



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

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Monday, May 25.

A few weekend odds and ends to catch up on, and another huge batch of President memos that he did at Camp David. He seems rested and relaxed, in spite of continued bad sniping in press, especially about economy and Southeast Asia.

Some discussion with President and Ehrlichman about care and handling of Cabinet. President to go to California this weekend instead of Key Biscayne, and will meet secretly there with Abrams regarding Cambodia, then go on TV midweek next week to announce progress report and withdrawal plan. Will have Laird, etc., come out Saturday. President came up with idea of going to Billy Graham Crusade in Knoxville Thursday night on the way out. It's at the University - in stadium. Good way to get a huge built-in crowd. President will speak briefly.

Buchanan has a hot new Agnew speech blasting Harriman, Vance and Clifford - for Thursday night. President a little leery - wants to be sure it's not too rough. Also he doesn't want to louse up atmosphere before his TV deal next week.

Another personnel discussion. Decided to keep Mayo in the OMB job through this budget cycle. But move Weinberger in now as budget man, and hold Rumsfeld in the wings to take over in January. I'm to cover with Mayo.

Had Mollenhoff in - he's quitting to go back to the Des Moines Register as Bureau Chief. Good break both ways. Ziegler especially delighted.

President wants to use visual aids in speech, i.e., pictures of mortar shells, guns, etc., another map, charts, to try to give full pitch.

Pretty good day - fair number of appointments and some constructive meetings about staffing, schedule, etc. - but he still wastes an enormous amount of time. Left fairly early.

Called all shook up about stock market drop of 21 points. Said to be sure no one gets upset or overacts - must act confident. Problem is, no one shows any sign of undue concern except him.



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He called several times about follow-up with Burns, Flanigan, etc. Wants them to peddle the good line, only they had all agreed not to do any talking until after President's Cambodia announcement. Bunny Lasker called Pete in quite a state, wanted to talk to President. He's really shook, but nothing President can do.