



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

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Thursday, May 28.

A loaded day prior to departure. Suharto farewell. Meeting with the attack group of senators. Session with Heard and Cheek. Farm program meeting with Hardin, et al. Then a long session with Hickel, supposedly to lock up his running for Governor. But turned out he can't put the deal together, so now he's going to stay on - sort of on probation, through the elections. Then will go, but he doesn't know it for sure. He does know he's in real trouble, but thinks he can reinstate himself.

Apparently business dinner went well. Big joke was about Isadore Cohen, who got in by accident and was a real character.

President agreed to Heard's recommendation that he meet with University of Tennessee student body president tonight, so we set that up (after meeting, President was very unimpressed).

On plane President spent most of trip to Knoxville working on remarks for Crusade.

The Crusade was sensational, good crowds along the motorcade route, lots of signs and flags, very enthusiastic. Virtually all friendly. Stadium was packed, and a huge overflow crowd on the hill in back. Estimate was 75,000 inside and 25,000 outside. Actual was about 70 and 15. About 300 demonstrators in one section. Shouted usual peace slogans and obscenities. Pretty bad. Crowd drowned them out, booed them, wildly cheered President. Overall was a huge plus. Ethel Waters did spectacular put down. President did good job of mainly ignoring them, with one brief oblique reference. A great and memorable evening. Vast majority of crowd were teenagers and young adults. Good way to do a college campus.

President really cranked up as a result, thoroughly relaxed and happy on flight to San Clemente. Wants Ethel Waters for White House Church. Whole deal did him personally a lot of good as it proved he can go into country and even onto a campus.