



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

National Archives and Records Administration, Online Public Access Catalog Identifier: 7787364

Thursday, May 21.

President concerned regarding Finch's health problem, and now convinced he should move out of HEW. Wants Tkach to sell him on the basis of health. Bob is going to Florida to try to recuperate. Had long talk about whole plan for restaffing, immediate and long-range.

Wants to bring Finch into White House as counselor, put Rumsfeld in charge of OMB, move Elliot Richardson to HEW, Weinberger to budget. Do all this now - except Rumsfeld is barred constitutionally. Then wants to wait until after elections and clean out Cabinet, especially Hickel and Romney and Kennedy.

Thinks we're still too timid on mobilizing the Silent Majority. Thinks all our people are working hard but just don't know how to do it. Feels he should probably go out into country and draw crowds and show popular enthusiasm. Really pleased by our poll and says it's remarkable with economy the way it is.

I had hard-sell meeting with my crew regarding launching a new all-out offensive to turn things around.

President had Rumsfeld, Ehrlichman and me in regarding how to handle the staff and Cabinet disloyalty problem. Rumsfeld made point you have to establish record of trying to work things out before you fire someone. President pretty well convinced there's no way to get real control except by cracking down hard. Wants Don brought more into the inner councils.

I left at noon for LA.