



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

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Monday, December 15.

Another Vietnam TV announcement day. President came in a little late and started out with complaint regarding inadequacy of speech preparation. In this case, Kissinger's - which he says is great on analysis but turgid. Pretty full morning schedule, mainly with Quadriad. That started things snapping, because he realized economic outlook still bad, so told Mayo to cut all budgets 25 percent (he's been saying this for weeks and not really meaning it - but now feels he's really got to push the cuts as far as possible).

Had discussion with Ehrlichman and Harlow regarding possible deal on postal reform that Colson has put together. Unions will agree to our reform proposal if we give them a pay boost (which President has said he will veto). President is willing to listen, but makes the firm point that he will veto all other federal pay raises. Is really seriously trying to tackle the inflation problem but it's awful hard to get a hold of.

Chatted a lot before lunch, then he ate, gave Rose final changes in speech draft, then went to EOB for the afternoon, while they set up his office for TV. Came over just in time to go on the air - did a great job, probably his best read speech yet - paced slowly and very relaxed and confident. No great news - is withdrawing 50,000 more troops. Decided against really big chunk now in order to save some for spring.

Has decided to go to California after Christmas. Pat Nixon wants to go, and that settled it. Lot of debate regarding what staff to take, etc. Went through general outline of State of Union with Ehrlichman, to get overall plan set.

Some discussion of PR analysis of how we've done so far. President feels rightly that we still haven't gotten the story over adequately - especially in foreign policy where all is concentrated on Vietnam, no credit for all the other accomplishments.

Flap regarding Treasury plan to make a deal on Hill about raising tax exemption. President said Kennedy's got to go - can't control the department, especially Charlie Walker.



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Talking about moves to approach youth - he says to forget it - that if we are alienating youth it is because we have to, can't give in and coddle them. We do have to take them on - silence would be approval or at least acquiescence.

Came into my office after TV, good spirits, chatting about Bob Hope show last night, very enthusiastic, especially liked the girls.