



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

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Sunday, February 9.

A real day off! I called President at 12:15 to be sure I didn't need to go over with Kissinger and Rogers for 12:30 photo session and meeting. President said no, and briefly discussed question of departure. Left it that we'd leave at 6:00 (there had been a rain squall at 9:30 and it was still cloudy). So I spent the morning in the sun, after an hour of dictation and paper work.

President called at 2:30 to discuss question of leaving - said he still felt he probably should go back - worried that it didn't look good for him to take three days off. I said he'd have to do what he felt best, but that he had no problem about taking the time off, especially since it was fully reported that he was meeting with Kissinger and Rogers, and we had done the picture today, and had released a batch of directives yesterday, and that he would still have the dinner for Menzies in Washington on Monday.

He was worried then about having to leave early Monday, to check out arrangements for the dinner - and meeting with Rockefeller, who will be down for Urban Affairs meeting. I told him Rockefeller was invited to the dinner. He said he'd decide within the hour.

Called back a little after three, agonized with Rogers a bit and me again, then decided to stay over. Creates a huge problem for the military aide who had ordered a Mexican dinner for the plane tonight.

Just as I was leaving to meet them, Bebe called to say President wanted me and Dr. Walter Tkach to join them for dinner at 9:00, but I was to come over then (7:00) to go over some things.

Long review of schedule plans for balance of time before trip. President made a lot of changes. Also went over some new ideas for 5:00 Group regarding listening posts. Wants to be sure we avoid feeling that we don't care. Much detail regarding seating arrangements for tomorrow night's dinner and the Brosio dinner Thursday.



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Tkach arrived at 8:30, waited outside until we finished at about 9:00. Drinks until almost 10:00, when we ate. Had the Mexican dinner planned for the plane plus steaks. Four stewards and Manolo and Fina - lots of service. Then cigars and coffee in living room, and talk until midnight. Discussion of daily schedule for President. He's interested in working out best plan - his primary goal to eliminate as much sleeping time as possible. Agreed to try daily nap after lunch, plus swim, sauna, sun lamp and osteopath at 5:30. Doesn't think it will work.

Fascinated by Tkach report of people who need no sleep at all. Hates to waste the time. Acutely aware of the necessity of being sharp all the time. Feels though, that people take breaks to avoid the problems and decision, not because they need rest. Thinks you have to be "up", not relaxed, to function best. Has thought a lot about this and is pretty firm in his views. States no feeling of value of vacation or rest, but realizes that he probably has to have it.