



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

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Thursday, June 18.

Busy schedule day to clean up all the loose ends. Kept President going solid all day. Ended with Ad Council reception - then took FRESH group out on *Sequoia* for dinner.

Had our first staff meeting of the expanded group, in my office. Went pretty well - but it's still pretty loose. Will be a darn good group. Covered basic problems today of whether to veto Voting Rights Bill with 18 year vote (group felt strongly President should not veto, but Congressional leaders all favor a veto); strategy on Cooper-Church (in pretty good shape); plan for postal reform in House - problem of leaving it to Blount, so got Harlow in with Shultz advising; problem of VP and his speeches and Joe Rhodes, etc.

Good session on the *Sequoia* as President really relaxed and established a good base with the group. Discussion covered pretty much the subject of our morning meeting - with a lot of background on his thinking and covered his offer of UN to Moynihan (which Shultz thought was a true master stroke). They reviewed their Domestic Council meeting yesterday, and general rundown of Cabinet.

Quite a bit on Agnew - as President revealed he has a lot more doubts than he has expressed before. Still convinced he's a major asset - but feels he really makes the wrong approaches sometimes. Ended up that we should discuss the problem and come up with basic recommendation for President as to exact role of Agnew and how to implement it - which President will then cover with him.

This led to strategy versus Congress. Group felt it was too early for an all-out attack - by VP or anyone else, and especially President. Did feel President's digs at Congress in speeches, etc., were good and should be kept up, but don't want to open all-out offensive this far ahead of elections. Mainly because we can't sustain the interest.

Got word on boat of conservative victory upset in Britain - also from Blount of postal reform through House. Both good news, plus Senate plan to pass new Byrd amendment which is better



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than the first one they defeated. President especially pleased about Britain. Had me ride back in car with him, and talked about how this discredited pollsters and press.