



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

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Wednesday, December 3.

The Governors Conference. All went well, with President giving a brief opening talk, then sitting on stage for all the morning session, with the VP. Governors were all especially impressed that he stayed. Had their teenage kids and wives. Briefing was the full pitch on narcotics, very well done. Ehrlichman was emcee. Then had Governors for dinner, and great entertainment afterward with the kids. The Fifth Dimension and Al Hirt. Very good overall session. Governors very enthusiastic.

President had appointment with Ralph de Toledano, and got into idea of his doing a boiler plate editorial service for weeklies, and radio, TV, to put out our line. Fits our general plan for Perot, et al. Also got into long discussion of analysis of press, and effectiveness and necessity of going over their heads via TV. Same subject as with Dan Seymour yesterday. He's back to trying to analyze the best approach and figure for himself how to be most effective.

Got into LBJ geriatrics problem with President and Harlow. President says we've got to settle it for LBJ - based on overriding national interest. He feels he has to keep him on the reservation. Said if he turns on us later we'll go after him, but now we have to play.

Another harangue on speech writers, emphasizing necessity for someone who can make the point with a story, a la Billy Graham. Liked the material he had for this morning - and feels we're doing better, but not good enough - no memorable phrases.

Was impressed with VP's speech at Governors Meeting, and wants him to give basically the same thing Friday at the New Orleans GOP meeting.

Flap about tonight's entertainment because morning program pointed out use of music and lyrics to push dope line. President and Pat Nixon afraid Fifth Dimension too far out and using this kind of music, but all worked out OK.

More discussion of My Lai - wants to get out the other side of the story.



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Some concern regarding obvious press effort to hatchet Mitchell. President wants White House and Klein to provide John with all possible guidance and backup especially about PR.