



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

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Friday, May 5.

In staff meeting this morning, we had a discussion of the Congressional situation regarding Vietnam. Apparently the doves now want to put their whole effort to curtail the President's powers, put the whole bill back regarding Vietnam funds. They don't want to be responsible for the defeats in the battlefield, which it looks like may be happening, or a cancellation of the Summit, which they are afraid might develop. The idea would be to recommit it to the Committee and bring it out on June 1. Our hawks want to do that, too, because they think we can probably play it as a victory. The Democratic caucus in the House ordered a bugout resolution, and Throckmorton, unfortunately, was going to back it because he was instructed to. Holifield apparently has an alternative to it that our people think is pretty good and so we're in a fairly tight situation in Congress as far as the war goes.

We had a session with Henry and the President first thing this morning, and Henry was very concerned because Rather had reported last night that the White House was speculating about a blockade. He's afraid that there's a leak here. I don't think that's it at all, I think a blockade is just one of the obvious escalation moves that the speculators are speculating on.

The President decided to leave at 4:00 this afternoon for Camp David, taking Rose with him. Told me to talk to John Andrews and have him plan to come up at noon tomorrow, to explain to him that the President was going to give a speech regarding a decision that he may not agree with but he should understand he's solely there for the purpose of implementing the President's ideas, he's not to raise questions regarding substance, because it's already decided. I told John this and he said he had no problem with that at all. We had some discussion of Congressional briefings for the speech and all, and it's decided to go Monday night. He wants me to check the Monday TV schedule.

He makes the point that the Democrats are running a mortal risk, because the enemies' refusal to negotiate is due to the House and Senate doves giving them encouragement, and encouraging them even in North Vietnam to continue their offensive. These people who got us in now are



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doing their most to see that we lose the war. Pretty tough position. The President did leave this afternoon for Camp David and will stay there for the weekend working on the speech. I went on to Williamsburg with the family as planned.

End of May 5.