



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

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Tuesday, February 4.

Day started with a problem - he thought a tape from his house dictating machine was blank - but it turned out to be all right.

Back to the Bliss matter at staff meeting - President mad at his attitude - decided only way to deal with him is to set deadline regarding Ambassador for this week, and if he refuses it - and to leave - force Chotiner on him, and deal with Rogers Morton on all politics.

Concern about oil quota and Maine free port. Wants to get it out of Hickel's hands and back to White House. Meets with Stans and Kennedy this afternoon (Stans brought Hickel, which loused up the situation).

Lot of reviewing of guest list for Menzies' (Australia) dinner Monday, adding old newsmen and friends.

Still trying to work out phone call plan - and still no daily list. Rose problem working OK. She handled mail - brought a bundle in for signatures and President pleased with whole process.

Decided, after talk with Helms, to visit CIA as well as AEC. Feels Agency and Department visits have been very productive. Amazed no President has done it before (except for official ceremonies). Goes on and on regarding the effect on the personnel - and I'm sure he's right!

Funny line, in reviewing draft statement regarding newspaper editor Ralph McGill's death, said "Tell the writers not to say we'll miss him--of course, we'll miss him, everyone knows that." Also, got to tossing dog biscuits around the office for Tim - one hit the grandfather clock.

Reviewed quite a bit of incoming mail, and a report from the 5:00 Group (Public Relations Committee). Discussed various approaches to ways of presenting the Administration - and need for establishing our line (although overall reaction has really been excellent. He's really stepped into the job, and this is recognized).



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NSC met this morning - tomorrow he announces the non-proliferation treaty.

Some discussion of the trip - no new things except the Pope will be on a Lenten retreat.

Strange problem with Agnew, who's hired LBJ's top advance man as an administrative assistant. No one seems to be able to dissuade him - and the guy has turned out to be a total spy, has all the inside poop, etc.

Also fought the Secret Service battle with Rowley, and told him Lem Johns had to go - he seemed pleased - and I think this will gain a lot among the rank and file.