



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

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Wednesday, November 26.

Draft Bill day. President signed the new bill and the attendant orders and proclamations. Pretty solid day of appointments getting ready for the long weekend.

Had a session with Ehrlichman, Kissinger and me. Said he had studied budget carefully and had decided we have to bite the bullet and move hard on a 25 percent personnel cut. Is going to work out a plan with Hampton of Civil Service to accomplish this throughout the departments. Feels we are in a terrible bind on budget and inflation and that the heart of the problem is personnel - all offices are overstaffed, especially at the upper levels. Recognized there are some areas that really can't be cut, but most can.

Also, wants to bust through Blount's postmaster plan for 4th class post offices, and let them be political appointees, because we need the patronage. (Obviously a by-product of the Senate and Congressional sessions last night and this morning, with the good Nixon friends).

President comment when Kissinger told him of wires from Harvard congratulating on germ warfare move, "The wires would really pour in from Harvard if I surrendered the United States to Kosygin."

Had his session with Rumsfeld finally, with the upshot that he wants regular meetings with Don and wants him included in the top staff sessions.

I suggested President go to National Symphony tonight, for Van Claiborne, which he was eager to do. Pat Nixon very disturbed because Mrs. Eisenhower coming for dinner and the night - but President finally went anyway with Len Garment, after several phone calls back and forth to set it up. Was a good move.