



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

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Monday, April 7.

Brief staff session with President mainly regarding ABM and domestic program. Strategy for the week - President wants to go with budget message on Thursday (before Congress returns). Also wants to get our people on TV while Congress away and we have stage. Didn't like the TV analysis on domestic program or our side of ABM. Opposition had a field day, while we buried Eisenhower.

Wants to write off the Senators that oppose ABM - i.e., Percy, Goodell, (already written off Javits) and Congressman Mac Mathias. Ehrlichman suggests way to "get" Percy is not to let him be chairman of his housing foundation.

Plan for domestic: say this week we'll be sending messages starting next week, then at end of series of messages give a summary of what we've asked for - instead of a State of the Union now. Ehrlichman has done good job of categorizing and listing domestic plans. He's taking hold of this new responsibility. Ran the meeting at Key Biscayne and got a lot done. Apparently showed up Arthur Burns' weakness in the process. President wants John to do more public appearances to sell the program. Good idea. Press trying to build up idea of internal feud: Ehrlichman versus me. Hard to sell, but Evans and Novak giving it a try, to great glee of some White House staff. I think we'll shake down into better defined roles - but don't feel that is really necessary. We have excellent rapport now and move in and out of overlapping areas with no real problem.

Long session tonight with Larry and Chapin about Haldeman image. They're concerned by Evans and Novak - and other adverse publicity - feel we need to get our line out, and that I have to move more into public eye. Problem is to define first the exact view we want to project. They had some good ideas - had put in a lot of time and thought. Also Bill Safire working on general suggestions. Probably do need to do something to avoid letting the "von Haldeman" concept become firmly entrenched.