



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

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Wednesday, June 24.

Cabinet meeting - President let Heard and his discussion go on and on, thus wiping out Shultz and his presentation of OMB. Heard gave usual doomsday pitch regarding time of crisis and national emergency, etc. Pretty much snowed the Cabinet members. Not many there. Half of them out of the area.

Got the TV pretty well set up for next week. Only problem is CBS - who are trying to get Rather in instead of Severeid (Cronkite is in Tahiti).

Especially bad day for poor Kissinger. Turns out he made the mistake last night of getting President all cranked up about SALT problems. As a result President decided to see Rogers (exactly what Kissinger didn't want) and had him for breakfast without telling anyone. Meanwhile we jumped on Kissinger at staff meeting regarding credibility of President on Cambodia. Problem is Kissinger now argues we have to sustain Lon Nol government in order to protect our military and negotiating position. Then he backs off - so all get feeling of real insecurity. He later concluded we had kept on him in meeting in order to keep him from knowing about Rogers' breakfast.

President went into this whole problem this afternoon at EOB with me, especially regarding Kissinger's horrible way of handling a meeting and giving all the feeling that they have no part except to follow his orders. President worries about how to overcome this and concludes he has to meet privately with Laird and Rogers more often - and handle them himself instead of through Kissinger, but this will just get Kissinger up all the tighter - so!?

Still diddling around regarding Jaycee speech. Had Buchanan rework it, but can't decide yet whether to read it or wing it. I suspect the net result will be spectacular. He's put a lot of time on it, but not in usual disciplined fashion. May make it even better.



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President told me to talk to Rogers very privately, without Kissinger, regarding new Under Secretary. President pushing Rumsfeld. Rogers raised possibility of Flanigan with President this morning. I think that would be ideal - finally get in some discipline.