



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

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

Friday, November 20.

The POW maneuver for Saturday was moved up to today - and all were on pins and needles awaiting outcome. Too bad, it didn't work. Turned out no prisoners were there. Still went ahead with big bombing, etc.

President told Kissinger he'd worked out new plan for Vietnam at 2:00 this morning. Wants to blast talks, give last chance, then pull out. Mine Haiphong (or blockade), take offensive, and announce stepped up withdrawals at same time. Put real heat on North Vietnam.

President was really impressed with John Connally at Ash dinner last night. Told Kissinger to put him on FIAB. Wants to get hooks into him. Is convinced he can be brought over for '72.

On POW move - told Kissinger in the morning: "Don't do any planning for success, it's bad luck."

Had to turn off VP on another speech. Was going to hit Eastern liberal press again by name. Took it to President after Harlow failed to convince VP.

President very impressed with Ash recommendation about reducing size of Executive Office. Said go ahead with it if Ehrlichman, Shultz and I agree. Intrigued with reducing 4,000 personnel to 1,500.

Off to Camp David for the night.