



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

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Wednesday, July 23.

Bad start as President discovered Ziegler had released the plans for the astronaut dinner - too soon and in the wrong way. Picked up as the day went on. President and Pat Nixon went out for cable car ride and walk down Powell Street. Big crowds and very enthusiastic. Then to airport and off for Pacific. Landed at Johnston Island and transferred to helicopters for trip to the USS Arlington where we stay overnight while steaming to the pick-up area. We'll leave here by helicopter at 4:40A.M. for the Hornet and the splash down due at 5:50. Just Bill Rogers, Kissinger, Hughes, Borman and me with President, plus Ziegler and five man press pool.

President did a great job on the Arlington - through the enlisted Mess and the ward room, shaking hands, etc. Impressed the troops and press greatly. So far so good.

Long talk with President at the hotel this morning, mainly regarding need for cutting back on expenses and staff. This triggered by Mayo phone call insisting we stop the NSC project on South Grounds (we did); and Ehrlichman call urging we not go ahead with bowling alley in White House pool area (we won't, but President ordered pool drained). Also wants cable traffic cut and lots of other general cut-backs.