



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

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Thursday, December 18.

Full day of appointments - nothing momentous except the emissary from Romania. Kept President busy all day, partly at EOB, and I used the time for some long staff sessions to get things wrapped up before California. President pushed hard for clearing up schedule until Christmas, mainly because of fast-moving Congressional developments that require his action, i.e., today Tax Bill and HEW/OED Appropriations were both hot and he spent lot of time between meetings on phone, sent letter to Hill, etc. Feels he needs to be available for this activity. Still pushing for a bad tax bill that he can veto. Conferees are trying to produce one he'll have to sign, but still as bad as they can get it. Lot of staff discussion regarding veto techniques.

Big problem with HEW is that President will veto Appropriation Bill and this leaves no funds. Solved late tonight by getting another Continuing Resolution and putting off Appropriation. Moving on a deal for postal reform, by giving them the pay raise and getting the union behind us. All worked out by Chuck Colson - will be a real coup if it works.

Dinner at Safire's - Joe Alsop, Dan Boorstin. Very interesting. Big debate regarding education. Alsop full of stories regarding the old days and old presidents. Also big talk about crookedness of Sherman Adams. Says Robert Kennedy had full proof and didn't prosecute in deal with DDE, which brought up his support on all the JFK maneuvers, even though Eisenhower hated Kennedy. Have to check it out.