



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

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Monday, January 12.

Limited schedule to provide time for work on State of the Union - but he didn't use any of it for that. Did have several long sessions with me, and with Ehrlichman and me. Kept Kissinger out all day until after 6:00. Finally let him in for an hour's review before he leaves tomorrow to brief LBJ in Texas. Didn't really have anything specific to get into - just used up the time.

Did decide on a rush Cabinet meeting tomorrow in executive session. Arose from Romney's idea that he could cut his budget another 5 percent, and perhaps all the rest would do likewise - so President is going to try it. Kissinger had originally felt he had to have an NSC on ABM, but was talked out of it pretty easily.

President got into quite a review of general approach to his time this year, i.e., wants to cut councils and committees like UAC, CCEP, etc., to one meeting a month, for one hour. Trying to get less time locked into these meetings, which he doesn't like - and he doesn't feel are productive for him, just therapy for the attendees. Also want to cut down on Congressional meetings and social activities - let the church and evenings at White House suffice.

Spent most of the afternoon sessions reviewing and reverting to the new Derge poll. Was fascinated with the findings and had made a lot of notes on analysis. Especially interested in the strength of the Silent Majority, the weakness of the Moratorium, the decline of the Republican Party. I suggested change in Party name as a start on new realignment and President very seriously took me up on it.

All set to bring Chotiner in as inside White House man for political campaigns. Mixed blessing.

Concluded we can't really stop inflation in this year - the only real solution is controls and that is unpalatable, so you just make the best of it. In this case, form is more important than substance.

Long session with Larry and Chapin about possibility of my taking the OEM job - not that it's being considered, but it might be. My feeling is that it is the wrong move, at least now. Would



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severely limit my freedom, but I have to get my office set up so I have some freedom now. I think President needs one of us as his personal man and I think this is my best role, although OEM offers great opportunity to branch out and really accomplish something.