



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

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Saturday, April 12.

Budget day. President released his first basic statement regarding the budget (revised) he will submit to Congress next week. Because it was Saturday he came in late, and started cranking on odds and ends. The budget statement was ready - but Ehrlichman had not had a chance to review it - which he did during a 9:00 meeting with Flanigan, Harlow and Rumsfeld, to settle the details regarding Don taking on OEO, which he did agree to do.

We took statement in and President started a lot of reworking, called Buchanan about a few word changes, etc. Ziegler was due to brief at 10:00 - President wasn't ready - and they finally went about 11:00. This wiped out President's scheduled meeting with NSC intellectuals at 10:15 in EOB - had them come over to White House at 1:45 instead. After statement finally okayed, he went to work on follow-up for Monday papers - had three drafts, Price, Buchanan and Safire, but Bill's was very late. Surprisingly, Ray's was on time.

In the afternoon - beautiful crisp spring day - President kept stalling, working on loose ends, talking to people, etc., for no apparent reason. Had long phone talk with Finch, and decided to ask him up to Camp David, but Bob had family plans so didn't come. Finally about 4:30 he decided to leave - had thought for a while he might stay in town and go to Prelude to Taps.

President and I, plus Tkach, Larson and Manalo, took the chopper from the lawn. At the last minute he decided to bring Tim along. I had to carry him onto the chopper and he was terrified throughout the flight. Beautiful at Camp David. President and I went right to Aspen - had a drink and he rambled on about the problems of the moment. Is really obsessed with the TV problem - we don't get our side of the story on the news. Keeps trying to think of ways to handle this. Made point regarding Bill Rogers' defections from the Administration line that this is really for the good. We need someone to buy time with the liberals. He doesn't buy Kissinger's concern regarding effect on Russians because he feels they only care about number one man - and don't worry about what Rogers says.



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Big wine flap, had rosé at NATO dinner last night.

President invited Tkach and me for dinner. We ate early - and he rambled back and forth on whether Camp David is a good idea for him or not - and frequently admired the fresh flowers on the table, speculating on the cost and process of having them there. Then a movie right after dinner. He selected "Play Dirty" about the desert war in Africa. Not too good, he seemed to enjoy it, was particularly impressed by what the troops went through, and commented frequently on what our guys go through now in Vietnam.