



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

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Thursday, April 30.

Cambodia speech day. President up until about 1:00am - to bed for an hour - up again till about 5:30. Then in to office at about 8. Not much sleep before a big day. He spent the day at EOB - finishing up the speech, and keeping in touch by phone during breaks while Rose was typing. She worked over at EOB, with Marge, for first time.

President called frequently regarding ideas for follow-up tonight - queries regarding our plans and readiness - especially to be sure we are ready to hit the networks, etc., for bad coverage; activity in Congress for support; be sure we kill or deflect Reid amendment that would stop efforts in Cambodia; shore up Rogers; keep Congressional criticism regarding Parrot's Beak muted - wait till you hear President tonight; be sure to crank on target senators, etc.; amending list for Congressional briefing tonight; etc.

Called me over at 3:00 - Kissinger already there. Read us the speech - making a few corrections along the way. (Same as he did on November 3 speech - a new procedure.) Very strong and excellent wrap up. Kissinger and I both felt it will work. Some more discussion on follow-up and how to handle reaction.

Called me after 6:00 staff briefing for a report - he's worried about Kissinger doing too much informing and not enough selling in his briefings. I agree, and I worked with Kissinger on this for his later briefings. President left EOB about 7:20 to go to Residence - I walked over with him. Then came down to leaders and Cabinet briefing at 8:15. (Cabinet met first, with VP presiding, for brief pitch from Rogers, who did only moderately well. He's obviously not the least anxious to go ahead with this, and it's very hard for him to back it. I tried earlier in day to get him to talk to Fulbright about no resolutions - he said Harlow should do it. He stayed home all day to avoid press.)



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President did excellent briefing - quite personal. Understanding of those who would oppose, but laid it pretty hard to them he was doing this to end war and save lives. Odd to watch Fulbright, Mansfield, Aiken, Ted Kennedy, all of whom had blasted him yesterday and today. They all stood and applauded at end.

Then to Oval Office for TV. A horrifying moment when he lost his place on the script, but recovered beautifully. Left for Residence right after - strolling slowly through Rose Garden. Stayed up late - 1:30 - taking phone calls, Cabinet and key staff, reports from me on reaction, etc. Had Chief Justice up for couple of hours, when he came by to drop off a letter about 10:30.

We set up a well-organized operation for phone calls, reaction, etc. Worked pretty well. Kept President posted, and generated some key calls to him. Reaction was more mixed than November 3, but a lot of strong favorable response. Not as violent and anti. TV commentators played it very straight, no real adverse shots. No need for hitting back. Can build now for a positive overall wrap up. Hardest will be to convince our own troops on the Hill.