



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

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

Monday, October 20.

Haynsworth press meeting. President stayed at Residence till late, then had all the press into Oval Office for briefing on Haynsworth. Ehrlichman says it went very well. President had, as always, really done his homework, and was on the offensive all the way.

Then had Prime Minister of Ghana, the GOP State Chairmen, and some odds and ends. Then a session with Ehrlichman and me regarding schedule for next few weeks. Pushing for plenty of time to work on speeches - wants afternoons and weekends clear, and will try to come in late in the mornings, although he's got meetings Wednesday and Thursday. Decided to do two night political rallies in Virginia and New Jersey, and OK'd basically normal routine in mornings - looking at our game plan for news development.

Met Dobrynin for about an hour this afternoon. Kissinger said afterwards he had the guts of a riverboat gambler. Had played it very cold with Dobrynin – giving him one back for each he dished out. Said he could understand Soviet view on Vietnam and Middle East – that they could gain by waiting us out – but they must also understand our view – and especially the fact that he will be President for three more years no matter what. Kissinger felt Dobrynin was really impressed, took copious notes – but Kissinger was, I think, disappointed that Dobrynin had not come in with something specific. Kissinger had had his hopes way up regarding real possibilities of a breakthrough. He still hopes – but less optimistically.

Another long end of the day session with President. He reviewed the Haynsworth situation, the Moratorium, campaign plan, and the new plan to stay out of PR detail. Clear that he believes we really dropped the ball and lost momentum after moon landing, Asia, Bucharest, etc. Partly due to California stay, but more just to lack of staff follow through. He is basically right. This has motivated his super overreaction to all phases of PR for last month and a half. Says now he'll lay off and leave it to us. Hope he does. But the shot in the arm was needed, and has been productive in terms of good solid planning and follow through.