



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

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Saturday, January 17.

President at Camp David still alone. Long call at noon with a bundle of instructions for the speech. Now wants each writer to do a specific length section on one item - Price, environment; Buchanan, crime; and Safire, inflation. Also wants Ehrlichman input worked into these, with the writers. Feels he's ready now to zero in - apparently is getting a general feel of what he wants to do, but still not really writing his own draft. Looking for statistics, etc., and also doing some background reading. Has been sleeping late in the mornings, and working very late at night. Breaks at noon and dinner times, and spends an hour or so on the phone. We've done very well at keeping calls and interruptions away from him.

Called tonight - back at White House for Martin dinner, and said he was pretty well ready to start writing - would do this tomorrow at EOB. Will start in morning trying to get some kind of outline (apparently hasn't yet). Also wanted to chat a bit - had been looking back over first year, and figures that, with what we're up against with antagonistic press, we have come out rather well. Must not be concerned that establishment press give us poor marks, because they don't want us to do well. They can't bear the thought that they're wrong. He had read couple of Agnew's speeches and feels they have a sharpness of logic (Buchanan) versus Price's. Price lacks thrust, so people don't listen.

Kissinger and Ehrlichman and I had long discussion this morning about basic thrust of Administration - foreign and domestic. All feel we have posture of basic command of situation in foreign policy, and need to develop same in domestic. Problem is we can't get control of all the apparatus. Feel President has to find a way to take some kind of positive leadership. Main area of opportunity is crime issue - real question of value in environment, welfare, etc. Needs to put enough real stroke into one thing to make some real headway instead of just talk.