



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

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Thursday, February 6.

Morning preparation for 11:00 press conference. Another coup. Big concern regarding ABM. Laird had halted program, announcement in press (leak), but had not discussed with President or NSC, and had not included this fact in his departmental Q&A material. President got a question on it and had to toe-dance it, which he did very well - but not very happy about it afterward.

Met with Shafer, who came in loaded with two huge color pictures for President to sign. Had a bundle of things he wanted - and got most. President very inclined to agree with whatever these guys propose - may become an enormous problem. Someone's got to be in all meetings, if only to short stop Presidential commitments. President put lot of pressure on Shafer (and Rhodes, who was also in) to back up Agnew.

Meeting with Arthur Burns - wants faster follow-up on DC Crime program. President determined to get action - very impatient with tendency of Departments to study everything. Told me to order whole series of actions from Mitchell by Monday,

Also wants Civil Service ordered to remove clause from job rating forms about how many people you supervise (found it was removed in 1963). Plans to push hard on reducing size of Department staffs.

Met with Congressman Teague regarding Santa Barbara oil in the ocean. Overreacted again, ordered troops, stop drilling, pull out all stops. Called John Mitchell and asked him to "bend the law" to permit Hickel to order halt (done).

Hour with Ash, agree to go ahead with his committee plan. President really wants to accomplish something on reorganization and has great faith in Ash-types' ability to do so - but doesn't exactly know how.

Visited Post Office - people said they'd been there 32 years and this was first time the President had come.