



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

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Wednesday, December 10.

NSC - on the Middle East. Ran way over time. Then President spent the afternoon at EOB. Had Mills and Byrnes come down to discuss tax bill plans for Conference. President was going to tell them he'd veto any bill that had an increase in personal exemption, but Arthur Burns called me and said he now felt President could permit an increase because other factors would counterbalance the revenue loss. I told him to get memo to President, which he did, and as a result President didn't take an unfavorable position, much to Harlow's horror. Real problem is to determine how far President can go in permitting amendments, or whether he'll have to veto bill and get no reform, and kill social security increase.

Kissinger all excited because has word that Chinese are ready to meet with us in Warsaw. They sent emissaries to our embassy – and because of blizzard had to come in side door. Asked why they couldn't use front door to leave (obviously they wanted to be seen there). On top of that Kissinger has message from Romanian ambassador that their secret emissary is coming with message for Kissinger from Ceausescu. Somethings breaking. Kissinger feels real probability that Russia will attack China before April 15.

Harlow had the key White House staff up to the Hill for lunch with the GOP liberal dissident Senators. Incredibly bad show - Case's office, crammed in, no plan for meeting, thirteen Senators pontificated, all for show (and release to papers). Hardly gave us a chance to get even a word in. Really a pretty despicable group. Javits, Percy, Goodell, Hatfield, Schweiker, Saxbe especially bad. Case just plain dumb and confused. Scott, Brooke, Griffin, Boggs not so bad. Made point that they're worried mainly regarding "Southern strategy" and that we have to be concerned with the big states and big cities, where the people are. Also want to have advance consultation before we launch programs, etc. (so they can leak to the press). Mac Mathias and Marlow Cook really pretty decent, and Cook stood up strongly for the White House (because he saw it as a good maneuver - gain more that way while the rest were jumping on us).

President not too pleased we went - feels useless to try to placate them. I agree.