



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

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Tuesday, February 25.

London

President started at 9:00 on intensive day that still hasn't ended (11:00). He was involved most of the day in talks with British leaders - lunch at Buckingham Palace. John Ehrlichman and I went on a walking tour of this area of London, shops, etc. Then back to hotel for some work.

Westminster Abbey at 2:30 for ceremonies, very impressive. Beautiful church, well planned ceremonies, laid wreath on Tomb of Unknown Warrior, exchanged gifts, listened to choir.

Then walked across to Parliament and sat in House of Commons for Question Period.

Fascinating. No one allowed to recognize President's presence but many alluded to it. Pretty raucous debate - they shout "too long" when they want a member to quit talking. Brief tour of Commons, Speaker's House - beautiful, right on the river - fantastic State dining room, great old rooms.

Speaker's wife, Mrs. King, waited in side corridor to see President go by. Popped out and was introduced. Said, "I just had to get a peep at you." President said, "I wanted to get a peep at you." President stopped for quite a while at Churchill portrait and commented that Churchill was a great subject for an artist because his spirit and character always seemed to come through, even in paintings that weren't too good.

Back to hotel after stop for brief remarks at the Embassy. Ehrlichman and Rose and I had tea with all the trimmings in parlor with a fire in the fireplace. Very British! President had more meetings with leaders, then off to dinner at #10 Downing. Leave at 8:00 tomorrow for airport and Bonn. Weather reports aren't too good. May have some problems. We went to dinner at Guineau's - excellent steak house. Now for a hot bath in the huge tub, and to bed at a decent hour, I hope. Hard to be sure until the President returns.

(I made it.)