



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

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

Saturday, October 11.

President with Joint Chiefs, at EOB, most of the morning. Then heard Wheeler report on trip. Then long talk after with Kissinger and Laird. Then went to Residence to watch part of World Series opener. Pat Nixon, Julie and David there, got great reception and Julie said on TV, "Daddy wanted to come but he has a big Vietnam meeting."

Lot of little project stuff and some philosophical discussion in the office. He's concerned about Kissinger's attitude and wants to be sure we keep him up-beat. Can't let him overreact to each little aberration of Rogers or Laird. (Kissinger argues that you have to maintain tight discipline on the little things or you can't control the big ones - President feels you should lose the ones that don't matter and save your strength and equity for the big battles that really count). Also feels we have staff well shaped up now - but must constantly keep on them.

Some planning regarding overall Vietnam strategy. He's getting into the final decision stages, and wants to talk through alternatives, will go ahead with November 3 speech plan, agrees with my recommendation to stay clear of war from now until then. Will be hard to stay with, but it's the right approach.

Then to Camp David. President called me over shortly after arrival, for a drink and chat by the pool, mainly reflecting on staff status. Feels they're pretty well shaken down now, and should move to all out battle status and stay there. Wants more people seeing press and getting line out. Really crank on fighting spirit.