



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

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Tuesday, March 24.

School desegregation day. After weeks, the statement is finally out. President had bipartisan leaders for breakfast and a briefing. Said Teddy K asked the only smart question - "Where will you get the money?" Then Ehrlichman, et al., had a one and a half hour press briefing on it. No reaction yet, but President pleased with final result.

Had me in after the breakfast - then added Harlow about Carswell, because Griffin had told him at breakfast the situation is deteriorating. The same old story of buck-passing - Griffin trying to blame White House staff. Harlow says good part of problem is Justice refusal to give key senators the judges they want. President told Harlow to get on it.

Blount and his Deputy - Ted Klassen, trapped me in late morning regarding White House staff interference in Post Office negotiations, especially Colson dealing with Rademacher. They were really mad. I finally got Ehrlichman in after his briefing and we calmed them down a bit, but raises basic question of who is to handle the negotiating. Ehrlichman and I agree it can't be Blount and must be Shultz. President agrees. Three hour meeting this afternoon at Post Office with Ehrlichman, Harlow, Ziegler and me plus Blount and staff, Shultz and staff, Mayo, Hampton, et al., regarding this whole problem. Finally got Blount to agree to Usery (Labor) as the chief mediator in charge. Hard to beat the Post Office down - they are determined to have full control in their hands.

At noontime, with Ehrlichman and me, President had concluded that he had to take over himself. All others felt this was totally wrong. President also agreed to meet with union leaders, Meany or whomever, or to send message to Congress, etc. Obviously want to stay actively on top of this.

At meeting looked as if we were in pretty good shape externally, problems all internal, mainly ego. All unions basically back, except New York - and their leaders are here and anxious to meet. We seem to have the upper hand. Problem is to keep it, and move on from here. Also air traffic controllers threaten walk out tomorrow - a disaster if they do.



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Late tonight President agreed to breakfast with Senators McGee and Fang and Ehrlichman and Harlow - to try to stop a pay bill coming there before negotiations. Also Blount will announce we're ready to talk tomorrow if workers stay on. Now just have to keep the balance. So far we've had some luck, as well as good moves. Poor Kissinger, no one will pay any attention to his wars - and it looks like Laos is falling.