



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

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Wednesday, January 21.

President had the day clear and used all of it at EOB on the speech, after an early start. Ended with meeting there with GOP Big Four regarding speech and HEW veto, then worked in Lincoln Room until midnight.

At midday he called Kissinger, Ehrlichman and me over to EOB. Was lounging in his easy chair with the speech. Said he wanted to read it to us. First, a long discussion regarding HEW veto. Made point he doesn't really care if they do override - because that puts the spending burden on Congress. Changed timing plan - will veto Monday night.

Then read speech - very impressive. Got into some discussion of details and specific points - with a number of minor corrections and adjustments.

Called later and wanted a Jefferson quote regarding "not for ourselves but for the whole human race." Speech unit couldn't find the quote, including Library of Congress and University of Virginia. Finally found a much longer and obscure quote on same basic point. Research lady sent it to President, but said Jefferson generally followed such a statement a little later in much more concise form. Sure enough, she found it in a letter written several months later.

Kissinger concerned regarding magnitude of Biafra problem, especially domestically and politically - problem is 1.5 million will die. Fears President should know more about it, but he hasn't read the briefing papers.