



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

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Wednesday, April 9.

NSC this morning. President arrived late at office - 8:40, and Ehrlichman and I went right in as he came in the door. He looked annoyed - said he had some things to do, so be brief - then we couldn't get the meeting to end. Ziegler sat in as observer for the first time. Mainly discussed budget - and the points that had been raised at staff meeting regarding and the need to review the budget's political impact and potential effect, i.e. Moynihan made point that no one had thought about how the budget would affect the people that voted for Wallace. And Whitaker said the Cabinet officers feel they don't know what has happened to their programs, etc.

Also some discussion of ABM battle, and question of best platform for President. He feels strongly that the press conference is overall the most effective - and a set speech to an audience at a banquet is the least. The 5:00 Group basically agreed. We had quite a discussion at staff meeting regarding ABM, and Alex is trying hard to get battle plan set and going.

I spent large part of the day trying to undo the Long appointment to NSF. The only hope now is to get a Senator to state flat opposition and let us use him as the excuse for backing off.

DuBridges is really fighting and we may have to lose. Bryce and Flanigan helping.

Long luncheon session with Harlow, Ehrlichman and Mayo regarding budget. Then Ehrlichman and Mayo spent most of afternoon with President. Big flap regarding Ehrlichman's plan to announce hastily the 1-5 program and Head Start to try to override bad publicity regarding Equal Employment Chairman's resignation and blast. John didn't go through the system and things got pretty screwed up. Some problems here, have to work it out.

Late afternoon President called me in - kind of rambling - he'd spent a lot of time clearing up paperwork, and had read Buchanan's memos regarding Party needs, and wanted some actions taken as a result. Then Ehrlichman came in and there was some general discussion. We went into Cabinet room to look at jewelry giveaway samples. Then back to office for more general



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philosophy. President seems to be preoccupied - probably regarding Rogers problem - so just wanders around on trivia. Also has to do major NATO speech tomorrow.

Big deal yesterday and today regarding Ed Nixon job offer at Commerce - which law prohibits his taking. Badly handled with press. Ehrlichman pulled it out okay.