



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

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

Wednesday, March 4.

NSC this morning - Cabinet and Sub Cabinet groups regarding reorganization this afternoon. President canceled Irving Kristol dinner tonight to have afternoon and evening to work on Laos statement. Also canceled Sidey interview because *Time* has postponed their cover story for another two weeks.

Reacting to HEW staff objections regarding Panetta firing. President wants some of them fired too. Might be a good idea.

Wants us to move hard on Larry O'Brien now that he's back as DNC chairman. President feels this is clear signal that Teddy is back in control - all the maneuvering was just a dodge to cover this. Is worried about O'Brien's effectiveness - especially as a spokesman, will say anything and has great ability to get on TV. Wants Chotiner to manage Operation O'Brien.

Some more long talk with me about his internal analysis and planning and need to get to concentration on priorities. Wants to get all key staff tracking on his new concept. Will really push to have all secondary matters handled without his involvement. Wants second level staff, i.e., Whitaker, Flanigan, et al. - to step up to this and act for White House and President whenever they need Presidential strike; should feel free to do it by proxy. Is prepared to deal with mistakes and bad decisions as inevitable, so long as lower level staff handles. Wants to push Ehrlichman and Kissinger strongly to take same approach themselves.

Made point that Churchill's technique was to make little notes on every little item as a way to create a sense of movement and keep things happening. Leader has to do this - can't just let things run their course, need some way to keep prodding. Key for our new approach is if second-level staff will do the prodding themselves - problem is they won't, unless we have an adequate program of prodding them from on top.