



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

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Wednesday, February 11.

Kissinger got President all stirred up about State Department recommendation that President not issue his foreign policy message because it would conflict with State's. President rejects this out of hand and ordered me to call Elliot Richardson to transmit his very firm view (Rogers is in Africa).

Also very concerned about a story that Administration was considering a shift on voting rights. Wants to be sure we don't let anyone back off on any of the civil rights positions. Problem is the Garment types who are strongly influenced by the liberals.

Had to work some more on Bud Wilkinson problem - he submitted resignation, but we talked him out of it, at least long enough to reconsider. Will have him talk to Ehrlichman when he gets back. Romney, et al., feel he must be saved.

President intrigued by article regarding problem of making government work - asked for Moynihan and other views. Romney gave it to him, and it's pitch is for using Cabinet Departments as lead agencies on programs instead of having White House staff direction.

President says real problems now are the economy (have to avoid a recession) and schools. Two bombshells.

Ordered me to have Portnoy's Complaint removed from White House library and put out story he'd done it.

Left for Key Biscayne after Business Council Dinner. Guess President did great job there with one hour of Q&A's. Even he seemed to feel it was worthwhile.