



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

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Sunday, March 21.

The President's at Camp David.

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Audio Cassette 6, Side A.
Duration: 34 seconds

The Drowns managed to work that out so they got up there yesterday afternoon. The President thought that Jack had already gone back to California. And they stayed there last night and all day today forcing the President to come back down this evening rather than staying on through Monday as he had hoped to do. Their total lack of sensitivity is absolutely unbelievable.

He called today several times on some general items. He was pleased to have had a report from Connally that Arthur Burns is floating on the clouds, and he thinks that the double whammy between him and Connally is what did it. Connally apparently really scared him by telling him that he was jeopardizing his relationship with the President, and so he thinks we've got Arthur in pretty good shape, for now at least. On the schedule, he wants to throw a lot of things into California, but then he swings the other way and says he wants to play it according to the Haldeman system of making one news item a day and appearing to be doing something, but don't get overloaded, which is, I think, what we ought to do. He is still thinking of bringing Abrams over for a meeting, but feels it probably won't be possible because of the present situation in



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Laos, but maybe he'll bring Bunker in instead. He's anxious to load up this week before he goes, and we've got that pretty well worked out, and we'll shift to the one-a-day type schedule when we get to California.

He got into some general introspection regarding Laos and feels that once we remove the Laotian issue on April 7, when he makes his speech, that we'll then have some strong foreign policy moves in our direction, especially if we have any good breaks. His point is, though, that we'll have eliminated the only thing that gives him much to talk about or to show night after night on television, and that the whole deal will be pretty well neutralized; and then he feels we'll be drawing some good cards in our strong suit on foreign policy, as well as having removed a negative, and that things should swing around pretty well within a few months.

End of March 21.