



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

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Thursday, May 22.

Clear morning (had been held for press conference). President got the sudden inspiration to call in the press to the Oval Office and give them the background on the selection process of the Chief Justice. I didn't sit in - Ehrlichman said he did very well and scored a lot of points with the press. Lots of it on the radio tonight.

Problem today was the AID message. Finally worked out the Burns/Kissinger problem and Kissinger had a revised message in this morning for President. But he didn't want to take time to work on it because of backgrounder. Said there were some changes he'd have to make. So I set things in motion to change the hearings on the Hill scheduled to start Monday. Problem was that President said he wouldn't be ready for bipartisan leaders by tomorrow morning, so couldn't send message tomorrow noon - wait until Monday.

Little later I told him all was set - hearings put off until Wednesday - he said he'd done all the needed work, could go ahead. Too late.

In the meantime the AID administration and others had already made a presentation today and really screwed things up. So Bryce and Kissinger are now back to the drawing boards.

President had a really tightly packed afternoon. I didn't see him all the way through.

Ehrlichman came in on way home to report that Don Nixon had told Ogden he had 1 million coming from [H] was true. Bebe had checked and he is making this claim on basis of commissions due. Hard to believe.