



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

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Thursday, February 26.

Really raged again today against United States Jews because of their behavior toward Pompidou. Has decided to postpone Jewish arms supply for their "unconscionable conduct." Also said, in front of Kissinger, not to let any Jews see him about Middle East. Said they can go talk to Lindsay and Rockefeller about whether they can provide arms for Israel. As mad as he's been since we got here.

Decided to have French press in for a handshake after Pompidou farewell, and gave them a little briefing on Pompidou and his evaluation of him.

President really funny as he read news summary report regarding Howard K. Smith article saying networks are unfair. He chortled with glee and thoroughly enjoyed it.

Called Wilbur Mills to thank him for getting Family Assistance through Ways and Means. President played it straight, although Democrats did this to try to trap President with unworkable program. Will backfire on them as P succeeds in getting first major social legislation in decades.

President spoke at White House Radio/TV Correspondents dinner, and was a hit with brief and funny remarks. Had some good gags, several of them his own, and delivered them beautifully. Tough crowd, virtually all against him, but he made some points. Called me at home after and was pleased with himself. Also delighted because he had just called Reagan - who will stand up to the Jews and escort Pompidou in California.

Some discussion during day regarding Kissinger-Rogers problem which keeps building up and is very distressing to President. Really no way to handle it - a major head-on clash between two monumental egos. Kissinger realizes how it bothers President and reduces his effectiveness, but doesn't know how to cope with it.

Problem with Defense in getting a project manager for ABM. Obviously Laird wants to duck the basic responsibility. The guy he originally assigned told me he had no responsibility or authority



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on this. So I called Laird - missed him but did talk briefly at the dinner. He's hedging. Tries to push it on Kissinger, then to set up Resor or John Foster. I'll really have to hack at this one.