



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

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Monday, February 23.

Defense Panel and NSC meetings in morning. Kissinger back from his journey Saturday night. Reported to President Sunday at Camp David. Is pretty pleased, feels made a start towards some real progress. Long talks and he was (he says) very tough. Also Ehrlichman back from his vacation, with lots to catch up on.

President very pleased with 1776 last night, so the worries were unfounded. He thought Howard daSilva was great as Ben Franklin and had no objections to content - wants to see it again in New York.

Some discussion of McClintock problem - Ehrlichman trying to hold line for White House against State. President wants Ehrlichman and Mitchell to take Rogers on - keep Kissinger out of it.

Quite a stir regarding President's orders to Colson to charge ahead on the Catholic school thing - he did, and there are some problems - with Moynihan especially opposed. Wants Ehrlichman and group to submit a proposal for strongest possible forward position - but some action.

President finally braced Laird on need for manager on Safeguard. Unfortunately he assigned Jerry Friedheim, which will do no good.

President decided may go to California next week instead of Florida, if golf course is ready. Kissinger has to meet Bunker secretly, and President trip could provide cover for Kissinger.

Really mad at Jews - and demands we take all possible precautions to prevent them from demonstrating on Pompidou.

Great agonizing late this afternoon when Rose brought in note saying President to call Helene Drown. Really tragic that she has no sensitivity and can't leave him alone. He went back and forth and decided not to call. Also worried about Rose drinking problem and wants Tkach to talk to her.



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Meeting with conservation groups - guess it really went badly. President mad because guy at end challenged him regarding goals, etc. President took him on - feels we can't lie down and let opposition walk on us. Ehrlichman says President charged in and lectured them for first 20 minutes and got off to pretty bad start.

Late afternoon got into quite a long talk probing whether we need to get tougher - both on the rest of government and on our own staff. Feels maybe we aren't hard enough on backsliders and I agreed. Problem is that President is not willing to stand tight on unpleasant personal situations and won't back us if we do. He has a great way of "working it out" instead of confronting head on. We need to make and win some challenges to get real control, but can't yet.