



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

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Monday, January 26.

The first veto. The early part of the day was covered with President in EOB reviewing veto material. He was still inclined not to go on TV, partly because of escalating a negative issue - but, I think, more because he just doesn't like the speech material. Had about decided to do a three minute deal for film, to use on the news.

Had Harlow, Ehrlichman and me over to EOB about 10:15 for a general discussion. Ehrlichman continued to push hard for TV prime time on basis that it was necessary to establish our position against inflation and cut away the anti-education argument. Harlow basically agreed, mainly because of need to bolster the troops for the vote - of which he seems not to be too certain. After considerable argument by the President against prime time, he finally concluded he probably had to do it - so settled on 9:00 tonight. Also decided to do press conference at 6:30 Friday, event with the Press Club conflict. Had earlier planned to do it at 3:30, but we all argued for the stronger time period.

Kept me for another hour - regarding general talk - and a review of schedule in attempt to clear as much as possible. Have really run him through a lot of homework - he's getting out of the habit of a normal daily appointment routine.

Was going to have top Congressional leaders tomorrow with Attorney General and Chief Justice to lay out his plan for Chief Justice to address Congress - but Chief Justice decided not a good idea.

Spent the afternoon working on the speech - final draft not ready until 7:00. As usual, did a great job of delivery on TV. Ran exactly ten minutes. Made his points very effectively and has now built an excellent case for this and any future anti-inflation vetoes.

He called after the speech, to make point again that he needs a writer who can put a speech together, so he doesn't have to do all the work. Hard to find.



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Was in good spirits after telecast - had press in for stills - told them pen he'd used to sign veto was gift from Mike Mansfield. Then a brief meeting with Phil Habib and on to the house.