



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

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Monday, July 7.

President had a pretty clear day because he was scheduled to be in Key Biscayne until this afternoon. Then Haile Selassie arrival was canceled for late afternoon because his plane was delayed.

Had a long session with Harlow in the morning and another in the afternoon regarding whole Congressional liaison problem - and a lot of specifics about ABM and surtax. President started by trying to reduce his level of involvement and ended up calling Senator after Senator on the phone mainly regarding surtax. Was highly amused by his conversation with Russell Long. He (President) called him to set up a meeting Thursday and the call took twenty-two minutes. Long went into great tirade against Teddy - will work with President on surtax.

Rough lead article in *Newsweek* --really cracks President for lack of leadership and direction. Discussed with him this morning, in regard to his plan for six months summary battle plan. Clearly we need to reverse the PR trend and get our own line out. Record is not spectacular, but not nearly as bad as *Newsweek* says. We have another flood of legislation and activity coming. Then will put the heat on Congress to pass some of it. President thinking of moving on Family Security Plan - originally was going to wait until after surtax and ABM votes. Now feels we need the domestic momentum and leftward balance before he leaves for Asian trip.

Problem is to get the positive story of proposals and legislative successes (haven't lost a vote yet) across to counterbalance press play of negatives regarding Knowles, guidelines (positive in South), voting rights, etc. Plus problem still of right wing Republican unhappiness because we're not adequately cutting spending, welfare, etc., and they feel we're softening in Vietnam.

At the same time, Kissinger is discouraged because his plans for ending war aren't working fast enough and Rogers and Laird are constantly pushing for faster and faster withdrawal. Kissinger feels this means a "cop out" by next summer - and that if we follow that line we should "cop out" now. He wants to push for some escalation - enough to get us a reasonable bargain for a



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settlement within six months. Hope he prevails. Big meeting tonight regarding this on the *Sequoia*.