



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

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Friday, October 10.

Busy and complex day: Private breakfast with Hugh Scott and Attorney General Mitchell regarding Haynsworth; long visit with Hubert Humphrey (who then went out and strongly backed President on the war); a "Congressional half hour" and a batch of diplomatic credentials; a meeting with Finch that went on and on into the lunch hour (I had to interrupt at end of lunch period to get the laundry list message to Congress OK'd, and the statement about Hershey change); meeting with General Hershey to work out his reassignment; then he taped the whole message to Congress for radio; a meeting with Kissinger; an hour with Mansfield; then a spell with me for signing, and out at 7:00.

Wants a maximum follow-up effort on laundry list, including total phone coverage of GOP Congress, Governors, etc. Funny, regarding TV he thought was fouled up by bad camera position, turns out he said November 5th instead of 4th. Oh well.

Called me several times at home - odd range of topics. First wanted a hundred wires sent to Hubert commending his support; then a plan to give Goodell, et al. a going over for their opposition; then concern regarding schedule for next week after October 15 - not strong enough. Discussed inflation letter and he had excellent idea regarding make it to a thousand leaders instead of one man, ask their views, etc. Then do radio speech for housewives. Then need a major move for Friday, maybe a Rogers press conference. (I urged nothing on Vietnam, rather let mystery build from the Bunker-Wheeler-Lodge meetings.)

He says now he'll announce his November 3 speech on Monday - after Lodge meeting - then use that to hold off any other Vietnam question, i.e., in press conference the following week. I urged him not to say in the announcement that he would cover all the secret moves, etc. - let that be the opening impact on November 3. He agreed.



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Then some discussion of Haynsworth. Then a call regarding ashtrays for California press group and some concern that pool conversion isn't moving fast enough. Shows how the Presidential attention can jump from the momentous to the insignificant.