



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

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Wednesday, November 10th. Had a brief session in Chicago this morning, the President did with a little blind girl who had something to do with a Lions poster, or something. He was sensational in the way he worked with her, letting it be a very natural thing, but dealing with her blindness in such a way that they could communicate well.

He got into quite an analysis somewhat last night, and then again today on the plane going back to Washington, of his whole approach on the speech last night. He felt that it wasn't particularly effective and feels very strongly that dinners are not only not effective, but actually detrimental, and he wants to be sure again that we don't get locked into any for next year.

We had a meeting this afternoon with Rogers and Haig on the plans for the South American trip. Rogers made his pitch again for doing the Panama and Jamaica thing.

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The President shot down Jamaica completely, but agreed that maybe Panama would be okay. Primarily, because of Rogers's point that 22 countries is too many to have in one meeting, and it would appear to be an OAS meeting with a lot of gripes against the US and so on.

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He feels there's great advantage to its being informal with no agenda, and so on, and that, the President is inclined to agree with. Rogers feels we can get some accomplishments out of it and



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that it is a good thing from a foreign policy viewpoint to do, and I felt strongly it was also good from a political viewpoint. General decision was to wait until after the State of the Union and set it up then, since there isn't really time to get it set in December, and also if we do Panama, we have to wait until January. Actually I think this is better timing anyway. It puts it when it'll do us more good.

End of November 10th.