



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

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Wednesday, January 28.

More of Wilson. He came this morning to attend an NSC meeting (specially staged for him, of course) and a short private talk with President, then on his way.

This afternoon President had an hour with Harry Byrd, regarding his possible shift to Republican Party. Don't know the outcome. Then filmed an interview in the Oval Office with Art Linkletter and four kids. Then to the Residence for a reception for all the Congressmen who voted to sustain the HEW veto. Got 191 - a great victory! And a sensational way to start off the second year - with strong action and a major Congressional coup.

At midday got into quite a discussion regarding exposure and visibility. Feels our tendency is to pace ourselves on the basis of how our friends are reacting to our enemies. The "people" get tired of seeing President - only the political sophisticates argue for more visibility. Must maintain some scarcity value - to get best out of it when we do something, and to retain the time and energy to do it right. All this is an extension of his reaction to piling up the speeches and press conference, and the pressure on him to get "up" - with no opportunity to let up.

Still wants economic group for meeting on Saturday. Is clearly bothered by very real danger of recession, and knows he can't let it happen. Much better to let inflation go on.

In top form at Congressional gathering. A real victory celebration - with that feeling in the air, both Republicans and Democrats. Had several of the leaders speak after he did - and all were very enthusiastic - built some pretty good equity and shafted the "anti" press. Dan Rather thought the party was incredible. Really hates to see President win anything.

President holed up tonight at EOB with the press conference briefing books - no word from him.

Good meeting today with the PR group, really have a pretty good system rolling and the results show it.