



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

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Tuesday, March 25.

Bad start, with Tkach telling me President had the flu during the night and was not feeling very good this morning. He was right.

Congressional leaders this morning. Then a session with me on whether or not to do the broadcasters. Finally decided on a luncheon drop-by - but not very happy about it (those there said he did a great job).

Presented the Disney Medal to Mrs. Disney. I went over ahead and had a nice chat with all of the family.

President didn't like the Trudeau dinner last night - and apparently the press didn't either. He was particularly down on the entertainment (Robert Goulet) and the protocol procedures.

As cold got worse so did the President's attitude - to the point where at midday he was seriously considering canceling the schedule - but he struggled through.

Five o'clock meeting with Devine's dissident GOP Congressmen. President opened with 35 minute oration on the Office - emphasized priorities - first, settle the war; second, establish law and order; third, stop inflation and settle the economy. Said President must concentrate on these - can't worry about all the little side issues. Pointed out that if these settled, all else will be well; if not, nothing will be well. Got into long discussion of OEO and poverty war - determined to change it, and so committed.

Ehrlichman and I had knock-down with Arthur Burns at lunch. Pretty bitter discussion, still didn't settle the problem of getting a domestic program. Burns determined to run the show, but it's obvious he can't manage. Tough one for John. President later said again Ehrlichman has to ride herd on this because Arthur will never get it done.



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We're at a period of internal dissension. Bryce is worn to a frazzle and so is Burns. John and I are probably pushing too hard, as a result of President pushing on us. Need to get back together, but hard to do when everyone's tired and edgy.