



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

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Monday, March 3.

First day back. Most of the tour group slept in. I went to White House about 8:30. President came in at 9:00, and called me in. Was there until 1:45. Then in and out several times in the afternoon.

He covered some odds and ends regarding left-overs for follow-up and some general schedule plans. Quite a little talk about the trip - reactions, etc. Decided to shift this week around. Move press conference up to tomorrow night, knows he'll be tired but wants to do it earlier than Thursday. Will meet bipartisan leaders in the morning to give them a general trip report ahead of press. Also didn't want to wait until after NSC meeting because that will produce ABM announcement, which will blanket the trip news.

Had Harlow in - discussed political situation and the continuing adverse attitude of the conservatives. Had to handle because they mainly just want trouble. Also RNC problems - Chotiner, etc. Decided to put Otepka on Subversive Control Board, to help Rogers with the conservatives who want him back in the State Department. Decided to handle ABM by having Harlow sit in on NSC, then take draft of President's announcement and get word out to leaders Thursday morning. Will announce that afternoon at 3:00. President will also tape the announcement for radio release and TV audio.

Poor Rose got home last night to find her apartment robbed. Lost all her valuables including all Nixon mementos, jewelry, etc. She's pretty broken up.

President reacting very well to trip. Now realizes the overall press is excellent. Feels this is due to TV forcing good stories. So many people saw actual activities and reactions that writers realized they couldn't hoodwink them.

President had no appointments. Spent the day reviewing trip staff and talking to me. Had Kissinger in several times, but he's getting material ready for press conference. Kissinger also most happy with trip.



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Tried to get President to watch astronauts blast off, but he wouldn't. Did agree to call Mrs. McDivitt an hour before the shot - too late to call him.