



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

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Wednesday, December 31.

Long session with President, partly with Ziegler and Ehrlichman. He had a lot of odds and ends stored up to run through. Set the plans for tomorrow. He'll sign the Environment Bill - which was going to be done next week, so I am having it flown out tonight by special plane. At one point he thought he'd sign it at midnight as a special way to start new decade. Fortunately got off that kick. Big problem on setting time for bill signing was to avoid conflict with any of the football games on TV. He's really become a total addict.

Kissinger also in for a while. Discussed Perot's adventures in trying to get food, etc., to the POW's. He and his people have been calling Kissinger, Ehrlichman and Haig all through the night to ask for various kinds of help. President said, "Well, he's no worse than the State Department."

President was displeased with *Time* Man of Year - said it was the first time they haven't selected the President in his first year. Checked and this is not true. They didn't pick DDE until 1959. They did pick FDR, HST, JFK and LBJ in their first years. Interesting!

Considerable discussion of PR, and the year-end analyses. President feels rightly we have come off pretty well but have failed to make the leadership point and that is the most important one. He has made major decisions over the advice of his Cabinet, etc., but this not gotten through. He made reference to Lincoln's line about "Six ayes and one nay - the nays have it."

Did a little pushing regarding our operations, said "We can't be satisfied with just doing well, we have to do better. We have so little time while you've got the power, you have to move quickly, especially now when we're up, build a mythology."

Thought about going to the Rose Parade tomorrow but Pat Nixon shot that down - also would miss some football on TV. Jack Drowns turned up for dinner much to President's disgust and are spending the night - bringing Maureen's baby with them. Unbelievable! President therefor had us set up in his office for TV tomorrow so he can escape. Really sad.



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Still debating when and whether to go to Palm Springs, will have Annenbergs here for dinner tomorrow night.

I came back over to Palm Springs late afternoon. President went for a drive with Bebe.