



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

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Wednesday, August 5.

Cabinet meeting, executive session regarding budget - supposed to end at 10:15, then go into Domestic Council for an hour. Cabinet went on until almost noon - postponed Domestic Council until next week. President felt Cabinet meeting very productive - gave each member a chance to participate, hopefully now have them all locked regarding their need for budget cuts. Have to come up with 2 billion to get under Congressional ceiling.

Then President met with group of black doctors (much to his chagrin at having another black group, never any other kind), and the desegregation advisory committee from North Carolina.

President was horrified at having to sit in Domestic Council meeting - and now wants them to meet normally without him - except when a big decision is coming up. Was very pleased with Mobutu dinner last night, especially the entertainment - Andre Watts. Discussed plan for visit to South next week - problem is we're shipping nerve gas that week and everyone's all stirred up. Probably won't go. Does want to have Labor Day deal at White House.

Had me call Mitchell regarding Buckley. Feels we should play a harder game - more overt support - if he has any chance at all of winning. Mitchell agrees, says it appears Goodell will run third in any event so we have nothing to lose. Thinks Nelson Rockefeller agrees too.

Two hour meeting with FRESH and Harlow - regarding strategy for upcoming vetoes. Went round and round - no plan from group, although they'd been meeting on it all afternoon and we had covered in morning staff meeting. President very impressed by Harlow argument that we should go all out on the spending issue - a really big one, and so should veto all bills that are over budget. Finch argues strongly to sign Education, since Congress will surely override. But Harlow's political argument doesn't care about override, just make the issue against Congress. President determined to veto HUD regardless - because is against it substantively. Equally determined not to veto Disabled Veterans Cost of Living Increase. Decided to regroup tomorrow. Turns into the decision of the year domestically. Will have enormous and far-reaching



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consequences - and may be chance for the big move politically, especially now that war issue is somewhat neutralized.