



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

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

Tuesday, April 29.

A day full of little appointments, but still quite a little free time in between, especially during the noon break. Called me in several times to talk about position regarding student disorders.

Became clear he was toying with the idea of using this as the subject of his Chamber of Commerce appearance this afternoon. He was completely disenchanted with the suggested remarks prepared for him - so felt he had to do his own, and has been anxious to speak out again regarding students because things have gotten much worse and more widespread since his last statement.

Net result was that during noon break he tried out his ideas on me, I made some suggestions, and he hit it hard at the Chamber of Commerce. Great success with the audience, and President got a tremendous reception. Made very clear case - government must not get into running institutions, students have right and need to express dissent and we should listen; but they have no right to use force, disrupt campus, threaten violence and carry weapons. When they do this, faculty, Administration, and trustees (my addition) must have backbone to stand up against this kind of action. Afterwards he was quite pleased. Had taken the press by complete surprise - and got terrific coverage. Had a long talk about it in office, trying to analyze whether this as good technique. It was.

President talked to Jim Rhodes on phone regarding *Life* article accusing him of tax problems etc. Was quite upset, promised Rhodes we'd get the IRS guy who gave the stuff to the reporter, etc.

Tonight was the Duke Ellington 70th birthday dinner at the White House. Unbelievable. High point was Duke's sister - who came down the stairs with him and the Nixons - in long flowing blond hair. Hard to imagine. Great mixed crowd of music celebrities, government people, etc. Duke kissed all the men twice on each cheek (mother's kiss) as they went through receiving line. Fantastic concert in East Room, all Ellington's music with all-time great band. Then a two-hour jam session. Party ended after 2 a.m. Acclaimed as greatest White House party since Andrew Jackson.