



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

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Tuesday, November 24.

Big push this morning was to keep the push going regarding the POW raid, to counteract Fulbright and Kennedy. We launched Laird, et al., in major counteroffensive to sell the positive side. Worked very well. President still very much impressed by the Colonel who led the raid - gets quite emotional about their bravery, etc. Wants to really rally the people on this one. Is convinced the Liberals are again on the wrong side - as in Cambodia - and wants to push his advantage.

Decided to can Hickel tomorrow. His Mike Wallace TV appearance tonight confirms his inability to keep his mouth shut and play on team. So won't wait for pipeline details, etc. Will move ahead immediately.

Also Chotiner broke his pick, with AP interview in news today. President now feels he's got to go. Harlow will take RNC but doesn't want Chotiner there, and Mitchell agrees.

President furious regarding reports from State backing off of support of North Vietnam bombing. I called Irwin (Rogers in Canada) to order investigation and retraction. He moved fast and they did retract.

President gave Ziegler full background of POW raid - to be sure his story is clear that it was his idea and initiative. All started by his instructions to use some imagination regarding POW's.

One more flap on Bureau of Labor Statistics as Cost of Living Index came out today without prior notice. Ehrlichman and Shultz had told President yesterday it would be out Friday, and he was preparing a plan. He's convinced they sabotage us.