



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

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Thursday, June 26.

Still trying to settle Finch's doctor problem. Have to drop Knowles because of Dirksen, tried to get General Heaton (he saw President today) but no dice - he offered a candidate, but problem is it has to be announced this week. President had heavy day with Congressional types, trying to salvage surtax. Will be a major effort, and not too promising, on this first vote. No problem later, but will then have tax reform tacked on.

Had dinner on the terrace with Jo and Adele, then sat there talking. Looked up to see President in my office, prowling in his smoking jacket. Had me come in - long talk. He's worried about the surtax. Especially feels Harlow not really handling Congress right. I told him of Bryce's real concern that he has lost President's confidence, he is aware but doesn't know how to handle. Discussed ways and means of beefing up Bryce's operation. Have to do it. Wants someone to get Bryce to bring Herlong in to handle Democrats. Talked about possibility of taking Congress on and making it the issue. May have to if Democrats decide to play straight political obstructionist game. But then President has to get into '70 battle hard and early and he doesn't want to (and he shouldn't).

Very introspective and subdued mood. Just sat and talked and pondered. Realizes problems are coming up, wants to see his way through them, but doesn't. Not discouraged, just very pensive.