



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

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Saturday, October 17.

The campaign begins. Before we set out President had me in to make sure we were not letting anyone get out of line regarding the Kent State grand jury report. He wants to be sure we keep that issue our way and the report works for us ideally - unless the Attorney General decided to override it in some way. Justice had threatened a federal grand jury if the state jury didn't indict the National Guard. I called Kleindienst several times to be sure this was locked up - he says it is. Then he asked for a few facts for his speech and discussed a couple of extra stops based on late polls. He's anxious to hit wherever we can do any good.

Day went very well - crowds, logistics, etc., all fine. President in good form, reworked his speech as he went along. Had some rocks thrown at Burlington, first stop, and some hecklers - so he picked up theme of need for the Silent Majority to stand up and be counted. Don't answer the rocks and obscenities in kind - use the strongest voice of all, your vote at the ballot box. Very effectively ties the Democrats to the student demonstrators.

A long hard day - and his voice showed it at the end, but he didn't slow down at all. Good effect with the locals - should make some real mileage. He feels he got his basic line well started. Will work on variations next week. Found anti-welfare line goes well with these kinds of audiences, and the "peace for a generation." Is using the "majority of one" point regarding Senate votes.