



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

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Tuesday, June 9.

And the people game goes on. This morning I got to give Mayo the good news that he's not leading new OMB. Not a very pleasant meeting, as he was quite surprised, and not a bit happy. He was, at first, going to pull out right away, but I got him to hold up and talk to Shultz. Then later in the day Shultz and I got him in with President, who really laid it on thick about how we need him - so he'll stay as a counselor for at least a couple of months. Then we spent some time getting announcement ready - for tomorrow instead of today, at Mayo's request. Agreed on prerogatives, etc.

President had a lot of chores - leaders meeting first; Bill Buckley appointment; Lee DuBridge's quarterly session (always a disaster); the Chief Justice and Blackmun for courtesy call; Volpe's bimonthly meeting (always a disaster too). Volpe "in all humility" offered a few ideas. President should realize Cabinet officers are only human, and should have them for lunch from time to time - also golf. "You know, they work their heads off and need encouragement, a pat on the back. Not me, of course, but the others."

President kept me at EOB for three hours - after Volpe, Mayo and Shultz, then just me. All excited about new staff - Finch and Shultz, especially wants Rumsfeld, Finch and me to work out Cabinet relations problem. Then a lot of PR analysis - especially how to use TV more effectively. Interested in exploring ways to get on. Basically agreed to do three network interview July 1 - instead of final Cambodia report. Still can't get him to buy the fireside chat idea, but he's softening. Wants us to look at whole press/PR deal as a continuing campaign on radio/TV - ignore press.

Discussed July 4 plans - he especially wants a big parade and plan for Jaycee speech. Will probably do a "What's good about America," and cover blacks, environment, youth, challenges, peace. A rehash of State of Union.



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Good reflective talk trying to develop new approaches. Sure has no interest in domestic programs per se, which gives Ehrlichman a wide open field if he wants to use it.

Dinner tonight for Apollo 13 crew, plus Ehrlichman, Rumsfeld, Finch, Flanigan, very pleasant, informal, relaxed. President enjoyed it thoroughly, as did everyone else.