



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

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Wednesday, September 15.

President spent the whole day at the EOB in preparation for his press conference tomorrow. I heard nothing from him until 1:00, when he called me over for about an hour while he was taking a break. He got into the Kissinger-Reston question and broadened that to the general subject of interviews with newspapermen, and he feels that it's not in his interest now to have any more personal interviews until after the election. The problem they create, even if it's with Dick Wilson, or Stu Alsop, or Sulzberger, is the relationship with our other friends, and that it's not the best use of our time-- of his time. He feels that he'll be having more press visibility, generally, as we move into the election period, and that this will help to preclude the need for individual interviews. He intends to turn down the ones he already scheduled, such as Stu Alsop and *U.S. News*. He says he'll write an article for *U.S. News*.

He then got into some thoughts on general scheduling and overall use of his time. He wants to keep his Wednesdays totally free, so that he can have snap press conferences if he wants to on Thursday. So for the same reason, he wants to keep Thursday scheduled on a cancelable basis, so that he can make a snap decision at the last minute as to whether he wants to call the press in. He feels we should keep cutting down on the meetings with groups, and after pondering it a bit, came to the basic conclusion that the least productive of all the things we do are the small meetings in the Cabinet room, or in his office, the meetings that are set to lay us hands on a group or to stir up some support. He raised the question that we can't show any results from any of these, and no color stuff ever gets out about how he handles them. He feels that we have been so heavy now on the big moves that we can do some more things on the warm side and get away with it, which indicates a reaction to the overdose of the warm stuff we had early in the year. He really keeps coming back to the basic point of how much he should be out in front as the leader, and what is leadership, and the fact that the real problem we have to deal with is the myth created by the media. He called me later with the idea of reassembling the Camp David economic group, by having all of the principals and their wives up for a dinner at Camp David on October 1 or 2. Then let them stay over the weekend if they want to. So we'll explore this possibility.



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End of September 15.