



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

National Archives and Records Administration, Online Public Access Catalog Identifier: 7787364

Friday, October 6.

The President started in this morning on the radio speech for tomorrow. He was very concerned about the draft that he got last night, because he feels it's just a civics lecture and that's not enough on the spending ceiling, so he wanted Buchanan to get some other things going on it, covering the vetoes that he is going to make. Put him in the position of standing like Horatio at the bridge and that in the next few weeks there will be a number of good bills coming in that were for good purposes but he'll veto them, not because of what they stand for, but in order to veto a tax increase. I've covered all this in a memo, today's date, to Buchanan. He feels that there was no meat in it, that they need something with crisp, newsy, portable language, that Price again hasn't come up with anything that has any leads. They don't recognize this as a campaign. That they need some paragraphs with some sharpness and some bite so that people will say that he said something. Then he went into quite a bit of dictation on stuff he wanted included, and which I covered in the Buchanan memo.

Ziegler was in talking about the press conference and the fact that it wasn't well played on television last night and that got the President into a pretty bad mood overall today, and he was charging around on most everything that came along as a result. He had Colson and me in later, analyzing the press conference thing. We convinced him, I think, that it really wasn't as bad as he made it seem on the basis of Ziegler's report, that the point really was that he got the newspaper and radio coverage, that it just wasn't much on TV but it never will be, and that he's got to approach it with that basis in mind.

He also got into some poll history analysis. He was going through the month-by-month poll ratings in some of the other campaigns, making the point about what good shape we're really in. Colson gave him the Harris poll data, which shows us no worse off, or only one point worse off than we were before, two weeks ago, so there's no decline and that's a disaster for McGovern at this point. Talked a little about schedule. He agreed to our plan for the Ohio motorcade. Still wants to go to Buffalo for some kind of a Polish event, the same day we do the rest of New



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York, but he wants to move New York to the 22nd rather than the 23rd, which poses a problem that we've got to work out. He's agreed to the idea of the five minute statement on election eve and also will do a five minute statement from his office on election night, a victory statement before he goes before any public groups, he'll have one quite thoughtful kind of thing first.

End of October 6.

He went on up to Camp David this afternoon and spent the night and for the weekend.