



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

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Tuesday, September 1.

Another shift on Legion speech, as President apparently didn't like what he came up with - and had second thoughts about going. After morning meeting of NSC group with VP, President decided VP should go. Tough for him - we already brought him in from Hawaii a day early - now shooting him off to Portland on about 18 hours notice, but he agreed. President went round before he finally decided, but it was clear he didn't want to go and was looking for a rationalization. Had Ehrlichman in who was opposed to going, and used his argument to decide.

Several long talks with me today regarding Kissinger problem, especially about Middle East. Apparently he and Kissinger went at it pretty hard at NSC. President is convinced Kissinger is purposely trying to screw up the peace proposal - because Rogers got credit for it - and because it's basically bad for Israel. Told me to talk to Kissinger and to Haig, and get Kissinger off of Middle East, had him concentrate on Vietnam and Russia. Hard to do, I talked to Kissinger and Haig, got a little way with Al, nowhere with Henry.

President also worried that Kissinger doesn't have a cover story ready if he's caught in Paris this weekend. Odd because President has never worried about it before - but has raised it several times on this one. Didn't want Kissinger to even try a secret meeting, but gave in.

Some more of the continuing ruminating about how much President should do, and what, in terms of press and TV value. Keeps trying to figure this out, and to justify the present course, whatever it may be.