



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

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Monday, November 17.

President at Camp David until noon. Spent most of afternoon with me regarding schedule plans, general ideas about use of TV more effectively, White House parties especially for Christmas, a little Mobe post-mortem, and his dream of having our own monster rally, with 500,000 to outdo them once and for all.

Then a last minute meeting with the writers, mainly regarding State of the Union and the need for a general "going into the '70's" speech, plus a 1969 wrap-up. Then a session with Pat Nixon regarding the Christmas season plans.

He feels strong need for new and better TV approaches and is about ready to try the hour conversation with three network men as a good one for the 1969 wrap-up. Then probably use State of the Union for the look into the 70's, instead of as a laundry list. Wants to do separate presentation on the main new programs, i.e., New Cities and ten year Anti-Pollution Program. Feels they'll be lost in State of the Union. Also considering "President and his Counselors" concept for the year-end wrap up. Also still toying with Seymour idea of fireside TV chats. But not really convinced there's enough interest value.

Obvious that he really ponders the need to maintain momentum, and is concerned with techniques for doing this - but doesn't have strong feel of the way to go. Very receptive to suggestions and reaching out for counsel. Recognizes problems this week - as we lose Haynsworth vote tomorrow or Wednesday, and have to ride with Mobe aftermath. Good to have VP on the offensive. The TV types are still screaming and will for months to come. Klein and Hugh Scott on show yesterday both did a good job of backing VP. Flaps in magazines regarding origin of his speech. About to trap me in the whole deal, but haven't actually figured it out yet.