



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

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Saturday, March 14.

President at Camp David - back at 4:30 for Gridiron tonight. Called a couple of times about Ehrlichman follow-up on bomb threats. I stayed at home, a day off.

Very funny, President has secret plan to do a piano duet with VP at Gridiron tonight - and didn't want anyone to know about it. Mid afternoon, VP called Chapin to be sure President had arranged for two pianos, said he had through me. Chapin called me to check. President had said nothing, I had done nothing. So I had Chapin call President and, sure enough, he hadn't made the arrangements. Would have been quite a fiasco! Anyway, Chapin worked it all out. President's idea was an absolute smash hit, as he and VP did a stand-up dialogue first, then played favorite songs of past Presidents - with VP coming in each time with "Dixie"; climax, "God Bless America." The whole audience rose and sang along with them. They also played "Auld Lang Syne" with Marine Orchestra and soloist, for the finale. Great idea and beautifully executed.

President called me after we got home, was really pleased with how it had come off, as he should have been. Feels he'll never be able to top it - and won't even go next year.