



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

National Archives and Records Administration, Online Public Access Catalog Identifier: 7787364

Wednesday, March 12.

President spent most of the day resolving the ABM decision. He's going to go with limited deployment, which will raise huge opposition. He recognizes the problem and is ready to fight for passage and for public opinion. Announcement will be by press conference Friday noon. He had long sessions with Kissinger, Ziegler, Harlow, Packard, etc., going over all ramifications. Canceled most of today's planned schedule - including the NSC - and he liked having the day more or less free to use as he wanted. Wasted a lot of time though, with several long "odds and ends" sessions.

Planning to go to California to see property. He's very anxious to move on it. Also has strong desire to get out into the country, meet people, get some cheers, etc. Thinking of possible stops in Midwest en route, i.e., visit Harry Truman.

Big flap regarding proposed Ambassador to Canada. Turned out to be a guy President had met in '67 in Argentina. He was Ambassador there, and Nixon stayed at Residence, he left anti-Nixon literature and Herblock cartoons on bedstand. So now President has blocked this appointment - and any for this guy. Shows how things can come back to haunt you.

I spent lot of time - other than Presidential sessions - with staff on routine. Got the Ehrlichman plan finalized. Met with White House staff managers - Secret Service, police, aides, etc. - to finalize their plans for shaping things up. Should be productive.

Another Congressional reception tonight. Rough social week - on top of the ABM, et al.

I had dinner and long talk into the night with Higby regarding his role, our operation, etc.