



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

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Wednesday, November 18.

Things piled up and eliminated the usual clear Wednesday afternoon. Main problem was bipartisan leaders meeting, scheduled for first thing in morning, changed for Democrats because of caucus - shifted all over, finally set for 3:30. Then the Democratic House members couldn't come at last minute. So President met with senators, and will let Laird and Rogers do the congressmen. Almost looked like a maneuver on purpose.

President had long secret meeting with Laird, Rogers, Moorer and Kissinger about a new secret plan - to try to rescue 90 POW's, we'll try it Saturday. I talked with Rogers first about changes in State and Moynihan to UN. He's not very responsive, sort of fuzzes it up.

President still had fair amount of free time - is now focusing more on business. Wants meeting tomorrow with economic group, to decide how to turn things around. Some discussion about staff changes, etc. Had Ehrlichman in and reported to us on his breakfast with Nelson Rockefeller. Report on New York politics, especially Lindsay. Rockefeller can't figure out where he'll go, is lost in New York City. Then got on to economic policy and told Ehrlichman he was seriously considering complete change in advisors, since they failed in the one prime objective he set - to keep unemployment under five percent in October. Doesn't want to take any chance on screwing up 1972. Problem is not just advice - it's that they don't get in and fight.

Still trying to figure what to do with Chotiner. Knows down deep he shouldn't foist him on RNC, can't keep him at White House, no other place. He now wants Bush at White House, in Flanigan role, and Pete as Under Secretary of Treasury.

Some talk again about need to build up staff morale. He keeps trying to think of devices - recirculating good columns. Not really a problem, but he thinks it is. And discusses PR, need for a head guy, need for a group to plan, etc.