



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

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

Thursday, May 15.

Interesting day after the speech. Started with Armed Forces/Defense breakfast. All top brass and civilians. President gave spectacular speech regarding America's commitment and world role, and need for true patriotism, etc. Really cranked 'em up. Great consternation because it wasn't recorded.

Then the Fortas resignation broke - and poor Ziegler was in huge flap between releases from the Court, etc. President really discouraged by whole affair.

Then Cabinet/NSC meeting. President had all key people speak regarding last night's speech - Kissinger, Richardson (for Rogers), Laird, General Wheeler, Yost, Dick Helms, Cabot Lodge and Paris team. All high in praise for the speech and its importance. President wrapped up with a semi-replay of the breakfast speech, with more detail on the "why" of Vietnam position. Was great - got long ovation (as at breakfast). Then said "I didn't mean to make a speech to the Cabinet. I wasted that one - and I don't have many"

Kissinger and I both feel last night's TV would have been much better if he'd used the morning speech, and done the diplomatic stuff by a white paper. But Kissinger feels he had to do this one this way, and that in the process he really became his own man in foreign policy.

Discussion regarding plan for Ohio State speech. Decided to cancel on basis of strong recommendation from John Mitchell, and concern of Secret Service about demonstration. Will use plan of having Thieu and Vietnam people come to meet President in California that day, and drop OSU.

Meeting with Mrs. Doyle on decorating Oval Office, Key Biscayne and California houses. Hope we can finally settle all this.

President had first meeting with domestic group Ehrlichman says it was very productive. Hope it will stay that way - eliminates need for a lot of individual meetings.