



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

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Monday, August 18.

Back to work. Pretty light morning. A session with Ehrlichman and me, a brief one with Kissinger. And a long two hour session with the speech writers. Wants to have staff tour the house while he's in San Francisco. Spent quite a little time on schedule - specific and generalities. Back to pounding on the PR need - Kissinger and Ehrlichman and I had a session on this, decided we should not try to get a PR man, but rather should bring in PR outside counsel for advice, i.e. , Ted Braun. Some analysis of Derge poll, and talk of Vietnam options.

At writers meeting President discussed whole approach to the future, mainly in regard to his speech to the National Governors Conference. Question whether to take on the Democratic Congress. If so, can lay the basis with speech on all the items he has put before Congress - with no action. President said he's not about to take on Democrats, but can't say this to politicians. Reason, of course, is that if he didn't win, he'd have an impossible situation for next two years. Said no president since FDR has gained in Congress on off year, and even FDR in 1934 was just continuation of the tide that swept him in. Down deep, though, I think he feels he does have a chance to get a Republican Congress if he ends the war, etc. - but won't follow the attack route, at least not now. Makes sense.

At Kissinger-Ehrlichman meeting, we talked about Vietnam alternatives. Obvious that we have to end it in six to nine months - and that the process will be difficult. Kissinger has scenario, now with Mitchell. Feels President has to make total mental commitment and really be prepared for the heat. I think he realizes this and is getting ready. This is at least part of the reason for the efforts to build strong nationalism with space thing - and certainly the reason behind the push for better PR capability - and also, I think, the reason he's really taking a vacation - to get ready for what lies ahead. Hope it will do the job.

He left before 2:00, out to Pendleton for another day of golf. We came back to Balboa - sailing with Chapin.



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Safire came up with his idea regarding New Federalist Papers, to play off New Federalism. To be used as the basis for knocking down the zig and zag theory regarding Nixon, and establish basic theme for Administration. To be written anonymously, under name of Populus.

Announced the new Justice this morning, no meeting with President.