



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

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Wednesday, October 8.

NSC this morning. Session first with Harlow and Ehrlichman and me about Haynsworth and odds and ends. Had a bunch of notes from last night's party, as always. After NSC did the Bicentennial Commission, which we had cranked up as a TV opportunity to do a high-level non-war pitch to the people. Worked out fairly well but he didn't have enough time to prepare - so rambled and repeated a bit. Lost some of the potential effectiveness, but still a good idea.

Then had quite a session with Kissinger and Hobe Lewis about a Vietnam article for December *Readers Digest*. Asked me about news magazines, because Cronkite had mentioned them last night. I told him just how they had hit us. He reacted very well. Said it was to be expected, that we had not sold his accomplishments as well as we should have and had let the Cabinet dissension get out of hand - but it would have happened anyway. Main problem is Vietnam, and we've bought nine months but can't expect to get any more time. Kept doves at bay this long, now have to take them on - first Agnew, etc., then later the President. Problem is that this does make it his war.

Decided today to make Moynihan a Counselor to President, with Cabinet rank. Really best way to position him. Gets him out of operations, and into free-wheeling idea generating, plus working as a prod to all others - good use of great talent. And it vastly simplifies Ehrlichman's problem in staffing. I talked to Wilkinson yesterday, and that now covers all Ehrlichman's bases, and he's ready to go on the new organization. Will start putting it into effect November 1, when Burns move is announced.

Flap today regarding TV, when President filmed spots for Cahill and Holton. Al Scott had camera mounted high, and President knows this is bad angle. So this proved to him we have to have a full-time top level TV man at White House. He called me twice during afternoon, and twice at home regarding this. He's right on need for top pro as supervisor, but we'll never get one to come here full-time, at any pay. New problem. They never end. Have the Pat Nixon thing under control, talked with Connie Stuart today and I think she'll really be good.