



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

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Friday, January 23.

Morning meeting concentrated on President's ideas for follow up on State of the Union speech, especially regarding method of speech preparation. Wants to make point of President being his own man, making final decisions, using input of others, opposite of consensus. Also first President in memory to write his own speech.

Decided to bring Burger and Congressional leaders in to White House to discuss, and then announce idea of Chief Justice report to Congress - thus get White House credit for the idea, without interfering with individual branches. Had Mayor Washington in regarding DC crime - put heat on him, as follow up to Ehrlichman, saying he'll lose job if statistics not reversed by June. President suggested replacement by white Mayor. Go reverse – with a white Alabama coon-killer.

NSC meeting regarding ABM, and VP's report. Kissinger and President really startled by State position on ABM - backing off. Kissinger had expected Defense problems - Laird didn't even come to the meeting. Kissinger very agonized - finally late today told President that State-Rogers was engaged in all-out systematic effort to destroy NSC apparatus. He feels this strongly, and ties it in to current heavy PR program at State to build up Rogers. Feels he'll have to have confrontation and threaten to leave, or have Rogers take over full responsibility.

President had me in about 1:45, and I stayed until he left for Camp David at 5:00. Ehrlichman and Kissinger joined at end. First part was long time on schedule specifics and general follow-up I had stored up all last week. Also still trying to figure out timing on HEW veto, press conference, budget message, etc. Will go with TV veto Monday night, press conference probably Friday noon or afternoon.