



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

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Tuesday, April 28.

Sort of at loose ends today. Had a 10:15 session with Rogers, Laird and Mitchell to lay down the law to Rogers and Laird. He's decided to go ahead with the full plan and told them so - with darn good salesmanship according to Mitchell. Then roared into Cabinet room for meeting he had me set up with Ehrlichman and Flanigan regarding economy. Really hit hard on getting some action. Said Kennedy and Mayo have to go - are not good spokesmen and not strong enough. (Also mad because they, plus Stans and Burns, are all in South America while we are in semi-crisis.) Has decided on Shultz for OMB - wanted him in today, but not available. Wants me to fire Mayo - can't decide who's to do Kennedy. Said DDE fired four Cabinet officers and Sherman Adams, but did none himself. Adams did the four and Nixon did Adams. Told Ehrlichman to accelerate tax collections to lessen the '70 deficit now indicated by \$2 billion and shortfall in revenues. Reviewed general economic problem, mainly the psychology.

End of morning, after couple of quick appointments - had VP in for briefing on Cambodia, with Kissinger and me. Gave him quick outline of plan, which he bought enthusiastically. Will be a good salesman for it.

Wanted to review our general promotion plan just to be sure all covered. Had Kissinger in and out several times. Agreed to general plans for TV, Congressional briefing, etc. Spent some time wandering around, haircut, etc. Took Ehrlichman for long walk on South Lawn to discuss general economic and domestic matters. Ehrlichman feels President in effect told him to take over the domestic side for the time being, while President concentrates on the crisis. Is clearing the decks and gearing up for the whole thing to hit hard, which it may. Called me about whether OK for him to go to Camp David tomorrow to work on speech - I said yes, after it has been announced. If we go the route of letting this build as a major crisis, instead of downplaying it as we have in the past - that will add to the atmosphere. I think his action will greatly surprise most of the country. Good or bad will depend heavily on how he sells it on TV. Today he told patriotic



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group heads the general gist of it, and I guess tried out the approach. It went well with them, anyway.

President really worked me over on the phone regarding CBS filming of "Tricia White House Tour," which was set as a 20 or 30 minute segment on the 60 Minutes show. President feels she should have full 60 minutes or nothing - says he controls the film and they can have full hour or nothing. Really mad, and said so - chewed me out worse than he ever has as President. Basically a release of tensions on the big decision, but potentially damaging if he starts flailing in other directions. Think this one is under control.