



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

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Friday, July 18.

At Camp David - all day and overnight. I slept until 10:00, President until nearly noon. Great. I was at pool sunning when President called me over to Aspen to talk. I put on tie - no coat because it was so hot and humid. He was out on lower terrace, and we sat and talked for two hours in the sun. I darn near melted. Was dripping and had a horrible time trying to take notes.

Went round and round on the plan for announcing domestic program. President had obviously already thought a lot about it - and had plan pretty well in mind. Went back and forth on details - regarding whether to have Cabinet for overnight and all day session at Camp David (decided no), etc.

Ended up with good plan. Bipartisan leaders on Tuesday, probably at 5:00. (President may go right from Andrews to Camp David Sunday night on arrival). Then Cabinet meeting Wednesday - maybe billed as all day - President in for only a couple of hours. Kiesinger visit is Thursday - which kind of screws things up - then GOP leaders Friday morning - and a national TV shot Friday night from East Room, with Congressmen, Cabinet, etc., in attendance. He'll announce overall program, emphasis on welfare. Then we start messages rolling Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. Congress recesses after Wednesday session. Should end it up with a pretty good smash. Lot of discussion about how to handle it. Ended up with eight pages of notes, mostly on this. Spent the rest of the day on the phone implementing.

President also came up with the idea of Ray Scherer as his TV man. Now at NBC-London. Hard to figure out how to explore.

Wants Ehrlichman to get a new high-level lawyer to handle the counsel's job and free John up for domestic.

Had some thoughts regarding theme for approach to domestic announcement. Wants to make point of richest nation, men on moon, but welfare still in absolute mess. Complete new approach,



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etc. Wants a name for the program other than Family Security. Safire suggests Fair Share, which all seem to like.

Tonight President and Bebe scheduled West Side Story. President got up at end of first reel - couldn't stand the propaganda. Went for a drive, to Thurmont - candy store, etc. - and then to Gettysburg to see Mamie.