



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

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Wednesday, March 26.

NSC in the morning, then the usual clear day for the balance of Wednesday. Not sure the clear day idea is so good. Just makes for more work for me. Fortunately, Ehrlichman got caught with a long afternoon session with Arthur Burns and President.

In the frequent staff sessions during the day – President approved Ehrlichman's idea to put a tail on EMK – but said no tap (unless find he's meeting the Russians or other foreign governments); ordered a square put in charge of selecting White House entertainment; said to have John Mitchell do something about the dirty movie from Sweden; in reaction to Congressmen last night, ordered Finch to change guidelines and take some heat off Southern schools (wants drastic change and no arbitrary percentages); issued a batch of orders regarding protocol handling at parties; said to tell Shultz to go down the center on the common situs picketing issue (I think President has made a commitment to some degree to Meany, but wants to pull off ); said to cut back the Community Action Program 40 per cent on a selective basis, weeding out the bad ones; planned the Bliss and Hussein dinners; agreed to add 50 couples after dinner at State Dinners so we can include middle level government types; and broke through the multi-decorator impasse by giving the EOB Office to Pat Nixon's gal and the Oval Office to Williamsburg.

President very annoyed by result of special Congressional election in Tennessee yesterday. Morton and Wilson told him Republican could win, and we gave him a lot of indirect help and money. He ran third, behind the Wallace candidate. President feels Morton inexperienced and somewhat naive, Bob Wilson incredibly naive.

While Ziegler and I having dinner in Mess at 8:30, word came President had zipped off to Walter Reed to see DDE (who was supposed to be dying, but didn't). Created a bit of a flap, but Ziegler moved fast and covered adequately.

Another darn good meeting with the rest of Devine's dissidents. Did a lot of good, and President learned something too. Quite pensive afterwards.