



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

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Thursday, September 25.

Prime Minister Golda Meir day. Usual arrival on South Grounds and meeting all the rest of the morning in Oval Office alone. Did not join the advisers, and President has decided he won't do that from now on - feels the big meeting is useless and that he gets all his value from the person-person session. He spent a long time after the meeting going over it all with Kissinger, who took copious notes. This will undoubtedly be the pattern from now on.

President pretty concerned about the Social Security confusion, because he had to make final decision this morning regarding escalator, and no one was really in charge on the staff in Ehrlichman's absence. President felt this proved need for a deputy - also with Kissinger. He decided to go with escalator because of his campaign promise - and Harlow's argument that it is really soundest approach, but not till after major effort by Harlow to persuade John Byrnes to let us leave it to further study (Arthur's recommendation). Byrnes wouldn't give in, so President went with him.

Also concerned by *New York Times* story saying all initiative was from Congress, none from White House. Shows we are not holding the offensive as we should. Lot of discussion about need for a foreign policy press man - meeting with Ziegler on this.

Afternoon at EOB working on briefing books. Called over for a number of additional question-answers, from Kissinger and Harlow.

Harlow came up with an interesting approach to the Congressional logjam problem. Have President pay personal call on McCormack and Democratic leaders in Speaker's office, to discuss ways and means of getting things moving. Would be first time this ever done - lay groundwork for later attack on Democratic Congress - with base of saying have done everything possible to work with them, but no luck. Also might actually produce something.

Kissinger feels he finally has the Green Beret problem under control. The CIA has been ordered to refuse to let their men testify as witnesses. Helms really dragged his feet, but finally gave in.



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Now Laird has to get Resor to cancel the trial for lack of case. Will be hard to do, but should have been done months ago - the publicity, especially TV, is really damaging. Laird could have closed it up, and said he was doing so, but didn't, in face of Resor determination to go ahead.

Golda Meir dinner tonight - she used her toast to recount all the problems of the Jews over the centuries, but did really praise President strongly for his understanding listening during talks today. She got a standing ovation at end of remarks, without even waiting for the toast. Music was great during dinner, and after was Leonard Bernstein and Isaac Stern - outstanding performance. Final number by Block, had many in tears. Very powerful.