



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

National Archives and Records Administration, Online Public Access Catalog Identifier: 7787364

Friday, June 20.

President couldn't sleep, stayed up late last night calling people regarding press conference. Was up early this morning, into office before 7 30. Took Tim and went for a walk in the South Grounds, through EOB, and back along Pennsylvania Avenue. In the front entrance of West Lobby, and came into the staff meeting at 8:00, just as we were starting. Really startled the troops!

Pretty routine day of meetings and appointments. I had a session with Kissinger - after he saw President - and he's quite depressed. Feels President has made decision to reverse the Vietnam plan and hasn't told Kissinger, or discussed with him. Feels President has been up to something all week. Kissinger has modified his view since last night, but is still very worried, mainly because he feels maybe President has lost confidence in him. Swore me to tell him if this ever happens, in my judgment. He's really quite insecure - for no reason, I believe.

Yesterday I went through a similar exercise with Harlow - who feels (and rightly, I fear) that his working relationship with the President has badly deteriorated and is continuing downhill - and this in turn is eroding his personal friendship. He knows President well enough to be able to read the signs, and it's hard to try to convince him otherwise. He's convinced he should leave soon - to prevent further decline - and I'm not sure I can change his mind. I'll try, on the basis of his duty to the President and the country. Real trouble is, he's right - and only the President can change the situation, and then not just by a little quick therapy. He'll have to bring Bryce back into the real inner councils, and I'm not sure he'll do it.

Bryce and I interviewed Lyn Nofziger today, he's to go into Bryce's operation as the PR press leader for Hill attacks and defenses, etc. Some internal opposition, especially Ziegler, and he is a risk because of the way he works and his possible Reagan loyalty. Think he's worth taking the chance, because we have to have someone, and he would really be good if he comes through.



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President took old staff and family on Patricia for dinner. Was in really great mood before he left. Called Elizabeth Knauer to congratulate her on her "hot dog" battle.

Also yesterday had long session with Sam Hughes regarding White House staff. He feels we have a real and growing problem in whole domestic area, because people don't know who to turn to for specific problems. Thinks our structure is wrong, and that we have to have a man or department to function as honest broker on these problems - with accessibility and decision-making as prime requisites. Also, of course, access to and full confidence of the President. He's very high on Cole, but that's not the answer. I firmly feel now that Ehrlichman has to move totally into this role and drop all his extraneous tasks. This would provide much more orderly White House staff structure. With Ehrlichman in actual charge, and Burns and Moynihan as the planning units. He'll need a secretariat and this can be handled by a good man within Cole's jurisdiction. Have to do some thinking about the whole structure.