



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

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Sunday, July 20.

Moon landing day, fantastic. White House church this morning with Borman reading from Genesis – plus Hatfield and Conyers praying and Paul Smith sermon. Super top level audience - Cabinet, Congress, etc.

Then President to EOB for solo work most of the day. I worked at hotel, packing. Back to White House at about 5:00. Some trip details finalized - a few phone conversations with President in EOB about details for telecast tonight. President came into office about 8:45, went into little office because Oval filled with TV gear and crew. Had me in for discussion of the Teddy Kennedy matter. Reviewed today's developments. He's very interested in the whole thing, and feels it marks the end of Teddy. Had Ehrlichman working on investigation, etc.

Then had Frank Borman in to describe what was happening, as the men got ready to leave the LEM. Borman, President and I watched on little TV in little office. When Neil hit the surface, President clapped and said "Hooray." He's very much excited by the whole thing. Was fascinated with watching moon walk, etc. Then went into Oval Office for TV - and did a great job on split screen with the moon. He wrote his own remarks instead of using the suggestions. All in all, a great day - and he was very elated as he left for the house. Julie, David and Tricia were waiting in the Rose Garden and walked him home.

He's going to push hard on the Teddy Kennedy thing, mainly because he feels it greatly reduces Teddy's influence in the Senate and may help us on ABM and surtax - as it takes wind out of opposition's sails. The whole thing really is very strange - and it will be interesting to see how they maneuver to cover it up.

President has canceled press trip briefing scheduled for tomorrow afternoon, because moon shot overshadows it. Will do it in Guam Thursday evening instead. Actually much better anyway - and will get far better ride and set stage for the trip. We have a rough period ahead. But everyone's ready and eager and I think it will go well.