



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

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Monday, December 7.

A big day with a lot of action. Started with the President having breakfast with John Connally, as a result of which he has succeeded in getting him to take the post as Secretary of the Treasury. He told me right after he came into the office, then wanted to be sure that no one else knew. I reminded him that he had discussed the possibility with Ehrlichman, and he said to cover John on not telling anyone. Connally had made the point to the President of the overriding importance of getting something for Bush right away, because we couldn't do anything on the Connally announcement until Bush was set. The President then wanted me to talk to Rogers, and try to work Bush out for the UN, get that assignment settled right now. Connally wants to come up next week and get a full rundown on the Treasury. President wants me to talk Connally into taking Flanigan as Under Secretary. The plan is to make the announcement sometime around January 15. As the day went on, the President had Ehrlichman in and told him about it, told him not to tell anyone; he also had Kissinger in with Ehrlichman, so that he knows too.

I'm to call Connally tomorrow to set up a meeting next week ostensibly with Kissinger, at which time, Ehrlichman will give him a full briefing on the background of the Treasury situation as it now stands. Later in the day, the President asked me to call Connally and tell him how pleased I was and how pleased the President is that he's taken this. He wants to be sure to lock him up. Also, wanted me to ask Connally whether he didn't think we should move more quickly on the announcement. Connally's original concern had been that the more time—the earlier we announce it, the more time we give the press to cut him up, and felt we ought to wait until a little later. I tried to get Connally tonight, but he was out, so I'll call him tomorrow.

The next development was a note from Bryce, saying that he would not be able or willing to take the National Chairmanship, and he submitted his letter of resignation effective Wednesday. On the basis of this, the President told Ehrlichman and me to move on Rumsfeld, and try to convince him to take the job. We did so, and got an absolute, stonewall, flat “no” answer. He did not respond to any effort we made to get him to give it any consideration at all, and it's absolutely



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clear that there's no way he can be talked into taking it. Part of the developments leading up to the Rumsfeld talk were the President's meeting with Romney this morning, at which time Romney agreed to go along with whatever the President wanted as far as housing philosophy, reintegration, thus eliminating the basic cause for removing him. The President made something of a pitch to try to get Romney to take the Voluntary Action Program Presidency, but didn't go all out and therefore didn't get the thing settled. The net result is that Ehrlichman is now supposed to try to get Romney out; but failing that, there won't be a post for Rumsfeld, and that was the argument we used with him. He didn't buy it.

Since he didn't, our next hope is to now succeed in getting Romney out, so that Rumsfeld can take the HUD job, which is, of course, what he really wants. Late in the afternoon, the President was meeting with Mitchell to tell him about Connally, and I broke in to tell both of them that Rumsfeld wouldn't take the RNC job. That led to considerable discussion of candidates for RNC. And it boiled down to Finch, Bush, Kleindienst, Dole, and MacGregor. Finch is ruled out because of the South. Kleindienst, because he wouldn't take it and Mitchell doesn't want him to anyway. Dole because he's an incumbent Senator. So we're down to Bush and MacGregor. The decision was for me to talk to MacGregor, see if I could get him to take it. We would then move Bush into the MacGregor post of Congressional liaison.

President had me over to EOB late in the afternoon, where he had a couple of drinks and talked about how pleased he was about the Connally development. We also got into State Department things. The President had met with Rogers this afternoon, and Bill raised the question of removal of Patterson on the basis that he knew the President and Kissinger don't like him. Said he would do so if Kissinger would remove Sonnenfeld, whom Rogers doesn't trust. This is a good break, because we don't like Sonnenfeld either. Rogers also has agreed to fire Klein, the head of his intelligence unit, who was the one who leaked a story to the *LA Times*. President wants me to meet with Rogers and explain that for his own good, he's got to make some other changes at State also, because there are a lot of leaks coming from there, and there is a substantial effort amongst the Foreign Service to take on the President.



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As usual, we got back to the question of what to do about Chotiner, and the President again concluded that we have to break it off; he can't go to the RNC, and that he should therefore go into a law firm.

An odd development on the Treasury deal is that Bob Anderson, who Mitchell was wooing, and who had turned him down, called Mitchell back this morning to say that he wanted to be considered after all. This, of course, after the President had already locked Connally. Now we have two Secretaries where couple of days ago we couldn't find any.

President came up with a plan for getting the Teddy Kennedy picture of his night out in Paris distributed, by having some of his Democratic opponents in the Senate get prints circulated along with the British newspaper story. It could be very damaging. I went to a dinner at the State Department given by Frank Shakespeare for his new USIA advisory board. President spent the evening working on his briefing book for the press conference Thursday night.

All in all, it was rather an overwhelming day, especially with the Connally development. That appointment and the repercussions of it will be one of the biggest things we've done and should be extremely effective in startling the media and the establishment. It will create some monumental problems with John Tower and some of the other Republicans. And we're going to have a tough time selling some of them. The RNC is another tough problem, and I think there's real doubt that MacGregor will take it, but we'll give it a try.

End of the day.