



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

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Thursday, March 12.

President had a bipartisan Congressional session regarding Consumer Affairs, then a meeting with GOP Governors Executive Committee. Then had piano practice with VP, for Gridiron, great idea doing duo piano routine - as complete surprise. This afternoon a long talk with Moynihan and interview with Dick Wilson for feature article in *Look*. I was only in a couple of times and then very briefly.

Tonight President stag dinner with key staff and Irving Kristol. Got off to slow start, and through dinner President talked with George Shultz regarding labor matters - Kristol just listened. Sort of a waste of time and talent. In Oval Room after dinner, the talk heated up - regarding whole subject of condition of the country - focused on radicalization of large number of college students, strength of nihilistic groups (in influence, not numbers), and how to deal with it all. Attorney General was incredible. Has an absolutely fixed point of view. Wouldn't even listen, and when he did, he didn't hear. Insisted on expounding on and on. Hopefully he was a bit gassed and thus had an excuse. If not, we're in real trouble - because he clearly doesn't and won't understand the real situation and the reasons behind it. President finally turned him off so we could hear a little from Kristol. Must say, Kristol didn't add much.

I had two hour private session with Mayo regarding his concerns on OEM - now OMB - and Ehrlichman. Turns out his real basic problem is purely personal and is based on his conviction that Ehrlichman is obsessed with determination to acquire total control over government. Can't talk him out of it. Also a very strong vein of pure egotism and status worry involved. Trouble is, he's a really top budget man - but a woeful choice for this new top management job. I think he knows it, and that may be the real overriding cause of his trouble - although he sure won't admit it. Did pretty well bare his soul - even down to explaining the problems of his 55 year old wife with a 10 year old son. An accident of menopause.



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Bob thinks I can solve main problem of President relationship with Cabinet problem kids, by explaining to them the way to go about dealing with President, then giving them more frequent access and hoping they handle it right. Worth a good try!

Unfortunately, he's passed by his big job opportunity and has decided to stay on at least through the next budget - so we'll have to keep him, or force the issue after reorganization plan is through Congress. Sixty days.