



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

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Thursday, April 2.

Settlement day. Postal agreement. Knew we had it at noon when Usery made deal with Meany - but had to go through motions of negotiating session. Got our 6 percent plus 8 percent deal, with reform and rate increase. Now have to sell it to Congress. Came out pretty well, President especially anxious to get positive interpretation on it.

Spent most of the day on this. Ehrlichman had tough time with statement - and ended up without one. Will release it tomorrow. Settled for announcement and press briefing today. Problem now is how to peddle the tax increases - and get adequate Congressional support. Harlow very concerned that the plans haven't been adequately thought through - and he's probably right.

President in basic political and philosophical problems - as outlined in Kevin Phillips' thesis regarding lack of a conservative elite, and the Pusey report regarding the problems at Harvard. Trying to figure out where to put together our base. Broods frequently over problem of how we communicate with young and blacks. It's really not possible - except with Uncle Toms and we should work on them and forget militants.

The air controllers problem goes on - and the plan now is to fire a bunch of them - especially after postal settlement, to prove government employees can't win by striking. Theory is that the mailman is a family friend - so you can't hurt him; but no one knows the air traffic man. Also they make a lot more money, hence invoke a lot less popular sympathy.

The new press center opened today. President went in to introduce Ehrlichman for his briefing, made a few comments about the setup.

Haven't told him about the latest Gallup - he's down another three points after an eight point drop a week ago - that wasn't published. Confirms a downward trend, probably due to a general lack of positive exposure. He has really been out of view, but doesn't seem to realize it.