



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

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Thursday, December 4.

GOP leadership, and President really rocked them. He started out pretty mad, due to Haynsworth and the current anti-White House bitching on the Hill. Charged in and told them Congress was totally irresponsible. That he understood why they individually had to take certain stands but that he as President had to be responsible, and do what is right. When Rhodes said President might have to call a special session later, President said it will start December 27 - took them all completely by surprise. When Griffin objected, President said it will start December 26. Was really tough and they realized it. Both McCormack and Mansfield later responded favorably, and got right to pushing for action. This probably cancels the California sojourn.

Then President saw Haynsworth, and took him out to press to announce that he will stay on circuit court.

Had long session with Perot and Borman regarding Ross's ideas on outside support operations. While he wants to remain independent, and has a lot of project ideas, especially for TV, he's fully willing to support our need of a highly professional PR operation, and agreed to fund it. Went through his other ideas and President generally agreed, so we will have Borman go ahead and set it all up with Perot. Can really be productive if it gets on track.

Then a late afternoon political session in EOB office with Ehrlichman, Dent, Harlow and Rumsfeld and President. Mainly to review Senate candidate potentials. President outlined his plans for intensive campaigning, and wants to shoot for minimum of an additional four Senators and another ten Congressmen. Thinks we can get at least that. Will make appearances, plus films for all key candidates, etc. Wants to use Cabinet and VP intensively also. Was obvious from the way he cranked into this that he itches to get back into the battle. Hope he can hold off until next September.