



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

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Wednesday, April 8.

Carswell day, and he went down the tubes! Too bad. As the day started we had a pretty good chance - with Margaret Smith committed, and Cook probable. Then Cook left and Margaret blew because Harlow had told people we had her. With both of them we would have had a 48-48 tie. Losing them, plus Prouty, who was only committed if we had to have his vote, left us with a 51-45 loss. President, et al., were fighting right down to the 1:00 vote. President called Dodd at 1:01 to try to swing him. Tom broke down and cried on the phone and said he wished he could be with the President, but he couldn't. President's immediate reaction was to decide not to submit another nomination until after the elections, and then go for Bob Byrd of West Virginia. I urged an early start to the effect that if it was obvious this Senate would not approve a Southerner - then put in a good Northern constructionist. May do that. President did feel we had not done adequate job in our Congressional group, but that main fault was Justice. He called Carswell - good brief chat. No substance except urged him to stay on court - he will.

President very concerned that staff, et al., not overreact to this and to tomorrow's Gallup poll - that shows a new low of 53. Will have another one Sunday, back up to 56. Odd! Lot of talk about the polls - had our quick phone poll that gives him 59.

I spent most of the afternoon with President at EOB, as well as the time during the vote, alone. He then decided to go out on the boat for dinner, with Mitchell and me. Very nice cruise to Mt. Vernon, and chopper back. Long talk regarding plans for next appointment. Decided on a guy in Minnesota or one in Maine. President told Mitchell to discuss with Burger and take the one he felt was strictest constructionist. Put it directly to Burger.

Kissinger in for a while this afternoon - discussing Dobrynin talks regarding preliminary plans for Summit this fall. President wants to go to Berlin, Leningrad or Warsaw. President also said we've saved Laos for four weeks at least - and maybe we can hold a few weeks more. Set plans for troop withdrawal announcement on 16th - 150,000 - big!