



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

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Saturday, February 1.

NSC this morning, then a session with Kissinger regarding the trip to Europe.

Haircut in the afternoon - he got a facial and manicure - first time.

Included me in "stag" dinner at the Mansion. 8:00 black tie. Bebe, Hobe Lewis, Jimmy Crosby, Bob Abplanalp, Bob Finch. Added Pat Nixon, and me to balance number. (Think he was trying to liven up things for Pat Nixon her last night, she goes to New York tomorrow to pack, etc.) Cocktails in the Oval Room. Nixon in great spirits, gracious host, several martinis. Dinner in family dining room. Delicious. Red wine and champagne. Souffle for dessert (President started us in to dinner, saying souffle couldn't wait. Pat Nixon surprised, didn't know about souffle).

Tour of second floor after dinner conducted by President. Gave all the historical highlights - thoroughly enjoyed himself. Ended in the Lincoln Sitting Room for liqueurs and cigars. He turned on his new stereo, pretty loud, hard to talk. Lots of banter - interspersed with considerable serious discussion. Guests obviously overwhelmed and President delighted. Remarked tonight is "just our close friends-- all six of them."

Session in afternoon with Kissinger and Harlow, mainly about Ambassadors and key appointments. Upset by press reports that he's not changing people, especially in State. Ordered me to have resignations of all non-career Ambassadors and all LBJ political appointees on his desk Monday. Said he'll write them and "accept the resignation with pleasure." Feels we haven't done enough to get in good new people that are ours. He's right. Problem is need to deal with Democratic Congress, and President isn't tough enough with his Cabinet officers. Won't make them fire incumbents and/or take our political recommendations. Ehrlichman now in charge of this, we'll see how he can produce.

At the dinner - frequently President returned to the subject of thoughtfulness and appreciation toward the "little people", i.e., house staff, drivers, etc. Great contrast from the LBJ family, who gave rise to all kinds of tales regarding their terrible arrogance.



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Talked about astronauts' comment that the mood of the White House was so different - that they felt really uncomfortable when there with LBJ. He was in a "black mood".

I had an all-morning session with La Rue, Flemming, Chotiner and Ehrlichman about independent agency appointments. Hard to get anything settled. Have to do it.

Then a session with Rose and John Brown regarding mail handling. Made some progress - Rose now responsible for all Nixon correspondence in final stage, after staffing, and she takes to President for signatures.