



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

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Wednesday, October 15.

The Vietnam Moratorium Day, finally here. After weeks of planning, concern and discussion. Didn't turn out nearly as bad or good as expected. Crowds were pretty big, but not anywhere near what they might have been. News media were obsessed with the whole thing, but have been reasonably fair in pointing out that hundreds of thousands were participating but millions were not.

President up pretty tight at start of the day. Really blew about Ziegler's release of his off-record remarks at AP dinner Sunday night.

President had NSC regarding Latin America; meeting with Mayor regarding hunger; CCEP regarding inflation; and a group of meetings with us in between. Constant hacking away still at reaction and harassment of news media.

Decided to hold off on Arthur Burns announcement, at request of William McMartin. Decided not to meet press in office this week regarding Haynsworth. Will wait and do it early next week, probably Monday morning.

Had Rogers and Laird in after NSC to try to get them in line regarding Vietnam and November 3 speech. Apparently this uncovered all their problems with Kissinger, because President called me in to discuss it. Says he'll have to bring Mitchell in more because Kissinger can't deal with Rogers and Laird - has problem of communicating with them, and has become an issue. Wants me to make all this clear to Kissinger - hard to do. Problem is his insistence on perfection and total adherence to the line in every detail. Also injects himself too much into everything, between President and Cabinet officers, and they just won't buy it, so he becomes ineffective even at getting them to do what they already were ready to do.

President commented that Cabinet members shouldn't have to be told to stay in line. He thinks back to the DDE days when all staff and Cabinet concentrated on keeping the President "up" and never came in with a problem without a solution. Wonder if it was really that way.



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Called me at home for a report on the Moratorium. Wants some follow-up on challenging Lindsay and Goodell regarding repudiating Van Dong letter. Wants to get maximum mileage and pressure out of this. Keeps making the point that we have to fight the left from here on out, that concessions, etc., only weaken our own position and gain us nothing from them.