



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

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Saturday, July 3.

President spent the whole day over at the EOB getting ready for the telecast tonight, which turned out very well. He called me in a couple of times. He's very pleased with John Andrews and the job he did in the basic writing and in the rewrites. At noon, he had me in and read the final draft, which I think came off extremely well. Telecast itself worked out very well, too, although there was some feeling on the part of some of our people that it didn't reach its full potential, which is probably the case.

The-- he did get into a few minor domestic items that he wanted me to cover with Ehrlichman. His main concern other than the telecast today, though, was the question of whether he ought to say something in Kansas City on the Pentagon Papers. He has the thought that he might make the point that the court has held that a paper has the right to publish stolen, top secret documents, now the question is whether it is right for them to do that. Making the point that one of the prices of the First Amendment—that publishing something that jeopardizes a POW may be appropriate standards for a newspaper—but it is not an appropriate standard for the President of the United States. He raised the question of whether we ought to poll the issue this weekend and decided that we should not; and also, that he definitely will not go on TV, he will just do it at the press meeting and let the news carry it.

Was a beautiful day today, and he said to call around and give everybody the day off, let them come in tomorrow and work instead. After the telecast, we went up to Camp David, arriving a little after midnight, and spent the night.

End of July 3.