



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

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Wednesday, February 26.

Bonn

Left London in a cold fog, arrived in Bonn (actually Dusseldorf) in a colder light snow. Great arrival ceremony. Band played both anthems, others had just played ours. German band was terrific, as is Deutschland Uber Alles.

President spent the day on a hectic round of meetings with the Chancellor, other leaders. He added a stop at the Bundestag, gave a brief address, and was apparently a great hit! All the Germans said later it was a real stroke - and apparently he is the first United States President, and perhaps the first Chief of State, to address the Bundestag.

This made him late for the meeting with German intellectual leaders, but it too went very well. All agreed he did an outstanding job, and sold them completely.

We are staying at the Minister's residence in the American sector. Lovely house set way back from the road with front gates and a long driveway. German troops are all over the place as are our Secret Service. It's right on the Rhine. Snow on the ground - very picturesque, but also kind of eerie. Ehrlichman and I spent most of the day shopping and eating, with a little business thrown in.

President blew all his staff time, just barely had a chance to dress for dinner. Small group (22) at the Chancellor's residence. Much more enjoyable than the big State Dinners. President gave outstanding toast - saluting the character of the German people, referring to the strength that is gained from losing, and alluding to the possibility of a defeated VP rising again (reference to Willie Brandt). Chancellor was so impressed he asked Kissinger to stay late to tell him what a great job President had done.

I sat next to Willie Brandt with Schiller, the Minister of Economics, on the other side. Both speak English. Dinner was great - quail soup, trout, steak, sherbet with sliced apples and a red



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sauce. President spilled his sauce on the front of his tux - waiter instantly appeared with a cup of hot water to clean it up.

Apparently the whole stop was well worthwhile. I liked the Chancellor - very human, quiet, personable. Brandt seemed cold, opportunistic.

A great white wine at the dinner – Moselle - the President very anxious to stock it at the White House.

Funny incident at dinner. Kiesinger gave his toast in German. Near the end, his Ambassador to the United States broke in and asked if he could translate - had taken notes, no interpreter there. He got about halfway through and Chancellor interrupted him for a correction. General Walters cut in and gave whole toast flawlessly with no notes and astonished everyone there.