



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

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Friday, June 30.

The President had a pretty full morning although he had me in for quite a while before his first appointment. I missed the staff meeting as a result. He just wanted to chat about reaction of the press conference and his general approach to the Mitchell meeting later today.

At noon he had Colson and me in. Said he had given the Cost of Living Council a lecture on press relations, which grew out of my discussion with him on Scali's memo, feeling that we should move away from White House and Presidential attacks on the press, except for factual accuracy. He made the point that they are ideologically against us, but we make a mistake when we react personally rather than on the issues, which is the mistake Agnew and Reagan make, and that he wants us to change our strategy on that, which we'll do. He then told the Lincoln story of the problem Lincoln had with his Cabinet. He fired one of the Cabinet members, and a friend said they're all so bad why didn't you fire them all, and Lincoln said that reminded him of the story of the farmer who caught nine skunks, put them in a pen, killed one of them and the stench was so bad he let the others go.

We got into the Mitchell thing at lunch today. The President had John and me over at the EOB. Lunch was served on the table in his conference room and while John and I had crab soufflé, the President ate his pineapple and cottage cheese salad. We agreed that it should be worked out. Covered some of the details of announcement procedure and that sort of thing, and then adjourned to try to work out a statement. The President met at 5:00 with MacGregor and told him he wanted him to take on the campaign manager job. We went into some of the details with him and think we have the whole thing set.

There's some new problems on the Watergate caper, leading us to a probable decision that the way to deal with this now is to put all of them together, tie it all into Liddy's lap, and let him take the heat for it, which is actually where it belongs anyway.

End of June 30.