



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

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Tuesday, March 18.

"Cut the budget" week rolls on. A bit of a shocker at staff meeting when Harlow reported Blount's decision to raise mail rates one cent tomorrow. He has authority and decided to do it - no one in White House knew about it. Blount called President on phone last night and got an OK. A flaw in the system. Red later appeared at GOP leaders meeting and agreed to hold off a couple of days to give a chance to lay some groundwork.

Kissinger's "Operation Breakfast" a great success. He came beaming in with report, very productive. A lot more secondaries than had been expected. Confirmed early intelligence. Probably no reaction for a few days - if ever.

Tough Medal of Honor ceremony (posthumous) when a mother broke down - and so did everyone else. Apparently President closed formal remarks with typical Nixon very personal remark that did it. Hughes had to come into my office to recover. President furious with press for taking pictures of her.

Today also campus disorder day - lot of discussion on this with leaders - plus afternoon meeting with Finch and Mitchell. Still no real progress on a statement.

President had long session with Quadriad, on budget, preparing for Cabinet.

Had me in quite a bit, covered a lot of Ambassador decisions, plans for California trip (he still can't bring himself to open up with Pat Nixon regarding buying the Cotton estate).

Determined now to have domestic program set, at least in outline, before April 2 Easter recess. Just don't ever seem to get these things down to specifics.

Agreed to plan to give White House Steinway to Truman library - thinks a great touch.



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Kept me in from 6:30 to 7:30 just rambling - while Jo waited at hotel to go out to dinner. He's in good form and spirits, pretty well preoccupied with budget cutting and campus problem. Both tough.