



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

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Saturday, May 17.

Expected a late start, but President came in at 8:00 raring to go. Had me in for long session regarding pages and pages of little scraps of notes - some must have been accumulated for months.

Had read Hoover's report on bad guys in State and Defense, ordered a few specific ones to be fired or transferred. Went through a lot of ideas for Cardinal Cooke church service. Wants to get some follow up on anti-ABM Senators who spoke for Vietnam speech - distressed that this had not been programmed. (He's putting a lot of thought against ABM battle). Very anxious to follow up fast on Fortas - be sure our story out clearly to avoid Jewish establishment and press reaction, because they are horribly embarrassed and backed against the wall. We acted very responsible but aren't getting credit for it.

Had some ideas for decorating the Oval Office, led to a little more discussion about Mrs. Doyle. Afraid we just have to go with her - I won't buck Pat Nixon.

Definitely decided to scratch Ohio State, meet Thieu at Midway. Wants me to handle notifications. Wants receptions in California and Hawaii to show public support.

Wants me to blast State for failure to deliver LBJ wire regarding staying at Blair House for DDE funeral. Had a few ideas about wines and menus. A lot of schedule bits. Decided not to review guest lists with Rose anymore.

Presented two Congressional Medals in full military ceremony on South Lawn. Very impressive. Then he went back out to shake hands with crowd. Then kept me in office (almost missed chopper) to go over some more things before leaving for Saratoga.

Demonstrations on Saratoga for Armed Forces Day were spectacular. First we reviewed fleet by air, then landed on Saratoga. Had fire power demonstration - missiles from ship to air, sub to



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sub, ship to sub, air to sub, mostly nuclear. Then launched all kinds of jets - fighters, bombers, tankers, and intelligence. Then some landings. Then air power demonstration.

Chopper from there to Camp David for the night. Pat Nixon and Hobe Lewis and John Davies already up there. They had dinner and movie at President's. I ate with staff, worked a little and to bed early.