



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

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Wednesday, June 17.

Another speech day. President locked up all morning at EOB getting ready. Several calls on the phone regarding odds and ends.

Wanted me to meet with VP to explain the whole incident and assure him it was not a rebuff, his judgment was correct, but we can't remove Rhodes now because of the fuss. VP really blew it by blasting publicly instead of working it out internally. Our strategy now is to stonewall any questions - say no more to build the guy up. VP seemed to accept this - but still feels very strongly that Rhodes should be dropped. Makes good point about the disaster the commission report will be this fall, and Rhodes will surely make it worst possible.

President refuses to meet with the Commission - will meet with Scranton but not the others. Ehrlichman pretty upset at all this, since he put the whole thing together and it has backfired. VP especially distressed with Ehrlichman, because he feels he told John several times of his concern regarding the appointments to the Commission.

Speech went very well - 26 minutes. President especially pleased with the way he was able to work with Safire on revisions and polishing. Used a number of anecdotal analogies, and now wants more worked in to all speeches.

Heavy afternoon schedule - Ambassador Tosca, NSC, Fitzhugh regarding Defense reorganization, Riland, then out on the boat for family dinner.

Wants a boat dinner with the FRESH group tomorrow night. Anxious to get cranking with his key staff. They all met at Camp David today to explore approaches to the Domestic Council. Ehrlichman using this session to let all air their views - no decisions.

Kissinger still really uptight about State. Feels there's no real hope of curing the problem. They won't follow orders, and Rogers blatantly bypasses Kissinger at every turn - working directly with President or ignoring White House altogether and just going his own way.