



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

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Thursday, May 7.

And the reaction goes on. The Hickel story broke big today. He wrote President a letter regarding need for communicating with young, shutting up Agnew, meeting more with Cabinet members. It leaked to *Star* yesterday and was the big news today, along with resignation of Youth Head at Department of Education. All designed to enhance the "collapse of the Presidency" theory. President pretty calm about it last night - pretty cold-blooded today. Feels Hickel's got to go as soon as we're past this crisis. This led to a rising "anti-Cabinet" feeling as he thought more about it. Went back to deep resentment that none called him after speech, and none rose to his defense on this deal. So he struck back by ordering the tennis court removed immediately. Feels Cabinet should work on own initiative to support President, and they haven't.

Distressed regarding continuing failure to get out word of Cambodia successes - he keeps pumping the story to everyone, and they all are surprised.

An Agnew problem - result of the Hickel letter, and stories that President is muzzling him. Wants VP to avoid any remarks regarding students, etc. - VP strongly disagrees. I passed the word via Blair. VP said he would act only on order of President.

President met with university presidents, and then with Douglas Committee. Then took me on tour of South grounds to discuss tennis court removal and life in general. Feels very concerned about campus revolt and basically helpless to deal with it. It's now clear that many are looking to him for leadership and to calm it down, and there's really no way he can do it. Also have the omnipresent media problem, as they build up everything to look as bad as possible. President said the university presidents were all scared to death - feel that this now includes the non-radical students, and agree with Moynihan's theory that the whole university community is now politicized - and there's no way to turn it off. All blame Agnew primarily - then the President's "bums" crack. General feeling is that without Kent State it would not have been so bad, but that even without Cambodia there were a lot of campuses ready to blow.



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President went to Camp David late afternoon to work on press conferences. He's pretty tired, and he knows it. Went to bed early, after a bunch of phone calls.