



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

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Monday, April 13.

Another of those days of hours alone with President in Oval Office, just talking. A few appointments in morning, and a Cabinet meeting on the economy in the afternoon. Poor Mayo dug his own grave deeper with constant interruptions to expound his views, to the President's annoyance. President came up with a few blasts, said "If Civil Service is wrong, we'll change it; all it's for is freezing mediocre people into jobs." Got into long talk regarding the American tradition of productivity - real problem is to get management control. Said "Goldwater's right, sell TVA!" Topped them all with "The Fed will not be independent if it's the last thing I do in this office."

Lot of talk about new Justice and plans and timing for announcement. President wants to go fast, tomorrow.

President got Kissinger's draft of Vietnam speech - and had me take it to read versus his December 15 speech. Kissinger's new one completely negative, three times too long and misses point. I convinced President to let Buchanan take a stab at boiling it down. President feels Kissinger is lost cause as writer - also in reading his Paris report, it's obvious he can't negotiate - he makes debating points instead.

Some concern regarding Mitchell, and especially what can be done regarding Martha. President keeps asking why we can't get anything going on crime.

Ready to meet tomorrow on postal deal - then Blount came up with some new problems, so have to postpone again.

At about midnight, Kissinger called regarding problems of Apollo 13 on way to moon. He wanted to discuss all the possible problems that the abort and possible disaster would raise. Also very concerned as to whether we should notify President. I decided no, on basis there was nothing he could do. Then Chapin called with advice from Safire, and Kissinger a couple more times, and finally to sleep.

Ehrlichman and I had tough session with Mollenhoff about his constant reporting to the press on his own activities, and especially the recent flap regarding his access to income tax returns. Clark just doesn't get the point.