



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

National Archives and Records Administration, Online Public Access Catalog Identifier: 7787364

Friday, March 14.

Today was ABM day, finally! President started with bipartisan leaders meetings to give them the background. Then an hour of preparation, then the press conference at noon. Another coup. We had a regular key staff meeting - devoted to Kissinger background information - and a quick run through procedures for getting all the bases covered for support.

President had heavy afternoon of appointments - and was obviously pleased with his performance. The tension of the last few days was gone and he was really relaxed and cheery.

At one point I got in for fifteen minutes, to check quickly on a couple of items - and in that period he signed at least 20-25 commissions, nominations, etc. - and talked to five Congressmen to thank them for their ABM support, and approved the whole plan for the California trip. Really amazing what he can accomplish when he really cranks, versus the usual time-wasting. And he was great on the phone - hitting exactly the right point with each guy.

Progressive calamity set in late in the day. He discovered he was expected to make a speech at his dinner tonight for the Presidents (Don Kendall's group). Called me into office - from a personnel board meeting - to have me undo this, which I did via Chapin - then he found he didn't have the suggested remarks or the folder for the NAB luncheon tomorrow. Then he had a bitch from Hall of Metropolitan Life regarding his phone calls not being answered. His advice to me - while discussing these staff problems - was always to remember "There is nothing smaller than a big business man."

Jo arrived on time, and Larry brought her over to the White House - she had to sit around for a couple of hours while I was untangling all the above. Then we had dinner in the Mess, with one more last minute call from President regarding being sure Kendall was programmed to leave at 10:45 so party wouldn't go on all night.