



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

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Monday, May 11.

Buzzed me in first thing - lots of notes on follow-up. Kept me over two hours - Ehrlichman in and out. Reviewed trivia and a little general scheduling; discussed the Vietnam-Cambodia story problem and some ideas regarding sending groups over to observe; revised plan for Governors Conference agenda; still demanding the tennis court be removed; wants to figure a way to get Hickel to leave and run for Governor of Alaska.

Worried about Kissinger and his briefing. Feels we have to take him off of most press contact - waste of his time and he's not good at getting over our points. Problem is how to maintain his ego needs.

Ehrlichman got pretty direct with President when he was boring in on bad reports from kids regarding his Lincoln Memorial bit. Ehrlichman told him he was tired and not very effective - this made him mad - and it came up several times later in the day. Real trouble is, he's just totally pooped and is not up to his usual performance.

This was really in evidence at Governor's Conference. He did a darn good job - but went on and on - frequently irrelevant. Still made his points - but would have done better in half as much time. It went very well and they seemed to be well impressed and basically with us. Hard to be sure until they got out to press. President made great defense of whole concept of United States involvement, domino theory, etc.

Rogers called me afterwards very concerned regarding President. Same reason as above. Feels we've got to keep him on short leash until he gets rested up. Unfortunately he has a dinner tonight for Sir Alec Douglas Home. Then a busy morning. But we can keep week light.

Magazines were pretty bad today. All the negatives and very little positive - hardly anything from press conference, because no hard news. Mainly obsessed with the uprising and no attempt to put it in any kind of perspective. Tough to deal with.