



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

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Saturday, December 16.

I spent all morning in a personnel meeting, keeping the President stalled. Didn't get in to see him till later in the afternoon. I raised the point of Anne Armstrong as counselor and the President bought it. We worked up a way to go at it, and I tried to reach Anne to tell her; she wasn't available by phone. We decided we wanted to leak it to the press for the Sunday papers, to the *Star*, and called Ziegler to tell him to do that. I still couldn't get Anne and the time got to 4:30, which is the latest Ron could leak it, so we went ahead and leaked it without telling Anne. Then I did get her on the phone, told her. She was a little flabbergasted. I didn't get her till 5:30, and by that time, I told her that she'd have to be at the Cabinet dinner tonight, and that really threw her, too, because she only had two hours to notify her family, get organized and get to the dinner but she went ahead and did it. The President decided he wanted her on his right and wanted her to give a toast at the dinner, which he did do.

The Cabinet dinner went off very well. A little bit rambling, as the President got up and gave a little talk about the importance of Cabinet people. Then he gave a toast to the Vice President and considered him as symbolic of the entire Cabinet. Then had Bill Rogers toast Mamie Eisenhower and Pat Nixon, the First Ladies. Bill very graciously also toasted Julie as the symbol of the coming together of those two families. Then he announced Anne Armstrong's appointment; told them it was a big secret until Monday and had Anne respond with a toast to the President. She did a very good job, working in the idea that this is the period when we salute the Prince of Peace and it's fitting that those of us who are closest to, and work most directly with the President, have a chance to gather with him at this time and to drink a toast to the man who has done the most for peace in our history. A potential awkwardness didn't seem to develop, at least there were no real problems at the dinner, although it wasn't any great smashing success, I don't think.

End of December 16.