



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

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Friday, January 31.

Staff meeting - Ehrlichman and Alex - Harlow not there. President called me in regarding the day's schedule. Upset about visit to reconstruction site - and even more about meeting with Senator Javits - but agreed to go ahead.

President did reconstruction site visit (great press) and trip to Pentagon, returning at noon. Had long session regarding schedule and called Kissinger and me in to meeting with General Goodpaster regarding Kissinger's problems with State. President refused to tackle it head-on. Started by shifting schedule and personnel responsibilities regarding State from Kissinger to me - to get Kissinger out of trivia. Especially emphasized this regarding trip. Agreed to change plan and send Ehrlichman as head of advance team because I should be where President is. Put me in overall charge of the trip - work out way to hold control over State.

Lots of problems today: above plus Hardin's stubborn insistence on appointing an Assistant Secretary that can't be confirmed, feed grain price level, etc. President takes them on one by one - no sweat.

Great show as three Ambassadors arrive to present credentials - troops along South Drive, trumpeters fanfare from balcony. President went out on porch to watch departure. Had Tim in the office - can't get him to come over by President's desk - he's trying dog biscuits, no use.

Long session with Harlow - schedule meetings with Congressmen and Senators. President still groping to find orderly schedule plan that he likes. Also covered some appointment problems - reviewed mail signing procedure - he goes back and forth on how much mail he wants to do. Problems with Rose - not in on things - and the Pat Nixon staff bitching. Long run on Ray Bliss problem. President refusing to recognize that he did not set Bliss's departure as a firm thing. Finally settled on a procedure, either Ambassador now, or out in June, with Chotiner coming in now as number two man. Harlow to handle it. Covered a few other sticky ones - President avoids any involvement but is obviously concerned about getting them solved.



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Can't seem to get the schedule briefing material done right. It really frustrates President.

Dinner with Kissinger about trip plan. Real bag of worms to put together - in order to get it done Nixon's way, not State's. Kissinger is great, but very concerned about State problem. He kept Zhukov (Russian) waiting for appointment while we ate.

Diplomatic reception in the Mansion at 9:00, white tie. President's entrance spectacular. All guests in East Room. Color guard goes up to second floor, precedes President and Mrs. Nixon downstairs and into cross hall with band playing processional. President like a little kid or a wooden soldier - arms stiff, trying not to look as tickled as he obviously was. Stands behind colors in cross hall, is announced, Hail to the Chief, follows colors into and through East Room to Green Room where he receives. VP in Blue Room, Secretary of State in Red Room. President really ate it up, as at all ceremonies. He loves being President!