



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

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Thursday, June 25.

St. Louis and the Jaycees. A really great day! Great airport crowd, chopper in to the Arch, great street crowds on motorcade to Kiel, and a fantastic reception by the Jaycees. They wouldn't quit applauding. Had horns, whistles, etc., for their nominating session and really went all out. President highly elated, gave very good speech - used the "wing it" approach, and came through perfectly. Was much better than reading it would have been. Crowd interrupted 28 times with applause, a number of them standing ovations. It even impressed the press corps - and it was so good they had to write it that way. Even the TV networks carried enthusiastic reports. More evidence that the terrible doom described by the Eastern press doesn't really reflect the rest of the country.

Before we left, President called Volpe at Ehrlichman's request, and afterwards got madder and madder that he had done so - because all Volpe wanted to do was complain about how hard he was working on the Penn Central problem, etc. President feels Cabinet should be backing him up, not he them.

Discussed the whole speechwriter problem again on the plane. This another example of the need for someone who can do this kind of speech so President doesn't have to. Just hard to find.

California. Beautiful, sensational weather. We went to San Clemente - all in good shape - President didn't come to the office. Called after I got home, very pleased with the day and the weather and California. Said to think back on the day - it had been very salutary, to get out into the country, gig the press a little and charge our own batteries.