



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

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

Thursday, February 3, 1972.

Lot of discussion today on the Muskie counterattack. President had a 8:00 breakfast with Mansfield, but called me in the office just before he went in to say he wanted to get something worked out on strategy on what to do on Muskie today, and that he wants Rogers to go on it, making the point primarily that he's sabotaging the peace. He feels we need a real cutting edge in our material on this, he was pushing quite hard on it. After the breakfast we had a long discussion again with Kissinger on how to handle Muskie, and as a result I put the heat on Colson and Scali, had a strategy session with them, got number of things going. And-- Colson did a good job of getting-- well, Colson and Scali did a good job of getting Rogers programmed, and he got really cranked up, went beyond where I think even he intended to go, at noon today at his press conference, and really blasted Muskie for jeopardizing the peace, and so on. It was a very good, strong attack, and because it came from Rogers, it created quite a major stir.

We did get into some Rogers problems. Kissinger came in to talk to me last night about the-- his conviction that Rogers is actually psychopathic. The thing that convinces him, at least at the moment, is a conversation he had a lunch yesterday with-- or I guess today, with-- no, had have been yesterday, with Ben Bradlee; he told him that Rogers had called Bradlee and Kate Graham in, and given them a long pitch about how he, Rogers, had solved all the of foreign policy problems one by one. Went on and on, and in the process convinced Bradlee that Rogers had, to a degree at least, flipped his lid. I reported this whole thing to the President today and we had quite a long talk about the whole Kissinger-Rogers problem, covering pretty much the same ground we always cover, that is, Kissinger's got the ego, but the counterbalancing positives to warrant putting up with the ego, whereas Rogers has just sheer unadulterated vanity, which doesn't have any compensating factor on the other side, and yet we've got to figure out a way to continue to live with both of them.

We had a session at the President's request this afternoon, with Flanigan, Kissinger and Connally to discuss the whole Dave Kennedy problem. I had told the President that based on input from



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both Flanigan and Pete Peterson, that I was convinced the real problem with Connally might very well be based on Dave Kennedy's assumption of the role of chief economic spokesman for all of Europe, as an extension of his new post as NATO Ambassador. This, of course, Connally is not the least bit happy with and has let some people know it, including Flanigan, who talked to me about it. In any event, the three of us met with Connally, told him that there was no intention of giving Kennedy this kind of franchise, that it would be removed and we'd straighten it all out, and set the thing up on whatever basis he felt was right. I think this made some progress.

Connally seemed to be in good spirits, kept Flanigan and me after the meeting to talk about several other things including his new political theory that the problem we're now having on the economy and in a number of other areas results from the basic uncertainly level in the country. He feels that contrary to his earlier views for the need for action, that we may have aggravated the uncertainty question by our various bold moves and sudden switches, and maybe what's needed now is for the President to go to the Congress and say that he doesn't want them to act on any of the 90 programs before them, but rather to pass the appropriations and then go home, and let the country settle down.

The Vice-President called me this afternoon, wanted to get together to fill me in on legal services, because he's very upset: there's been a big public flap on this, as he's sort of engaged with a running brawl with the legal services people at the Office of Economic Opportunity. He says it's escalating rapidly as an attempt to drive a wedge with-- between him and the President, that it involves a fundamental problem throughout the government, and that it's obvious to him that the entire establishment in Washington DC has ground to a halt because of the wild-eyed kids in legal services. He thinks that the President, too, is pretty much disgusted with all this but doesn't realize how bad it is, and he's signed some bad messages and so forth. I told him that I thought he ought to talk with Ehrlichman about this rather than me, and he said that he wanted to talk to me, but that it was all right with him if Ehrlichman sat in. I then said I was going to be gone for the weekend, and he said maybe he would talk with Ehrlichman and we left it at that.



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President went on to Key Biscayne tonight after the reception for the drug abuse athletes. I'll go on down tomorrow, per his instructions, although I had hoped to be able to stay home for the weekend.

End of February 3.