



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

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Wednesday, February 12.

Harlow and I in morning staff meeting. President directed us to move immediately to get Cabinet members to get rid of all their non-career people. We've set up meetings today and tomorrow with all of them - with Bob Hampton of Civil Service Commission - to get this moving. Good idea. Meetings today went well - all Cabinet officers cooperative although anxious to point out special problems of their department - and the accomplishments they've already made in this direction. And we actually have done much more than we get credit for. Spent practically all day at this.

President fortunately pretty well occupied with Urban Affairs Council (Nelson Rockefeller there to pitch for funds for New York, with charts and pointer. Interesting picture as President sat in his chair at Cabinet table while Nelson made his pitch); NSC; Lincoln Memorial; other meetings. Managed to sandwich in meetings with President between my Cabinet sessions.

President agreed to do Republican Women if it's a dinner honoring Pat Nixon; and fundraiser if it's a salute to him. This avoids direct partisan political appearance.

Met with Davis Cup team and is all excited about their idea of tennis stadium in DC for blacks and for United States to defend Cup next year.

President called Moynihan, Finch, Burns, Harlow and me in at end of day for long discussion of OEO and Welfare. Did masterful job of forcing them to move to direct action instead of studies. Will announce next week moving Job Corps to Labor and Head Start to HEW. Determined to show action - be different. At one point Burns said "just one word of caution", President quickly said "not too many!"