



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

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Sunday, January 24.

White House Church. I didn't go. The President picked up a few odds and ends and called once later in the day and, I guess, was holed up for the rest of the afternoon. He was sort of pleased with the flap created by Muskie shifting the words in his speech—where he dropped "utter disregard" in referring to the President's action in Cambodia—and made the point that a few things like this can hurt his super image.

Hatfield was at the church and indicated he was strongly for us on the State of the Union and made the point that it's a good indication of the sadness of the whole Democratic condition, in that they could only find for criticism the point that there was no mention of foreign policy in the speech. The President definitely wants to go ahead on getting to Florida next weekend, so we'll go ahead and set that up.

He was delighted with Ethel Waters at church, said she was a smash hit, wants to be sure we get the story out. Apparently, she was quite emotional in her closing point.

He's pleased that we are shifting to a dinner for Colombo of Italy in February, instead of the Nigerian dinner. He wants to be sure we load it with Italians rather than finance types. Then thought that this would be a good time to have Sinatra, but agreed with the recommendation that we not get into that. He suggested instead Perry Como, or maybe some other younger Italian entertainer and he'd love to have Guy Lombardo's orchestra.

He was also concerned about the flap regarding the boycott of the blacks in Congress from the State of the Union speech, and says he wants to meet with one of them as a representative and thinks we ought to set that up right away.

End of January 24.