He feels that it has to be required reading for all our people: it's well written, interesting, utterly devastating. And he went on and on about how strongly he feels that we should allocate a million dollars for distribution of the book. That his



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concern is that, like in the history of warfare, the mistake is in fighting on too many fronts, and that we must recognize the enormous importance of the media and this book's impact, and go with that. Colson should spin it off to an individual full time; make it a bestseller, etcetera. Wants Klein to take this on, do a case history on Cambodia like she did on the election, and force the print media to react.

On the Court, he came up with the idea of Byrd of West Virginia, because he was a former Ku Klux Klaner, he's elected by the Democrats as Whip, he's a self-made lawyer, he's more reactionary than Wallace, and he's about 53. In addition to Byrd, he wants Charles Allen Wright, a law professor at Texas, considered. Apparently, Connally raised that man's name. He also agreed to Ehrlichman's idea of considering Wilbur Mills again.

The President left this afternoon for Grand Cay for the night.

End of October 2nd.