



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

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Wednesday, January 14.

Since President was supposed to go to Camp David last night, he had nothing on the schedule for today. Managed to fritter away the morning, mostly by reviewing a long list of things with me, which he had apparently produced last night (he worked late at the house). Then spent about a half hour at noon trying to settle on a departure time and whether to go over to EOB first. Settled on 4:00 and no EOB, then got bored and left at 3:30. Long discussion of the work pattern for the Camp David period. Absolutely no staff, and no calls from anyone - except I check in at 12:30 and 5:30 with any necessary stuff. Kissinger wanted to see him and he keeps putting him off - finally said he'd call him from Camp David at 5:30. Said to have Ehrlichman and Kissinger work out the budget problems and settle them without bothering him. Did spend some time with Ehrlichman on budget guidance.

Finally decided to get Safire and Buchanan cranking on the speech, as well as Price. Says he needs more input - at first wanted bits and pieces by noon tomorrow. Then called me at dinner, and said to have them each do a draft. He'd read the book of past State of the Union speeches and decided he wanted his to be Wilsonian - which apparently means short. Maximum 3000 words, 25 minutes. Thematic instead of programmatic, with strong uplift, etc. At least he's starting to get a feel of the thing. Worked late into the night.

Some discussion with Ehrlichman regarding OEM and Mayo, and Ash's recommendation that we leave Bob as the man to take the job, until we get through the 60 day Congressional veto period. Then take him on during the 90 day organization period. President agreed with this, the only way to be sure we keep it on the track. Now I have to tell Mayo not to commit any people to new posts, so we don't get locked in. Best way to handle - but will be a real problem when we try to untangle it. Trouble is, Mayo is just not the right guy for the job plus there's no way around it - maybe can find something else for him by then.



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Concerned about use of Kissinger's time, especially with press. Wants me to take over his schedule guidance for public and PR things - get him to see the right press people and not waste time on the unwinnables.

Had long PR staff session on philosophy and approach and told President about it - he was fascinated with the whole discussion. This is always at the top of his interest level.