



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

National Archives and Records Administration, Online Public Access Catalog Identifier: 7787364

Saturday, May 9.

The weirdest day so far. Started with Ehrlichman call at about 5:00 saying President was at the Lincoln Memorial talking to students. We agreed to send Krogh over, and Chapin and I got up and went in - arrived about 6:15 - by which time President had moved to the Capitol. I met him when he emerged and Ziegler had also arrived - so we all went to breakfast at the Mayflower. Very weird. President completely beat and just rambling on, but obviously too tired to go to sleep. All worked out fine - he got great press credit for doing the students - and wound down a little. After return to White House, I got him to go over to EOB and talk to the soldiers who were just waking up in their sleeping bags in the 4th floor hall. President very impressed by them, but also very kindly toward the students, who were apparently all hippie types.

Finally got him to go to bed - but he couldn't sleep, so tossed around, made phone calls, then was back up again. Came over to Oval Office for a while - then over to EOB for the rest of the afternoon. Called sporadically to see how things were going, and to push on through from last night and this morning. Knows he's pooped and wants schedule cleared so he can go to Florida this next weekend for four days. He really needs it.

I am concerned about his condition - the decision; the speech; the aftermath - killings, riots, press, etc.; the press conference; the student confrontation have all taken their toll - and he has had very little sleep for a long time and his judgment, temper and mood suffer badly as a result. On the other hand he has gone into a monumental crisis - fully recognized as such by the outside - and so far has come through extremely well. But there's a long way to go and he's in no condition to weather it. He's still riding on the crisis wave, but the letdown is near at hand and will be huge.

A major test will be the Sunday press and the magazines. If we get by those, we can move into next week in pretty good shape. Then I've got to get him to spend some time with key staff and get them rolling again. If we make it, it'll be a great proof of leadership at a time that it was badly needed. If we don't, we'll have a rough couple of years of rebuilding.