



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

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Tuesday, September 23.

SST day. President made the announcement at 9:00 - but it had leaked last night, probably by Scoop Jackson. For the first time, we had a really well-prepared game plan ahead of time, due to Alex ramming it through yesterday.

Then some morning appointments, including fairly long session with Mitchell after a meeting with him and Senator Griffin regarding Haynsworth appointment. Appears it may be in some actual trouble. Griffin meeting was on this - secret.

Minor flap at start of the day because there had been no speech material prepared for Tricia for her trip to Philadelphia to open a museum exhibition. Problem is still almost complete lack of communication between East and West Wings. Hope Stuart's return will resolve this.

President is all of a sudden enamored with use of the Dictaphone, and is spewing out memos by the carload - plus about double the volume of news summary marginal comments. Pushing me hard on both PR organization, and staff restructure and reduction.

He was delighted this morning that pool dismantling was under way, and worked out a plan with Ziegler and me to take a few press through the whole new press set-up. Ziegler had a long session with President in the late morning and succeeded in talking him out of his plan to meet a small group of press for a backgrounder - and instead to have a full press conference Friday. Then President spent about a half hour telling me how to re-juggle the schedule to accommodate it.

After lunch hour he took Merriman Smith and two others on complete tour of West Wing, pointing out how awful the lobby, Roosevelt Room, and West basement are, then showed how the press set-up will work out in the pool area. They basically bought the idea, and he was absolutely right in approaching it this way. Now it's a fait accompli except for details.



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After the tour, I got most of the rest of the afternoon on schedule items, and some staff generalities. Then Kissinger for a while. He's not down to any real basics - needs Ehrlichman back to focus on domestic specifics. Should get off staff operational things. Problem was leaving afternoon open for homework, which he now doesn't need to do until tomorrow.