



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

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Sunday, May 10.

The aftermath. All quiet, White House Church. I succeeded last night in getting Hickel not to come, in order to avoid a confrontation with the President, and the press. He didn't like it, but agreed to follow my recommendation.

Several long calls from the President. He was much more relaxed, but still not unwound at all. Has done a lot of thinking - I'm not sure how clearly - regarding problems with Cabinet, etc., and regarding use of his time and what he can really do best. Thinks he'll have to spend a major part of his time figuring out how to say what we need to say - and how to get it across. Thinks he knows how to write it and, so far, no one else does.

Thinks we're turning a corner this weekend. Remembers that in '60 and '68 we had 80 percent of the faculties against us, but 50 percent of the students for us. Thinks now the college demonstrators have overplayed their hands - evidence is the blue collar group rising up against them, and President can mobilize them.

Pondering the problem of relations with Cabinet, etc. - says he can't work any harder than he does - and they have to decide whether it's better for the President to do his job or to massage them.

Hounding me regarding Ziegler not getting over the color of his press conference and the Lincoln Memorial visit. Not much good in the local Sunday papers - feels Ziegler misses the "extra dimension stuff."

Delighted to learn Abrams has already fired two of his division commanders because they didn't move fast enough - feels we have to do the same thing. Someone has to be made an example - this is Kissinger's line.

Called later to analyze our problem in getting over the story of the success in Cambodia. Kissinger had major briefing yesterday, but papers gave it no play. Problem starts with



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overriding news regarding the demonstration - but also comes from our failure to get enough sell in the story. President now feels he should have gotten into this in his press conference, the only way to get it out.