



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

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Friday, October 17.

The "High Prices" radio speech. After several rejections, because of non-people type language, Safire finally got the inflation speech down to a high prices speech. President read it for live radio at 4:00 on all four networks. Then shot one minute on film for TV news. Made all the papers, all radio cuts live and replay, and all TV net news. Darn good parlay. Plus we're mailing and have an intensive follow-up plan for promotion. Did this one right all the way, for once. President very pleased, though earlier in day he said he wouldn't do the TV.

UAC meeting this morning and a few appointments. Early afternoon clear to prepare for speech. Then a session with Sir Robert Thompson about plan for ending Vietnam. Then off to Camp David for the weekend with Pat Nixon and Bebe, Ehrlichman and Kissinger and me. We had staff session there regarding plans for November 3 and November 15, and Moratorium follow-up. Agreed to basic plan of business as usual, to further concept that President has a plan, it's working, and he will discuss it November 3. Kissinger has all sorts of signal-type activity going on around the world to try to jar Soviets and North Vietnam – appears to be working because Dobrynin asked for early meeting – which we have set for Monday. Kissinger thinks this is good chance of being the big break, but that it will come in stages. President is more skeptical.

Ehrlichman gave President the story on cyclamates and necessity for Finch to pull all dietetic soft drinks, etc., off the market. Will create huge problems for friends like Don Kendall and Art Linkletter.

President is calling Helms and Cushman of CIA to Camp David tomorrow and then Laird, Mitchell and Rogers on Sunday. Will give pretty strong impression of major peace activity again.

Again today several long introspective chats, as he continued process of re-orienting and building new approach to job and to the current problem.