



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

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Friday, December 5.

President came in this morning boiling mad regarding press and TV story that Percy had released a letter tying Chuck Robb (LBJ son-in-law) to Vietnam atrocities. Wanted Ziegler to blast Percy and demand apology, etc. Simmered down a bit as we found facts were not quite so bad, but tried to call Robb, later got Linda, to express his concern. Had me call Tom Johnson, and Tom put LBJ on the phone. Got a little rough because he was obviously very upset. Did greatly appreciate the President's concern, and wanted us to be sure and have facts investigated. Wants Robb fully cleared. Implied strongly he felt it was deliberately and politically motivated. Did say he didn't want President worrying about his troubles, knows he has enough of his own.

President eager to be sure we're on top of whole year-end analysis business, and wants us to set up a thorough briefing for the key magazines, TV and column guys to get our story across.

Met with "Tell it to Hanoi" group to get report on their 1.1 million names; with Nancy Hanks regarding the Arts and Humanities message; with a hunger delegation regarding their ridiculous demands for declaration of hunger emergency, etc.; with Attorney General and Gerry Ford regarding Voting Rights; with Kalmbach, et al., regarding Don Nixon's employment with Marriott; with Mayo and Ehrlichman about next phase of budget. Then sneaked down for a haircut, where I had to trap him to get the night signing done. Getting quite a few bills to sign now, and I guess there'll be a real flood soon.

Still coping with trying to work out a Harlow successor - no real progress - and the problem with Congress, especially Republican senators, deepens daily. Scott seems to go out of his way to take on the White House at every opportunity. President is determined now to hold to his line of the cold shoulder for those who don't stick with us, and then to work closely with the good guys. Also is ready to take Congress on, and not cajole them into each vote. Let them vote us down and then stand on their record.