



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

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Friday, March 30.

The President had a solid round of appointments this morning, getting ready for the departure for California. Called me in at 1:30 for an hour and a half until departure time. Had Ziegler in and discussed what he had to do in his briefing. We had developed ahead of time the plan that Ziegler should go out today with an announcement of the tape we were going to do yesterday, but not mentioning any names, and Ziegler, and Ehrlichman, and the President worked that out earlier. Ron had covered it in the briefing, then came in to review what he was going to say on television. The President wanted him to make the point that it is not, and never has been, the position in the White House to cover-up or to withhold any information and that there's a massive misapprehension regarding the policy that will be followed. We will-- with regard to cooperation of White House personnel and investigations being conducted regarding illegal activities at the Watergate, the policy has been and is that any member of the White House staff who is called by the grand jury will be directed to appear and to cooperate fully in providing information with regard to personal participation in or knowledge of the Watergate incident. As far as the Senate committee is concerned, members of the White House staff are prepared to answer any relevant questions under a procedure that can be worked out which does not violate the constitutional principle of separation of powers. He should infer that discussions are now underway to determine a satisfactory procedure.

Dean reported, just before we were leaving, that Hunt's through testifying, that Silbert tried to get McCord before the grand jury today and that the Judge said no, that he can't go until he's finished with the Senate.

Mitchell reported that, with the deferral of McCord, we ought to hit Kleindienst on the question of other witnesses. Find out who and when, and that apparently there's an investigation underway of Fenstermacher [Fensterwald] by the FBI, and Kleindienst needs to be sure that the information gets out on that.



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On the plane out to California, the President had me up for a little while, talking almost totally on Watergate. His concern is developing in terms now of the damage to the Presidency and his ability to govern and feels that we have to take action to clear this up because of that. He's getting a lot of heat from the likes of Goldwater, etcetera, who have a real concern and are expressing it to him via letters, etcetera, which makes him feel that we've got to face up to the erosion of confidence question and take some action to get at that. Ehrlichman, of course, feels strongly the same way, and he spent some time with the President afterwards and hit him very hard on that point. Told me later that the President comes down that the thing to do is put it to Magruder and try to draw the line there. No question whether that's possible.

End of March 30.