



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

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Monday, September 15.

Sort of hit the fan this morning as Ziegler came in to say Ky had leaked the troop story in Vietnam. Spent quite a while with Kissinger and Ehrlichman and Ziegler and President trying to work out our approach, and wording of statement. Decided we had to go today - not let Ky story ride alone. Problem is in working out the details of the statement. Hard to get the actual figures squared away in simple but accurate form. Ky figure of 40,000 is misleading in a way, because it refers to authorized troop level instead of actual number in country. Now we have to explain - which becomes confusing.

As the day went on Kissinger was unable to get a satisfactory statement - so decided to stay with plan for Tuesday announcement. Moved bipartisan leaders to this afternoon late, and GOP leaders tomorrow morning.

President canceled a lot of today's appointments and meetings in order to go over things with Kissinger, and to get ready for leaders. It's hard for him to shift from the current crisis to the relatively meaningless routine type things - and the way out is just to cancel the latter.

Understandable. Actually it works out pretty well the way we set up the weekly schedule because we leave a lot of time open, which provides flexibility. A little rough sometimes on those we shift around.

Our system is going to build up gradually. He's dividing more between Ehrlichman and me, instead of using us interchangeably. Unfortunately, Ehrlichman leaves Friday for a ten day vacation, which will put a major crimp in progress. Harlow seems to be tracking well and will be valuable - also it will help him to see some of the rest of the picture besides just Congress.

President called at home to say he wanted to be sure the call he's expecting from Governor Ogilvie is put right through. Trouble is Ogilvie hasn't called. Probably will appoint Dirksen successor in next couple of days.