



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

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Wednesday, May 27.

A busy morning - with Arthur Burns, then the economic group, then LBJ before the luncheon for McCormick. Then tonight the stag dinner for business leaders to try to calm down the stock market which has been dropping steadily at an alarming rate. Guess it worked before it even happened because market gained 31 points - highest one day rise in history. Really neurotic.

Some discussion of Hickel situation, and the whole plan for reorganizing the Department regarding environmental things. Decided to waffle the reorganization by having a committee consider it for a while to avoid moving more power into Interior while Hickel still there. Later agreed to push Hickel hard to run for Governor of Alaska and make it clear to him President wants him out. Ehrlichman did this late today and Hickel agreed - but must see President first.

*Time* doing a cover story on Ehrlichman, Kissinger, Mitchell and me. Want interview and President reluctantly agreed - but thinks we're being naive and will be shafted - probably right.

President musing on where things would be today if we had not gone into Cambodia - it would have fallen, our casualties would be way up, we'd be under enormous pull-out pressure from within, and President would have badly deteriorated in world position.

Heard had plan for President to go to Earlham College and talk with students. President rejected completely, but does want to try to work out the TV idea for a student meeting in some form.

Some more worrying about our internal economic unit, as President feels Quadriad had nothing to offer today and we don't have a real strong economic leader on staff. Flanigan too abrasive and not knowledgeable. Burns made point we need some novelty in approach - not a gimmick, but some sound imaginative move.

President spent afternoon at EOB - mainly just pondering the overall situation and getting his remarks ready for the business leaders tonight. Did call to have me turn off VP on his very tough



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speech for tomorrow about Harriman, Vance, Clifford. President feels this is not the time for it - wants to wait until after his Cambodia speech next week.

Had Ehrlichman and me over to EOB later about Hickel and then got into Finch question - especially regarding absolute necessity that he fire Allen next Thursday and bring Dumke in. Also wanted to clear up calendar tomorrow so he could work on his Billy Graham remarks, but most of it we can't very well change.