



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

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Thursday, July 2

San Clemente. Swearing in Hodgson, Shultz, Weinberger, Weber. Little reception after. Used up the morning. President met with Shultz and Ehrlichman and Weinberger about budget approach in late morning. Then home for lunch, and back for session with FRESH for couple of hours in the afternoon, then adjourned for the day.

Most of FRESH meeting was regarding VP, real question of how to define and then implement his role. In process agreed to put Rumsfeld in charge of political guys, with Finch and me and Mitchell as backup. Use Mitchell directly to handle California and New York - but otherwise in the background and mainly to guide overall look to '72.

President feels his role must be above the battle - maybe no candidate speaking, just push on foreign policy and overall Administration posture. Thinks VP can supplement. Use him primarily on fundraising, get him to use a stump speech instead of always a new one, not try to make national news, build candidate. Agreed VP can't continue to appear to be an unreasonable figure, and against everything. Must go over to positive and especially avoid personal attacks. Okay to attack Congress. Problem is he has no close advisors or friends, and President has not given him adequate guidance. Agreed to my idea of having Harlow travel with him.

Pretty good general session, then President went home and group busted into individual sessions.