



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

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Thursday, March 19.

The morning was kept clear to prepare for filing a statement on education - so President had Ehrlichman and me in for a long session, then a longer one with me after Ehrlichman left.

School statement still in great agony - major internal staff division - Garment, Price, et al., versus Harlow, Buchanan, with Ehrlichman pretty much in the middle but tending more to the left than the right. Harlow really distressed that they'll ram something through that isn't what President believes. President got into this with Ehrlichman and made it clear he wouldn't even consider Coleman (integrationist) as head of his commission. He really jumped Ehrlichman on this, saying Ray and Len are totally wrong on the politics of the issue. He doesn't want to indicate in any way that we'll move on de facto segregation or imply that we'll spend money on buses. Said to leave out "maintain momentum" and "morally right" type phrases. But then says Buchanan is just as far off on the right as Garment is on the left.

Also wants to move on hard legislation hitting people who plan bombings - fast; and hijackers. Wants death penalty for both.

Start of a postal strike today - that could spread beyond New York - wants to be sure we do what we should.

Alabama poll we took indicates Brewer can beat Wallace for Governor, so we'll put in \$100,000 to make sure. President has slogan for him, "Forward with Brewer, Not back to Wallace."

President loaded with appointment schedule for afternoon. I spent most of it on the phone regarding George Murphy problem. Still going back and forth on whether President should call and try to get him to pull out. Finally concluded he should at least call and get Murphy's evaluation and give him a chance to react by pulling out. President called after the "Evening at the White House," Murphy said he'll win and that's that. People in California all push panic button - but no one comes up with a solution. Finch really eager to get in but can't figure out how.



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"Evening at White House" great success with Nicol Williamson doing Shakespeare, poetry, jazz, etc. President called after to report on his Murphy call and to discuss the "Evening." I don't think he really liked it, but it will be a cultural and press coup anyway.

Still shooting for a press conference in Oval Office tomorrow, and the segregation statement on Saturday for Sunday papers. Probably won't do TV, because he's not really excited about the statement.