



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

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Monday, March 24.

Trudeau arrived via the "inclement alternate" because of rain. President wanted to use South Lawn anyway, but we couldn't shift back. President had called me at home three or four times last night regarding assignments for State Dinner, to change from round tables to "E" formation, have Mamie as Trudeau's date, add Bunker and Goodpaster, change to French wine, etc.

Buzzed me in early for more similar shifts. Decided no Key Biscayne this weekend. May have to have press conference Friday, because worried about Bill Rogers' appearances on Hill Thursday. President feels he may have to go on to top Bill's news if he blows it. So we kept time clear - with NSC meeting on Vietnam as alternate Friday morning.

New idea today is for an ombudsman to encompass consumer area and all other complaint and idea types. Then set up regional field offices. Reaction to Percy.

Decided we're not giving him enough preparation time before events, i.e., Trudeau today.

Wants to work out NPT signing to coincide with Russian signing - also have to get LBJ up for it.

Doctors say DDE failing fast, probably go today or tomorrow. Family has been called to hospital. I asked Tkach if President should go out. From my office he called Mamie and had ten minute talk with her. The conclusion was President visit might frighten him. Tricia and Julie are going to go over.

A few periods of sort of spare time - he called me in and just kind of chatted. Complained in a way about some speech material, but in a very understanding way. Pretty mellow. I think he feels the budget and war crisis impending and is getting ready. Taking long lunches, leaving almost on time, etc. As he left in the evening, he said, "Well I have to go rest a little before tonight's ordeal" (the State Dinner) - actually I think he'll really enjoy it.

Considerable discussion of California purchase - said to tell France to go ahead. Got price down to \$1,400,000.



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Flap with Chapin over lousy staffing of proposal for President to drop by NAB meeting tomorrow. I overreacted as usual - but we do need to tighten up.