



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

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Sunday, July 5. [Monday, July 5]

At Camp David in the morning, and he phoned while I was up at the pool. Was concerned about the weekend's news on the economy and says we're going to have to start playing a harder game with Arthur, and also we've really got to put the screws on the bad guy at the Bureau of Labor Statistics. He's talked to Colson, told him to get a group together regarding Vietnam, making the point that we shouldn't fall for the Democratic line that Vietnam is not going to be an issue, that we've got to make it an issue, making the point that the Democrats got us in, Nixon got us out, and then the Democrats tried to sabotage Nixon's efforts to get us out. Also, he wants Ehrlichman's people to get going with two major accomplishments. One: crime, pointing out that we've reduced crime in the major cities; we've reduced student unrest; we're launching, and successfully, a war on drugs; we've strengthened the Court; and we've ended the era of permissiveness. The second being economics-- no the second being the war: that we got out, or got down to whatever level we are. And then third is economics, and there, on the economy, it's what happens that will count; nothing that we can say is going to make any difference.

He does want to go ahead with a poll in the fall on the environment, because he thinks that we have a mixed bag there, because Whitaker's polls didn't put the right question; it has got to be put in terms of the environment versus jobs. And we have to list things as to which you think are number one, or put up pairs: is the environment more important than something else?

He witnessed the certification of the Twenty-Sixth Amendment, the 18 year old vote, today. We had a group of five hundred musical kids, singers and musicians, who are The Young Americans, who are going to make a tour of Europe starting tomorrow. They did a spectacular job. They were really enthusiastic when the President came in to the East Room and gave him a tremendous ovation, several of the girls crying, as they were so impressed with the whole occasion. The President had three of the kids join him as witnesses after Kunzig signed the Amendment, or the certification. Then the whole group of five hundred sang the "Battle Hymn of the Republic", and it was really great. Unfortunately, as usual, the TV gave us virtually no



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coverage of it, and that got him stirred up later on this evening. The whole thing was a plus on TV, but they didn't get the feel of the room. So now, we're going to try and follow-up, see if we can get some backup mileage out of it. That's going to be hard to do.

End of July 5.