



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

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Monday, March 5.

The President came down from Camp David early today, for no announced reason. Called me in at noon, was concerned about the reaction to the "Evening at the White House" felt that we should have invited the music critics, for instance, to Van Claiborne and to this one, because of the lousy social reporting and got into his whole thing of how we don't get any credit for what we're doing and all.

Then called Ziegler and said he was concerned about the reporters covering the "Evenings" and entertainment, that he must never invite Sally Quinn. She violated the rules and attacked the guests at a church service. He wants Julie to use Ziegler to control the press over in the East Side, as to who to let in and that sort of thing. That led into his whole thing on entertainment. He wants to do a hand shake reception before the Ford dinner out in California. Wants to try for a big bass singer some time. Wants to be sure we get really good entertainment and control the show at the Ford dinner.

Got into POW plans. He wants to work out a program with them that gets something going right away, so that we have Congress preempted on any POW activities. Got into Colson, wants to be sure that he understands, as soon as he gets back, that Dean is handling the Watergate, that we went all-out on Balzano, that we've set up quotas for the New American Majority. We have to establish the situation for his contacts with me, so that he doesn't end run Brennan and others, and he should be brought into the political group.

Then got into schedule, wants to move the "Evenings at the White House", to Tuesday nights, keep Easter week clear, put Tanaka in the last half of July, keep the Fourth of July and Labor Day periods clear. Schedule his press conference for the last day of the withdrawal and POW thing, which will be the 27th or 28th, so that he can make the announcement. Dropped the idea of doing the ball game because of the problem of Thieu being in Washington at that time. So he's going to stay out in California, probably go to Palm Springs the 5th, 6th and 7th.



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Got into the general PR area, wants Ehrlichman to hammer the PR and domestic issues, especially, crime, drugs, taxes, and spending. He was concerned with the Harris poll that shows us in bad shape on those, as we always have been. Made the point that men who go through great adversity come out stronger, and that that's the key to the POW's. Wants to send the Denton letter out to the "good letter list". Also to do a TV thing out of the crime deal.

Got back to the Ehrlichman question, feels that John's too busy with meetings and things and doesn't have time to think and do the PR planning that he should be doing. So he should drop his U.S. News and Editorial Boards and only do what the President would do on the basis that he's representing him and should maintain the same scarcity level.

End of March 5.