



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

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Sunday, October 31.

President was at Camp David all day. I had no contact except one phone call in the early evening. Hear he was checking in on things. I had talked earlier with MacGregor about the foreign aid strategy. Clark feels we'll have to go to a continuing resolution and we have a good chance of getting that, but he wants to try for 120 days instead of just 90 days. Then he thinks we can get certain noncontroversial measures proposed. Once we get a bare bones bill by the Senate, we can get it into Conference, and then get the House people to put their items on it. As a third point, he thinks we can ask the Committees to reconsider the President's basic bill. He says we'll have to work with Aiken, Griffin, and Scott, and we will have to counsel with Aiken on this one. The AID people have told them they can live on the pipeline until March or April. He says they had been told that the vote would be Saturday, so they were caught completely by surprise and the absentees, there were 31 absentees, hurt badly.

President, in his call, referred to the need for a strategy meeting tomorrow morning. Said he'll spend a good part of the time tomorrow with Bill Rogers and wants him to take the lead. He says Henry's come up with an idea he doesn't want to encourage, which is that the President should go on prime time TV to ask national support of the foreign aid program, to show Presidential leadership. The President feels this is not a good political and public issue. Henry thinks this is a good time for the-- to make a strong defense of our foreign policy overall. The President thinks this is not the time to do it. He said to keep the day clear for Rogers. I checked later and find that Rogers is in Bermuda and won't be back until Tuesday, so we'll have a little flap on that. Also he wants to go ahead with his meeting with Reagan as soon as possible. We should invite him to the Ghandi dinner this week, if we can. He makes the point that we must not react to the Senate. We can't play their game on this. Got to play it our way.

End of October 31.