



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

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Thursday, April 9.

Started the day by canceling Cabinet meeting this afternoon to keep the time clear to work on new Justice, etc. Then postal meeting canceled because no agreement yet. Decided to go with troop announcement Thursday night 16<sup>th</sup> - prime time TV. Set up Monday meeting with Laird, Rogers, Wheeler and Kissinger to finalize. But will not tell them the real plan. Wants a program set up to leak 40,000 reduction to *Post* and *Times*, then go with 150,000.

Wants to step up political attack. Investigators on Kennedy and Muskie, plus Bayh and Proxmire. Also get dope on all the key senatorial candidates, and especially crack the anti-Carswell groups.

Talked to Dole and Griffin separately regarding setting up them plus Baker as tight Nixon team to ride ABM in Senate.

Pushing again on need for PR spokesman. Consider a new press Secretary - or replace Klein or what? Someone has to charge people up. (He's worried about combined effect of Carswell and poll, and trying to figure how to combat it.) Wants to capitalize on Carswell defeat by really moving on our contributors, to get new Senate. Have to declare war.

Thinks he'll put Senator Cooper in UN - so can get a good new man appointed to Senate in Kentucky.

Decided to do a strong crime statement, maybe tomorrow on TV. Again looking for the offensive to counteract defeat. Have to find some way to get across the point that he can't appoint a judge from the South - find a way today to do this on TV. My suggestion was to go on TV for two minutes with very simple statement, no questions. He decided to do it. Met first with Mitchell - then really cut loose in press room. Probably too strong, but he doesn't think so.

Then turned into a demon for the rest of the day - on follow-up. Knows he really banged the Senate and partly wants justification, partly thinks he's scored.



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Then had political group in to charge them up. Read statement, chortled with glee over the tough parts.

Really got grinding in the evening, with constant phone calls (we had guests for dinner, a little hectic), pushing harder and harder on follow-up activity.