



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

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Friday, November 14.

Moon shot day. While the March went on in front of the White House, we left at 8:15 for Cape Canaveral - arrived in a good solid rain. Choppered to viewing area, waited in the rain for a half hour, got absolutely drenched. Saw the shot - but because of low clouds rocket disappeared right after launch, so not too spectacular. Lightning flashed (and apparently hit the vehicle). President seated with high school science award winners. Got lots of coverage - especially since they couldn't get the rocket. Then went to firing center and spoke to ground crew - then back to DC. All in all quite a disappointment.

Sessions on the plane both ways. Wants Mollenhoff and a team to go to Vietnam to try to figure out how to get some of the Americans out of there. Real problem, especially with contractor personnel. Was really pleased with VP talk last night and feels he's now become a really good property and we should keep building and using him. Wants to be sure we keep riding the Congressional support story hard. Very anxious to get the *New York Times* ad run, hitting them for not carrying support story. Talked with Borman and is all set to have him go the Perot route, to build a pro-Administration external organization to utilize Perot's money and steam for productive purpose. Frank also really hot on this.

After return, had three solid hours with President in Oval Office, since he had no afternoon schedule and wanted to just sit and talk. Covered Christmas plans for White House social events - wants it to be gay and fun - went through all the types of functions and people to cover. Discussed California versus Florida for after Christmas. Will go for ten days --two weeks. Probably be California. General ideas about State of the Union. Cold dreary afternoon, and we sat by the fire. Kissinger and Ehrlichman, in and out.

March and mob grew violent tonight as groups tried to march on Vietnamese Embassy. Police busted it up with tear gas, but they roamed streets breaking windows, etc. We were in Ehrlichman's office working phones, etc., when President came in, about 9:00, stayed until 11:00. Interested in whole process. Had helpful ideas like using helicopters to blow their candles



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out, etc. Very relaxed. Said was like watching an old movie, keep thinking something interesting will happen. We stayed overnight again. No big problems but question of odds and what will happen next.

At one point in afternoon talks, while reviewing impact of Agnew speech and the opposition he's stirred up, President said this whole thing poses a real dilemma for an assassin.