



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

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Wednesday, September 17.

Day clear for speech work. Did add a signing session for an old-age bill to use as staging for an announcement of intention to raise Social Security 10 percent. President especially pleased that we had analyzed and planned whole event for TV, and did it all on basis of getting what we wanted on the TV news.

Problem at the UN because podium light is not adequate and they won't permit us to add anything. Important because he'll read the speech and it will all be on TV. Trying to work it out through - and also have Roger Ailes coming in to look it over.

President spent all afternoon at EOB working on the speech. Took a long nap, which Elmer Juanich walked in on to get a bill signed. Had a session with Ehrlichman first about SST and has decided to go ahead. Will stage an announcement next Tuesday - problem will be to keep the secret until then. Very important because of both political and economic impact. Could be a disaster if it leaks.

Kissinger concentrating all his efforts on the UN speech and the plans for the Foreign Minister meetings afterward. No major activity regarding Vietnam - although the withdrawal announcement yesterday is still reverberating, with lots of interpretations arising from Kissinger's background.

Harlow had all the key staff at the Republican House Conference breakfast for get acquainted session. I had to leave early, because we had no plan set for President this morning.

President came back to office in late afternoon, from EOB, and had some points to cover regarding staff organization. Ehrlichman, Cole, Alex Butterfield and I were meeting in my office on the subject at the time. Think we're making progress. Finally see a way to untangle Ehrlichman's people, maybe.



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Also, President wanted progress report on plans to convert swimming pool to press facility. He's really determined to go ahead with that - and it would sure help clean up the West Wing

As he left at 6:30 he said he'd be back to the office - but for me not to wait, which I didn't.