



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

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Friday, January 9.

President birthday. Had a staff card, and talked him into a press photo shot with Rose and new secretary presenting it. Worked fine - but President his usual awkward self, just can't cope with personal-type situations. Explained the whole card (*Washington Star* front page) in minute detail. But the photographers couldn't have cared less. In late afternoon went up to Julie's for dinner - wouldn't let us announce it ahead because of probable Amhurst demonstrators. All was fine on arrival, but during dinner a bunch of bad guys arrived and chanted outside the apartment - Julie cried, President left abruptly, really too bad. Press pretty good on it, but tough on the family.

Had a session with Mitchell regarding the Supreme Court appointment, and got into Finch's latest fiasco regarding removing tax immunity from private schools. Had us all in and out on that one several times. Then a meeting with Cardinal Cooke, who's just back from Vietnam.

President reviewed Price's first real draft of the State of the Union and said it was eloquent, and a complete disaster. No substance, no cheer lines, no organization. Led to a new harangue on need for a speechwriter who can write a Nixon speech. Tough. Hard for Ray to hit it right when he has no direct contact with President and no real guidance. Led further to discussion of need for President to spend most of next week writing his own speech - feels this one is too long to sit down and work with writer, it has to be closer to his form to begin with. Also feels it is more than twice too long. Said "Now I can see why I decided not to do it last year," and is very happy that he's doing this one at noon instead of prime time.

In late afternoon had Moynihan, Harlow and McCracken in, with me, to talk about economy and the CEA economic report. President kept asking Paul to explain why we hadn't solved the inflation problem, and asked if he still felt we were doing the right thing. Paul hesitated a bit before saying yes - thus shaking President's confidence a little. President made point that he had never heard of losing an election because of inflation, but lots were lost because of unemployment or recession. Point is, he's determined not to let the war on inflation get carried to the point that it will lose us House or Senate seats in November.



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