



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

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Wednesday, September 24.

Big military morning. President had breakfast meeting with Joint Chiefs of Staff, to let them cover their views on military budget cutbacks. First time he's met with the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Spent two hours, then had Laird, Kissinger, and Mitchell in the office for another two and a half hours, for a long Vietnam discussion. Laying the groundwork for the next moves.

Called me in once to find out who the Republican Senators had elected as leader, but they hadn't voted yet. A little later, Scott was elected and I went in and told President. He was very pleased - feels Hugh will be effective leader, and that he can bring the liberals along, where Baker could not have, and we can hold the conservatives by ourselves.

Big problems of the day were decision regarding the letter from Secretary Kennedy to Congressman Bush, in effect retracting his oil depletion position. President made a few changes. Then the Social Security battle internally over whether to include escalator clause. Harlow determined to do so because President promised it in campaign and our Congressional leaders favor it. Burns, et al., determined not to, because of uncontrollable dollar commitment. President ruled in favor of including it. Will have a problem on this with Arthur tomorrow, especially since he was adamant that he had to see the President, and didn't.

President spent most of the afternoon at the EOB working on his briefing books for the press conference. Called, as usual, several times regarding need for more material on specific questions. Then had a haircut and went over to the Residence. Called me at home on need to plan weekly outside activity for Tricia - and concern regarding Nelson Rockefeller, mad because junior staff man called him. Can sure jump fast from the monumental to the totally infinitesimal.

Refused to see Javits, who wanted to brief him before the Jewish Prime Minister visit tomorrow. Said he's still waiting for a single Jew to call or commend him for giving Israel the Phantom jets.