



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

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Monday, April 14.

Lot of appointments and meetings. Went to Pan American Union for OAS meeting - brief speech. Decided as we drove away to go see the cherry blossoms at Jefferson Basin. Good touch. President and Pat Nixon got out of car and strolled along the path. Really surprised the tourists - and the police, we only had one escort car - they had to radio for reinforcements - including the mounted park police, who galloped alongside the car.

President finally has agreed to need for policy to stay on top of public attitudes. Wants a quick reading now - overall and on specific issues. Will work out a plan with Derge, via the RNC.

ABM planning meeting this afternoon - President has committed now to fighting the fight, and will work on individual Senators where needed. Plan was okay with him, but needs a lot more work.

Have agreed to put Ruwe in overall charge of White House social events. Should help pull this together.

President had long session with bipartisan Congressional Big 8, regarding budget, which goes up tomorrow. Released domestic message today. Not nearly the reaction we'd hoped for, at least initially.

Kissinger about to launch another project. Started last Friday with program of mining Haiphong to look tough. Kissinger meeting tonight with Dobrynin to say we'll take only one more try at settlement, then will have to move. Putting two month deadline on results. Really tough move. Kissinger very impressed with President's guts in making this hard decision. Also President sent really tough memo today to Laird and Rogers, regarding need to back Administrative position and importance of loyalty to decision once made. Again Kissinger surprised he'd take this hard line.



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Kissinger so pleased with his plan - like the earlier one - that he can't resist telling someone outside his shop, so he goes over it with me.