



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

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Thursday, March 16.

President spent the day up at Camp David, coming down in the evening in time to do his television speech. We had quite a little staff discussion on the whole ITT follow-up. Question of whether Flanigan should testify in executive session, which Cook and Javits want him to do, or make a statement. And our general feeling was that we ought to hold off Flanigan for now, that there's enough other muddying of the waters with the Dita Beard thing, Reinecke's testimony and all that, and we should just let it lie. The staff guy reports there's very little Congressional mail on this, and no interest out in the country, so we should be careful about overreacting.

The big Colson maneuver of the day was getting Marlow Cook to give out the pictures of Dita Beard and the others at the Sheraton-Carlton cocktail party. He thinks there's some possible dynamite, in that they gave the waiter who retired a photo with everybody's signatures and Anderson signed it "To the source of the White House Papers", which Colson thinks is highly significant, and the rest of us, of course, think is just a gag. Anderson's blasting us today, denying the whole thing, everybody now is convinced that the memo is a phony. The typing analyst, Mr. Titell, says that it was typed in January, not in June. They also had Dita Beard's testimony in hand now that the memo's not authentic, that she didn't type it, it's not her signature, she's never seen it, and she told Anderson that. All the ITT people say they've never seen the memo, and the typist-- secretary who typed the original memo can now come forward and say that this is not the one she typed. There is a problem on getting the Senators out there to talk to Beard on Monday because their doctor is having second thoughts on it. President this afternoon said he wasn't too worried about the ITT thing, didn't want to get too much overreaction to it.

The other problem today was a memo from Bill Rogers to me, saying that he was going to take charge of the Russian trip and start coordinating the Departments, and so on, which had Henry pretty disturbed. And I raised it with the President when he came down from Camp David, or raised it on the phone with him, when he was just chatting about general things, and he said I should just level with him on it. That the President's taken many trips, he's always in charge of



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his own trips, and following that practice, the President will be in personal charge and will not delegate that to anyone. He told me to take a very hard line with Rogers on this, not back off at all. So I am writing Bill a memo in response to take care of that.

The preparation for the busing speech tonight was quite elaborate, as we set up a whole series of briefings all afternoon. Ehrlichman and his crew came down ahead of the President in order to get the briefings underway, and cover all the Cabinet committees, Congressional groups, and so on. Apparently on a pretty good basis, everybody seems to be quite optimistic about the speech as being strong and simple and getting it-- the points made the way we want them.

President called me before the speech and said to work out with Ziegler that no one from *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, or *Newsday* is to be allowed in the President's office for the photo opportunity. And after the speech, when I was giving him the reaction stuff, he said to be sure Colson goes all out on getting mail into the Congress, because he did ask in the speech for people to write their Congressmen. The general response in a phone check after the TV was quite positive. People reacted extremely well, so we're probably in pretty good shape.

End of March 16.