



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

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Monday, April 19.

The main item this morning was reaction to McCloskey, who was on the Sunday television yesterday attacking us on bombings in Laos. The President told me to order State to have Sullivan take McCloskey on and knock him off. The question is whether Rogers should also do so. The point is that State's under attack on this, and it's up to them to counter it. The President does have mixed feelings on the McCloskey thing and wants to be careful not to build him up. He points out that you must not give a demagogue too much attention. We should-- at the White House, should soar above this and not get into it.

He had a very upbeat feeling as a result of church yesterday. The Texas A&M choir came through the line, told him they were all for him, ready to go to Vietnam, and so on. He makes the point that this is the audience we should speak to and play our college kids, rather than going into the camp of the enemy. He choppered down to Williamsburg for the Governor's Conference, did an excellent job on welfare reform in his talk there. Bob-- Gerry Ford flew down with him, Bob Dole flew back, and he used part of the chopper ride for conversations with them, mainly on odds and ends. Tonight was the DAR, and that also went very well, although the speech wasn't particularly outstanding. The highlight really was seeing a DAR Convention, because it looked exactly like a DAR Convention. They were all in their pastel formals with their official sashes across the front and looked exactly like the little old ladies of the DAR should look. He got a good reception, gave a good upbeat speech. Everybody's in general agreement now that things are going much better and that we should take exactly that attitude on a very positive basis and not let the constant sniping bother us.

End of April 19.