



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

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Tuesday, April 15.

Big item at staff meeting was need for game plan for the end of the first 100 days, per President's request last night. Setting up a new approach. Top level committee to oversee, with a task force of deputies of each member assigned to work more or less full time - under Whitaker's direction. Much discussion about avoiding any reference to the 100 days, etc. - but finally got them mobilized.

President then got into some question and his concern regarding Harlow's operation - got a lot of flack apparently from the Congressional leaders because of inadequate advance information on domestic program. Otherwise reaction is excellent.

President has decided to get rid of the three boats as an overt economy move. Kind of painless, like Johnson's lights.

Discussion on SST - President wants to defer final decision until next year. Problem now is that all the emphasis on the other things that could be done with the money. He feels next year - with things not so tight - it can be decided on basis of real merits instead of alternatives.

Koreans shot down our plane - gave Kissinger a big issue for the day. He wants to bomb the airfield where the MIGs came from. President agrees - thinks we need to show strong reaction. Thirty-one Americans probably killed. Kissinger also worried that this louses up our mining operation temporarily because it will look like reaction to this.

Cabinet meeting, with wives for first time in history. Pretty dull session until President's windup, for a half-hour, at the end. He followed the budget presentation - and did superb job of explaining to wives what their husbands had to go through - and in the process, what a load he has to carry. Then gave his pitch regarding patience on Vietnam. Did say hoped we would have it over in a few months. Indicates he has some real faith in Kissinger's plan. Made a great crack when press was brought in during DuBridge's environmental discussion - said there was no real significance to discussion of pollution at time press comes in. Regarding civil rights and equal



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opportunity, President said don't expect any credit for what you do, or any real PR gains, just do what is right and forget it. Also he warned them press would attempt to build up stories of internal divisions, etc. Said must keep perspective and don't worry about it.