



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

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Tuesday, January 9

The President again this morning, first thing, got into the Klein role. Said he'd come up with the solution: that the deal that we should do is to make him counselor with Cabinet rank, with a secretary and a roving assignment so he can sit in on meetings, but not come in to brief leaders and so on. Make him counselor for communications, and have him work as a personal operative with no staff, or operational responsibility. And on this basis he thinks that would solve all the problems with Herb and still get the advantages from him that he thinks we would lose if he leaves. He told me to talk to Klein and say the President's damned impressed with your personal appearances and so on, but you shouldn't be bogged down with details. You're an enormous effective advocate and salesman, so we should raise your stature to counselor. You would sit in on the Cabinet, some NSC, and leadership meetings, but it would be very clear that there is only one Press Secretary. That the President looks on you as an individual advocate handling phone calls, speeches, and most importantly TV. Things, such as your previous work to program the Cabinet and so on, that would be no longer your responsibility. So, I'll see what you can do on that. Later on in the day, however, Ziegler got into a discussion of this with the President. And at that point the President felt we should not go ahead with Klein, so we may not have to do it.

Kissinger called on the phone, reporting from Paris said that we would be receiving a message in an hour or so. The main reason for his call was to wish the President a happy birthday, and that some of what he had been hoping for may be coming to pass. Says he'll be there till Friday, or no later than Saturday. That there will be a proposed schedule coming to us tomorrow -- that we must keep the lid on -- on the matters that we discussed Saturday. That the cable should be confined to the President only, and tell no one else now. And then he said "I mainly wanted to wish the President a happy birthday and express my gratitude to him for letting me serve". A little later, his report came and it was very good news. He says they got the breakthrough, and, unless the Vietnamese back down, we're in very good shape. The President had Colonel Kennedy in.



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Meeting with, this is on January 9, meeting with Colonel Kennedy on Henry's report. The President said that his guess, in looking at the whole thing, that he's not overly optimistic, that Henry is probably over-evaluating it again. Kennedy, on the other hand, thinks this is it. The President's concern is that the North Vietnamese will back down the hill tomorrow. The President says the only thing that he disagrees with Kissinger on is the massive problem in Saigon. He says he doesn't think it's like it was there now. Kennedy also says he's much more hopeful that we can pull it off with Saigon. Talked about the fact that Haig should plan to go on Sunday, or as soon as possible, but we should not tell him the news today, so that he won't have to lie over there.

Overall, it's super good news, and the President told Kennedy to send Henry a cable saying this is the best birthday present he's had in sixty years. Obviously, he was very pleased, but he handled it in very cool fashion, didn't tell anyone else, and isn't going to, he says, and I don't think he will.

He had a series of meetings at his initiative today. First Malek, told Fred to say -- feel free to say the President wants this or that when you're working. Made the point that you're a good manager and a judge of managers, but more important than ability is loyalty. The government must act when we speak, therefore it's better to have a dumb loyalist than a bright neuter. For IRS, a loyal Jew would be good. It must be a loyalist. We've got to get input from Webster and Colson. The President suggested the idea of inspectors general, such as the services the State Department has, one for every Department and Agency. Have them move around and into the regions. Told Malek to see about this concept. Then he met with Ash and Ehrlichman. Emphasized the need to



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use Ash to sell the economy and so forth because of his credibility. We need for him to contact Arthur Burns, and he commented that Arthur played a brilliant line in the campaign and deserves great credit. Told Roy not to worry about the attacks, as a designated member of the Cabinet, your status is the same as any Cabinet officer, it's important for the Cabinet to recognize this. He'll sit on the OMB under Shultz and Weinberger, which is just a glorified Budget Bureau, with damn little on management. That you should get a good budget man to rely on, so that you don't worry about the budget details, and spend your time on the management side. Told me to talk to Bryce Harlow at the earliest opportunity and get Bryce to meet with Ehrlichman and Ash on the value of musical chairs and the Budget Bureau relations in Congress. Says the Domestic Council still has responsibility for the political input and we're relying on the counselors on this. Told Roy to give on the little battles and fight the big ones, especially with Congress. Sometimes it's just not worth the cost to win the little ones. We need to sell the impounding case on the basis of taxes. We can't win on individual programs; we have to transfer the issue, that it leads to an undesirable tax increase. Said we really ought to get a poll thing on whether you favor government spending more if it requires a tax increase, or do you feel it's okay to spend more and have a tax increase. Spend as much time as possible on the Hill, hold hands, say the President asked you to come, and have a frank talk, etcetera.

He met with Ken Cole, made a pitch to him that Ehrlichman has got to take more PR and Congressional responsibility and that Ken should not pile Ehrlichman up or bother him. Should help him delegate by not taking matters to him. Ken should make the decisions and don't worry about some mistakes; the President will work with him and back him. We don't need to see so much paperwork; we should cut down the volume of paper into the President. We should find occasions to bring departmental people that we've now have farmed out to the Departments back into the White House, especially our people from the Domestic Council and so on. Talked about doing the State of the Union in sections which will allow Congressional consultation. Instead of eight stories in one speech, we'll have eight separate stories. He told Cole to call Nelson Rockefeller on his drug deal and tell him the President is totally behind him and that he's on the



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right side of the issues, it is good to have the governor move out on it. The President hasn't because we don't have a clearance from Justice. Also, the President is personally kicking the asses around the government to get some contracts for New York. Told him to call Rizzo and tell him the President really feels for him on the education thing and to blame all the problems on Shapp.

Dean reported that everybody except Liddy either has, or will be negotiating pleas of guilty, this is including McCord. Hunt has already settled on a negotiation for a guilty plea on three counts, the others have vague assurance regarding equal treatment and so on. Silbert has a problem with the judge accepting the pleas, but after the opening statement the jury impanelled they'll take the plea and then the judge will ask if there are any higher-ups, and Hunt will say no. Liddy still has a desire to go to trial, because it puts him in better shape, and he wants to go for a pardon. Colson made the deal with Bittman regarding Hunt. This led to the deals with the other parties, so there is no involvement from the White House, it's all indirect.

He thinks that we can probably also work Liddy, but maybe shouldn't. They'll take contempt if they're granted immunity, and that may blunt the Congress, too. He wants Mitchell to talk to DeLoach to see what he can get out of him on the LBJ thing, because if he can get that cranked up, LBJ could turn off the whole Congressional investigation.

Late in the afternoon, the President had a long session with Colson. We got into a discussion of getting someone to buy the *Washington Star*, which Frank Dale wants to do. Colson made the point that it would be far better to have someone buy the *Post*. Got into the Webster discussion and the problem with the replacement, where we don't want just a good tax man. The President said we'd do him for the FTC and drop Lou Ainman. And the President told Colson that he needed to have our recommendations regarding PR and attack operations ready to go over with him on Friday morning, evaluating all the players and so forth. Colson says that Brennan has dropped the consideration of Tabor for Under Secretary of Labor, because when he came in to have his interview with Brennan he started talking about how terrible the bombings were, and



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couldn't we get those stopped, so Brennan told him he could leave. Colson's concerned about moving Webster out. Thinks we can handle it all right though if we can give him the FTC, so I'm supposed to work that out with Ehrlichman. The President left early to go for a drive with Bebe out to see Julie's new house, and then for his surprise birthday party tonight.

End of January 9.