



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

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Thursday, January 22.

State of the Union. Big flurry this morning about final changes. President called me about several points he wanted recommendations on - that Keogh and Price wanted to delete. One was regarding those who make exorbitant demands on society, should make minimum demands on themselves. Another regarding good money for bad programs gives you bad money and bad programs. Then some concern regarding inflation over 60's cost \$200 per month. Wanted me to check with Ehrlichman and recommend what he should do on these. (When he called we were in the morning staff meeting trying to work out the problem of timing of release of speech).

After Ehrlichman and I discussed, and called Harlow in, we decided to use all of them - Ehrlichman not in full agreement - and I called President - he agreed.

Then settled release time on President's orders - nothing out before the speech, except on embargo to the wires and the *Star*. President insisted Harlow agree to do it his way, with no text to any Congressmen. Turned out as usual to be a good idea.

Speech was great success - very well delivered. Covered all the Democrat's issues and left them having to agree in general and carp about lack of specifics. No really strong opposition so far - may come in next few days when they figure it all out. Also was short, 35:20. I timed with stopwatch. His main fear was going too long.

Had a little staff session in President office to present anniversary gifts. He was as awkward as usual but every one enjoyed it - good touch! A few afternoon appointments, then had Kissinger and me in to rehash the speech a bit. Feels good about it, knows he did well.

Called me at home several times. First to report on his phone calls around, all reaction had been very good (what else is anyone going to say to him?). Then a little later with some specific changes in the budget message - so apparently he's gotten back to work. I thought he'd fold early.



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Kissinger called all disturbed because Laird is skipping the NSC meeting tomorrow where he's supposed to hit the hard line on ABM - wants to be able to say he wasn't present when decision was made to go ahead. Dedicating a nuclear frigate instead. Kissinger really mad.