



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

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Tuesday, March 11.

Well, the first crisis appears to be building. ABM decision will be tough. He has to go ahead from defense viewpoint but pressure against is enormous and growing under great pressure, i.e., DuBridge was in today to argue scientist's viewpoint that small increase in defense doesn't justify huge expenditure and popular and political risk. Harlow has advised President that Congressional passage is in real doubt - and will require all-out battle on part of President. Question whether he's really willing and ready to fight.

President urged me to cut schedule back as much as possible to give him time to talk with key individuals, instead of meetings and trivia. He's realized it's tough. Plans now for a Friday morning press conference to announce decision. Even canceled NSC for tomorrow. Part of problem is Congressional receptions every night that cut into working time.

Still very much up on campus disorder problem. Had given Ehrlichman some changes at Key Biscayne to strengthen proposed Finch statement regarding enforcement of no federal funds to convicted students. Now pushing to get statement out. Already too late, because Democratic Congressman from Florida is demanding it.

First staff meeting today went pretty well. Needs more thought - hard to be productive with that large a group.

Some progress regarding domestic policy coordination. Ehrlichman and I had long and satisfactory meetings with Burns and Moynihan, separately, and they are all set to go. Will put Ehrlichman in overall charge. Now have to get President to work that way.

Hard for President to stay on the big issues - he keeps hacking away at PR concerns, especially in the domestic program area. Moynihan points out that he can't have a domestic program. Not any money available - and politically impossible anyway. Better just to try to get rid of the things that don't work, and try to build up the few that do.



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Trying to finalize plans to move press to EOB and my group into Ziegler's office area. Great if we can do it.