



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

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Thursday, February 5.

The Midwest Trip. President did the Prayer Breakfast first - most unwillingly, but was reportedly a great success with very inspirational wrap-up. Then a quick presentation by the Boy Scouts, a little staff time, and we were off for Indianapolis. Got into another of his lists with me before we left. Had a long talk with Pat Nixon last night and had figured out the whole problem in terms of "the cast of characters" which he carefully explained to me. Realizes the problem with Lucy, but she's done a good job of working on Pat and convincing her Connie is too abrasive. Poor guy goes on and on trying to figure out how to have it all go away.

Also covered need for better pollsmanship on our part, especially RNC. Wants Chotiner to keep a watchful eye on this.

On plane had Johnson and me up, mainly just to gab. Decided not to have press conference in Chicago tomorrow - will just make statement and leave Train to answer questions.

Good crowds at airport arrival and at City Hall. Pretty good meeting with UAC and group of mayors. Main value - and news stories covered it this way - was simply the fact of bringing government to Midwest. Whole operation was just like a campaign stop, and President played it beautifully. Moynihan very impressed, especially by fact President could actually go out to the country after the past years when this was impossible. A few bad demonstrators, but they were shut off by two bands and a bus that parked right in front of them. Session ran way overtime, but no real problem.

Then on to Chicago. No one at O'Hare except Governor Ogilvie. Chopper to Meigs - supposed to be a crowd, headed by Daley - but only about five hundred hacks. Daley really incredible - with thousands of police, fireboats and fireworks - but no people on the streets. Did allow a small group of repulsive demonstrators in front of the hotel. President did two hours in a receiving line, then to his suite for the evening. Was pretty tired but had enjoyed the day and felt it was productive. Very relieved not to be doing press conference.