



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

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Sunday, April 30.

Started out in Key Biscayne, left at 1:30 for Texas. I didn't see the President in the morning. On the plane on the way over to Texas, he wanted to be sure we were following up on the poll, which I gave him the dope on. We came out quite well in the approval of the basic contents of his speech. He also got into the Novak speech again, he wants to have Senators, or a Senator, write the leading editors, maybe Bob Taft do it, saying I'm going to make this speech, do you agree or disagree with what Evans has said, just to try and stir up some interest in this. Also the heads of the television networks. Wanted me to call Connally and give him the poll data before the dinner tonight, especially get it to Rogers and Laird, Congressional Democrats, so on.

He came up with the idea of doing his acceptance speech not at the Convention, but a few weeks later in San Diego, as an expansion of his Southern California campaign kickoff idea. He had me call Rogers this morning to give him some guidance on his television appearance on *Meet the Press*, told him to hit the humanitarian thing on refugees the way they've been hit, the shelling of the cities, the bloodbath in North Vietnam, when half a million were starved to death or killed in 1954, the inhuman treatment of POW's. He also told me to have Haig get Vogt out to do briefings in Vietnam, we've got to get out some of our positive things. He wants to give Laird a hard kick, get some good briefings out of here. He says this week it's critical to have some positive things, so we shouldn't worry about predicting and looking long, we should keep cool, put out the positive things, hold firm for three or four weeks. Keep the heat on the PIOs, to keep the press out of the battle areas and get the bad pictures out of the papers.

The Connally dinner tonight went pretty well. The President did an hour of Q&A, and gave way too long answers, particularly the first question on Vietnam where he went for 15 minutes, and then had a number of other questions on Vietnam where he again took quite a little time. I think it probably impressed the guests but it wasn't nearly as strong a performance as he's able to do. Connally was effusive in his praise of the President's courage and performance.

End of April 30.