



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

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Thursday, April 16.

Big news activity day. President briefed Congressional leaders on SALT - then another session on postal deal - then this afternoon the House passed Family Assistance. Plus continuing suspense regarding Apollo, although no new developments on it today.

Again a review of post-splashdown activity. Revised plans - eliminated Vietnam meeting - then later decided to come back to California Sunday, and do the speech from Western White House Monday night, back to DC Tuesday. Then called me at home tonight to say he wants to go unannounced to the Lincoln Church after he talks to astronauts after splashdown.

Apparently he did outstanding job in morning meetings because he was concerned about getting out the line regarding decisiveness, command, etc. Feels gist of an operation is ability to command a group, and he has it to much greater degree than Kennedy, Johnson or DDE, but we don't ever tell anyone. Compares to Teddy Roosevelt, Wilson and de Gaulle - whose staffs all got enormous coverage of the mystique - without participation by the principal. Feels his main strength is his ability, but he gets no credit for it, which is necessary to build it up and thus make it even more effective.

Fascinating discussion regarding his ideas for his own funeral plans. I raised subject during discussion of astronauts. He wants simplicity, only one DC service, at Rotunda, no horse. Need a layman for the eulogy, no ideas. Graham and Peale for prayers. All contributions to Boys Clubs. Burial at Rose Hills near parents, simple service. Told me to work up all the details, he didn't care about them.

Called at home regarding Apollo plans. Wants Collins and Anders on hand in morning to explain developments. Sounded uptight. He knows this offers great chance if he handles it right. His tendency, surprisingly, seems to be overplay. Usually the opposite. May be reaction to frustration and slow decline. Now wants to change. Could be bad. But when the time comes, he will, as always, do it right.