



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

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Tuesday, August 11.

Leadership this morning with a surprise development. President had planned to let Education Bill go through without signing instead of vetoing, mainly because Congressional leadership on our side was totally opposed to veto even though 435 million over budget. By end of discussion at meeting, leaders were at least partially agreed on veto. So in discussion after with Finch, Shultz, Ehrlichman, Harlow, and me - President decided to veto, which he had wanted to do all along. So moved up HUD veto from Thursday and did both today - with statement to press this afternoon. Especially enjoyable because *Washington Post* reported on front page this morning that he would not veto. President knows they'll override - but he makes his big issue on spending much more clearly this way.

President made point this was good move because, as old Congressman Jim Wadsworth always used to say, "you never need to worry about a bad vote when you are on the losing side - if your position does not prevail, you can't be blamed."

Some talk about plans for Europe trip and Summit (also I with Kissinger, he has plan for President to make his Vietnam cease-fire proposal in mid-September, then go that night to Paris to present it in person, President likes the idea). Probably to Europe September 23 through October 3. Then to New York for Al Smith dinner and UN 25th Anniversary October 21-24. Meeting with Kosygin in Key Biscayne just before or just after UN. Will pretty well dominate the scene through the campaign period.

President talked to Kleindienst yesterday who is worried about Mitchell's health. Had me call John today to get him to take long vacation. He did agree to two weeks in California.

President met with Prime Minister of Jamaica (at Pedge deRoulet's request) and agreed to go to Jamaica this winter.

Had a real bunch for Congressional half hour, afterwards President very relaxed and pleased with vetoes - said "Boy, we had the damnedest collection today. Jesus Christ, what a bunch of nuts."



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Had Ziegler in to gloat over shock of press corps regarding veto. New Orleans on Friday will throw them off too. Good to keep them off balance.