



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

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Tuesday, March 6.

The President had a very heavy day, scheduled right from 8:30 through to 6:00 and then first of the two "fat cat" dinners tonight. He did have me in at 6:00 for a short time, and reacted to the day, making the point that it basically was useless, because all of the events were spinning wheels. He went over the schedule item-by-item and made the point that none of the things really needed to be done nor did any of them really advance the ball for us in any way. He got into a little discussion of schedule strategy. Ehrlichman had raised the idea of doing a series of regional briefings and he's not inclined to do that, he feels we've already done it. We shouldn't do the same thing over, we need a new idea to get attention. But that Agnew should get out and do the regional briefings. He feels the Baroody operation has failed on their promotion of the budget battle, and that we need to replace him. And had some ideas on plans for the dinner tonight.

Ehrlichman reported earlier-- he and Timmons on the President's leadership meeting this morning, which apparently was quite historic. This was just with Scott and Ford, and we knew that Scott intended to come in and complain about things on the Hill and suggest the President have a series of meetings up there with the Republican Senators. Scott started off doing exactly that, and said the mood was very bad and whined on and on for two or three minutes. The President just let him go, and then he stepped and said Hugh, people really don't-- said that-- he used a lot of apparently pretty strong profanity, and said that the Press-- I mean the Senate are nothing but a bunch of A's and that we never get anything from them. There's nothing that does any good, no matter what we do for them, and all I can say is eff the Senate. That we bring them down and give them their cookies, and treat them nice socially, in order to cover the things that we need to do, but we can't count on them for any vote, and never have been able to. He then swung over and turned to Gerry, and said now tell me about what we can count on in the House. At another point, he turned to Korologos, you forget wasting time on the Senate, you get over to the House and get to work, where we can get something done. And then at a later point, Scott interrupted and said, well Mr. President, I need some advice on handling votes, what do you want me to do as the leader, when the great bulk of the Republicans decide to vote against the



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Administration on a particular issue? Should I vote with the majority of our people, or should I stay with the Administration and stick out like a sore thumb by voting the other way? The President said that it doesn't make any difference, you can vote anyway you want, nobody gives an ass what the Senate does or how the Senate votes. Everybody present felt that this is going to have quite a substantial effect, and probably a very salutary one on Scott, as it sort of shapes him up.

End of March 6.