



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

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Tuesday, September 30.

Leadership meeting - Scott's first as Leader. Guess it went pretty well - mainly on need for Vietnam unity. Ran overtime as they always do. President met Scott and Ford in his office after, to lay plan for their press briefing. Felt it was productive, and Harlow says they really did well. Looks as if the new leadership will be an improvement.

Presented unit citation to 1st Marines, and used the occasion for an appeal to national unity behind the war. One more step in the LBJ direction of using every occasion to plead for support. More of the reaction to the situation closing in. Not good, but hard to avoid. Several miscellaneous appointments in the afternoon. A session with Kissinger and Ehrlichman about the Symington hearings problem - on which they had been meeting most of the day in the Situation Room. Problem is his men, Pincus and Paul, who have been scooping up secret data all over the world and leaking it to press plus building big anti-Administration case. Question now is how to avoid having our key people testify - big issue of executive privilege. Dick Allen had been working on this for months and is really concerned about the possibilities. Mollenhoff also heavily involved and distressed.

A long meeting with the good young Senator group, in late afternoon.

Big thing is still the real grinding on PR. He had Ziegler in for a working over - and I had long sessions today with Nofziger, Klein, Ziegler, Dick Moore and Cliff Miller, all on this area. Main focus at the moment is October 15 - which occupied us at the Big 4 meeting this morning. But really covers the whole area. President still harassing me and everyone else regarding follow-through on the press conference. He feels - or professes to feel - that we really blew it. This is not the case. Always, of course, there is more we could have done. Question is cost and time effectiveness of additional efforts.

Some concern of all I met with regarding the news summary, which is what gets him going to begin with. It clearly does present all the bad stuff and is the basis of his reactions.



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President called tonight, says may cancel Key Biscayne because he has too much to do, then spent rest of the time trying to figure out something to fill Wednesday and Thursday schedule.