



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

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Wednesday, February 18.

Cabinet meeting. First of the new plan to have weekly meetings on specific subjects - but this agenda got spread out a bit. President added Kissinger replay of yesterday at the last minute. Main stuff on regular agenda was supposed to be economic. McCracken gave a brief report - then President launched into his anti-recession pitch, which set off Romney who was not supposed to get into his wage-price policy pitch, but did. President finally really whapped him by saying wage-price policy had never worked; Romney said it had in England; President laid him low saying "Don't talk to me about England," and explained differences. Pretty sharp alignment of Romney, Volpe, Blount (and Stans, who was absent) against the Shultz-McCracken view - which is to handle things by fiscal and monetary policy.

Then got into VP report on school problem - and President again expounded his view - anti-busing, for desegregation of de jure, but not forced integration. Long discussion - ends with no one having a solution. President had Shultz and me in after meeting - and covered the subject further, trying to lock up George's views - which made George fear that President thought he was a wild man on the subject. Also covered the economic thing again, and Shultz affirmed his view that Romney idea won't work because no way to enforce - and takes too much onto government.

Then another session with Harlow regarding need to solve House and Senate problems - will back all the amendments and let them work their will. Any of them will be strong signal to courts to slow down. Also will go ahead with VP speech, somewhat toned down.

President spent most of afternoon at EOB. Had Harriet Elan, Chapin's Negro secretary, come over to talk about problems and viewpoint of a responsible, intelligent Negro. Obviously President deeply concerned. Later kept saying to me there's really no adequate solution and nothing we can do in the short haul to settle this - it will have to take one hundred years - but people don't want to wait.

Really mad at the Jews because of Pompidou reaction - and is saying so pretty loudly.