



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

National Archives and Records Administration, Online Public Access Catalog Identifier: 7787364

Friday, February 6.

Chicago. Off to the sewage plant first thing. Chopper out - great crowd at little suburban airport. Freezing cold and President did not bring his overcoat. Stood on hood of a station wagon to speak - microphone system busted, finally rigged a bull-horn and he gave a great talk, mainly slanted to school kids. Then drove to sewage plant, with lot of people on streets - all schools let out. Very enthusiastic. Good inspection tour of plant, then back to Chicago for meeting about pollution with four Governors. Another pretty good session, followed by statement to press. Leaked a few good chunks from next week's environment message. Then a brief private political meeting with Ogilvie, Percy and Smith. (Small flap at the meeting when Percy charged in, Senators were not supposed to be there. So we scurried around and located Smith and added him too). Then back to DC.

Had a short session with President on the plane, he was quite pleased with the whole trip. Then he had the Cabinet officers up for rest of trip.

Back at White House, the Oval Office was full of smoke when we walked in - fireplace backed up, so President had Ehrlichman and me go with him to EOB - covered a brief political review of Illinois. He's not at all optimistic about Smith - thinks he has too much the feel of a back room politician, but says we'll have to back him. Wants to put Chotiner in contact with the Governors, since they apparently are not happy with Dent. Then long discussion regarding economy. President very concerned regarding recession. Made point to Ehrlichman very strongly that our real concern must not be inflation but recession. Pay lip service to inflation fight but don't let it run danger of recession. Must start now to turn it around - while not appearing to do so. Will put Flanigan in charge of avoiding recession. Wants Ehrlichman to ride it continuously, and really crack the whip. Lot of this stirred up by Romney's concern about housing, which was covered in the meetings today.