



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

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Friday, September 10.

We got into a discussion today on the plans for how to handle the economy thing. Some of our staff people feeling that we should announce a Phase II decision, or announce the fact of a date that we will announce the Phase II decision, so that we can keep people confident that we're in control and we know what we're doing. The President was in basic agreement with that, wanted me to ask Connally his judgment as to whether we should set a date and announce it now. But he's also concerned that, within our group on the economy, we have a philosophical difficulty with Shultz, because there has to be an appearance of a follow-on initiative, and it's important now that all our people flatly state that we're not just consulting, that we will have a program, that we know the way to do it. We want to get the initiative, pick a deadline date and announce it. The most important thing is to indicate we know what we're doing. Thrashing around on a lot of consulting is not the Nixon style, and we're aren't going to learn anything from those meetings. We can't let it appear that the opposition forced us to the next phase. The freeze must be our move, and we can't look like they're for it and we're against it. It may be that the politics of the announcement was not cleared with Connally, that is that Safire didn't check with him, and the President asked me to track that down. He feels we need to get this on the record before the magazine stories are written over the weekend.

We had quite a little discussion this afternoon on the whole philosophical question of what kind of press coverage we want in China. The basic point being whether we push for putting in a ground station, so that they can do live coverage and transmit film directly from Peking. Ziegler, of course, arguing for this, as is Scali, and the others; but, the President, Henry, and I all have the basic feeling that we should permit the minimum amount of coverage possible within China, and that this will give us much better coverage and maintain the aura of mystery, etcetera. Nothing much settled on that.



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The President had his labor meeting this morning, and I guess it went pretty well. There was a Rumsfeld session at the EOB this afternoon, mainly on politics and some odds and ends Rumsfeld wanted to review with the President, and then the dinner with the Japanese Cabinet ministers tonight, which the President was not looking forward to at all.

End of September 10.