



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

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Wednesday, January 27th. The big issue this morning was the real hard push on speech follow-up, particularly in answer to Wilbur Mills, who delivered a long speech on the floor yesterday attacking revenue sharing. The President's main concern was getting an answer to Mills quickly, and also getting evidence of our own momentum onto the record as quickly as we could. He's pushing hard for lists of former Governors and other such types that back our proposals. He's afraid we're shotgunning too much and not rifle shooting enough and, therefore, are not getting the important, current things done. As a result of this concern, I called a meeting of all the backup crew and the top staff to review where we are and what we are doing, and to see if I could persuade them of the President's point that we should cut out about two-thirds of the work we're doing and do the remaining one-third three times as well.

Ehrlichman feels it's important that we keep the President out of this, just as we would a regular political campaign, but my problem is that if we're missing on things, such as being prepared to answer Mills, then the President is bound to step in to fill the gap.

He had the usual list of little odds and ends that Congressmen had hit him on at the second Congressional breakfast this morning. Also, they were pushing him on the need for more speech material and for more frequent individual meetings with the President, which got him into the whole sort of internal analysis of our Congressional relations process. And the question of whether we're doing too much for Congressmen, and thus blunting the effect of any one thing that we do, do. He checked up several times during the day on progress on getting action in Congress and the momentum on the speech follow-up, and wasn't particularly satisfied with what we were getting done, to a great extent for good reason.



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He had a meeting of the NSC this morning on the ABM. It was relatively short; it ended in a little over an hour. But then he had another meeting of the little attack group—Rogers, Laird, Kissinger, Moorer, and Helms—that went on for several hours. And, I guess, got the basic plans laid for the move into Laos. Kissinger seemed to be in good spirits afterwards.

He said he wanted to talk to me, but we didn't get a chance.

I had a session with Vermont Royster asking him to come on as a consultant to the President, then took him in for a minute during the attack group meeting to say hello to the President. We've got that set.

The President did a couple more activity group briefings, the business group and the special interest group, in the Roosevelt Room, and had a long session with John Connally before he folded up for the day. This evening he has the dinner for Pete Peterson and related folks as the first of his intimate upstairs soirees. It will be interesting to see how it comes out and whether he decides to do any more of them.

End of January 27th.