



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

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Monday, July 21.

Big thing today was a meeting with President, Kissinger, Ehrlichman and me. Kept getting put off, finally started about 5:00 and went for three hours. President outlined his thinking about need to get into gear. Feels all we have really accomplished in six months is to learn how to run the place. Need now to establish the mystique of the Presidency - and wants the three of us to function as the hard-core inner circle. Wants us to zero in on hard-nosed basis and take charge. Feels where we have failed is where we've temporized.

Main thing is we haven't used the power of the White House - to reward and punish. Haven't inculcated in all the staff the view that their job is to build the President, not themselves.

All led up to his idea of using the word "GO" as the theme, much impressed by astronauts last night. Means all systems ready - never be indecisive - get going, take risks, be exciting. Can't fall into jury rot of just managing the chaos better. Must use the great power of the office to do something. Boldness. Now is the time to go. We've organized things, now use them. Go for broke now, on what's right. If that loses us 1972, I accept that.

Power of the United States must be used more effectively, at home and abroad, or we go down the drain as a great power. Have already lost the leadership position we held at end of WW II - but can regain it, if fast! Looking for a sense of history and a sense of drama. Wants this group also to concentrate and decide on what the President should use his time for.

Usual discussion during the day and at this meeting regarding Harlow problem. And lots of talk regarding Teddy Kennedy episode. General agreement that it has killed him as Presidential candidate.

Also wants to set up and activate "dirty tricks" isn't with Buchanan, Nofziger, Mollenhoff, Woods and Klein. Back to the ban on the *New York Times*. Mainly due to moon TV editorial, which was uncalled for.



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And so to our round-the-world journey.