



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

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Wednesday, October 1.

Group meeting with President - 8:30, supposed to be for one hour but lasted until after 11:00. President canceled his planned meeting with Kissinger staff to stay with our session. Covered a lot of ground about his priorities and general needs. Got the line and approach pretty well established and I think gave him a feeling of getting things more under control. Then had several staff sessions with Klein, Mollenhoff. Pushed Herb on need for targeting effort against major objectives and skipping all the fringe stuff. Just listened to Clark's tales of horror regarding his investigations.

In the big meeting in the morning, decided to let October 15 go by without any overt counter effort on our part. Was somewhat annoyed by staff concern that he was following LBJ pattern - especially regarding his Marine speech yesterday. Feels he has to say those things and that his style and approach is so different that it can't be considered an LBJ technique - and refuses to stop just because Johnson did something - if he thinks it is needed. Kissinger and Cliff Miller both felt nothing was right approach. Ehrlichman argued for action, i.e., a day of prayer - but President said no. Did say he had his own idea, but wouldn't tell us now (this is the plan for a press conference which he told me yesterday).

Harlow concerned regarding Haynsworth, as is Ehrlichman, so they were told to work it out with Mitchell. Bryce recommended to President that the nomination be withdrawn. Mitchell later persuaded him otherwise.

Other big issue was problem of testimony at Symington hearings - and President agreed to see Senator Symington this afternoon and tell him we would not permit subordinates to testify, will not disclose contingency plans and will not discuss nuclear storage situation. This he did, apparently with some success, although Stu will probably blast us anyway.

President had several pages of lists on yellow pad that he checked off as we covered the ground. Also has been cleaning out all his old briefcases, etc., because there are piles of stuff in the out



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box every day - way beyond what goes in - some going clear back to the transition period. Hope it eventually all gets cleaned out.