



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

National Archives and Records Administration, Online Public Access Catalog Identifier: 7787364

Thursday, July 16.

President had no schedule today except for Prince Charles arrival and a fat cat dinner on the *Sequoia* -time was open for preparation for tomorrow's planned press conference - which was canceled until Monday or Friday next week, because Ehrlichman and Shultz decided President had to release major statement tomorrow regarding policy on vetoes of excessive appropriation legislation. So I ended up spending hours in the Oval and EOB offices filling in the time.

Long talk about Rogers and Kissinger. President was willing to listen to my version of Kissinger and Haig's story. He only bought part of it. He knows what the Rogers' problem is, but he feels Kissinger is too self-concerned and inclined to overdramatize - which is true. Solution lies in better understanding both ways - but it's not likely because neither Rogers nor Kissinger will really admit the other might be right. President also feels Kissinger is overly concerned regarding anything that affects Israel. Had me call Haig for reaction to Rogers press conference. Al felt he had backtracked very well, but that still doesn't solve real problem - which is the clear impression of a major wedge between State and White House on basic major foreign policy positions. Hard to cover that up now that it's out - and the weasels will use it to the hilt. President doesn't fully buy Haig's view - but understands it.

Long session with Flanigan and Colson. Covered economy, signs now looking up pretty generally - and the attack operation, especially equal time and McGovern-Hatfield. President intrigued with Colson's tactics and plans on both.

Considerable general pondering of what's best to use on TV - press conference versus statement, etc. Trying to figure how to handle the veto policy statement. Finally decided to do message to Congress, record it for radio and film a brief outtake for TV. Was going to do national radio, but would have looked like a crisis.

Very upset because we goofed on Ambassadors at Charles arrival and didn't shake hands with them. I finally settled him down by having Protocol call all of them and apologize.