



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

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Wednesday, November 25.

Big day - topped by dismissal of Hickel. After going back and forth, President agreed to do it himself - question of today or Monday. We set it up pretty well, with Hickel at Budget for meeting in late afternoon and Whitaker primed to bring him over on call. Mitchell set to call Senator Stephens and Rogers Morton as soon as Hickel went in to President. Then I alerted Timmons to be ready to notify key Hill types - Ziegler had full press line. All went as planned. Ehrlichman says President did an excellent job - very firm but compassionate. President also felt it went well. Said later on phone, Hickel had said supposed he should go first of year and President said no, make it effective immediately. Ehrlichman said Hickel was rather irrational, and afterward got fairly bitter. Trust he'll keep quiet.

Had a session with Moynihan - he wrote President yesterday to say he couldn't take UN after all. Gave whole range of reasons. In talk, however, he said it boiled down to purely family. When faced with it, Liz just wouldn't go and said they'd have to have a separation. So he's going back to Harvard. I told him President understood - but would want critiques and suggestions from him as he has done all along.

President decided last night to have award ceremony for the POW raiders today. Put it together fast and I guess it went well. He was pleased, and felt it very good idea to honor them now. Good Congressional attendance.

President got into discussion of press this morning with Kissinger and me. Apparently reflecting on his words to Keogh yesterday. Made whole thesis that they all suffer from excess intellectual pride, totally self-centered, hence can't admit they're wrong and can't tolerate being proven so. Thus their hatred for Nixon who's proved them wrong so often. Also none has integrity, no religious quality, because of their intellectual arrogance.

President wants me to launch plan for "lib" mailings supporting Muskie to all Democratic leaders and editors in South.



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Back on press - said the intellectuals of the Left are actually a new group of fascists. And Keogh told him most young journalists are activists - feel they have a mission, not to report but to influence.

Long session with Shakespeare - regarding his concern about Rogers and lack of loyalty at State, Rogers' lack of conformity to President's Soviet policy, State effort to "get" him, etc.