



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

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Monday, March 16.

Sort of a political day - in between appointments. First the question of Harry Byrd switching to Independent, with GOP backing. President wanted to see Byrd today (he announces his plan tomorrow) but Byrd declined. Then Rogers Morton tried to lock up arrangements with Governor Holton for GOP backing and failed, as did Harlow a little later. Problem is that Holton has already committed to a Republican candidate and feels backing Byrd would totally demolish the Party organization. Would have done it earlier if Byrd had gone over to GOP. President had deal with Byrd to bring over three congressmen and to back President in '72 - which he will presumably still do - as an Independent or Democrat.

Then Finch/Murphy in California. Bob had Dick Moore take a final stab at Murphy to get him out - no dice after four hours. So Bob advised President to give up and back Murphy. Then Morton called me late in day, was about to see Murphy and was going to take another try.

I told President about drop in latest Gallup - he feels this is due to economics - not lack of press conferences or exposure. Points out we have had enormous exposure in February - and done no good apparently. He feels strongly press conference is not helpful in ratings and that we need to find other devices.

Discouraged because school statement still not ready - will probably do it over weekend, with in-office press conference first, and TV film for Saturday night.

Several talks regarding Mayo problem. President is apparently ready to let him go, and feels we shouldn't wait until next year. Wants to put Rumsfeld in top OEM job and Weinberger as deputy for budget. Then will promise Casper a court seat.

Anxious to get planning going on another trip, this time three stops - New England, Midwest and South, ending with Stone Mountain dedication in Georgia.



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President met with DuBridge and is again anxious to get him removed. Also had a rather awkward session with Glenn Dumke regarding higher education.

Kissinger arrived back from Paris about 7:00 - a really quick trip - he went after Gridiron Saturday night. He seemed in good spirits, reported to President but I haven't talked to him yet. They dined at EOB - President to escape Helene Drown.