



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

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Sunday, July 30.

The President's still at Camp David. He called to say that he had only reported to Connally that he had called Wallace on the phone, had a long talk with him, and with his wife, set up the Haig briefings, told him that Connally was his closest political associate, he could deal directly with them. Mrs. Wallace made a big point about how she often says how much she admires Mrs. Nixon and the girls. He talked to Wallace about his travel plans and said he wouldn't come to Alabama unless Wallace felt it was a good idea. Wallace said he would love to have him, that he's got lots of friends down here, and so on. He wants me to get the film *Sunrise at Campobello* and have our man take it down and show it to Wallace as a way of giving him a big lift.

We got into the Eagleton thing again. Wants to be sure that we guard against any sympathy reaction to Eagleton. We don't want Eagleton to look bad, but we want to make McGovern look bad out of this. Connally feels that they're setting the stage to drop Eagleton. The question of whether they have to follow the DNC into a meeting. The President says survival is the first law of politics and of life, and that they have to move on the basis of that.

In light of this, he's concerned about the line we should take, which is that we're sorry for Eagleton, but that McGovern has handled this cynically and destroyed a human being. He feels he can't do a press conference if they drop him, that there's no gain for us if we go on TV right afterwards, but we should do one before the Convention. He's considering maybe doing one at 7:30, just to make the record, so that he can do one later. He feels the press wants to knock us down to their level, and he should stay above it.

He had a phone conversation, apparently, with Al Capp, who had said in 1970 that the President shouldn't believe the criticism about the campaign, that the people like the President out fighting, but now Capp feels that the President in the last two years has developed such an image that he's way above all these people, and he should not go out and campaign. That he relates to people in a different way. Also, in the press conference, he feels he shouldn't get down in the ring with them. He ought to have some, but not too often on television.



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End of July 30.