



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

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Wednesday, August 16.

At Camp David. President called concerned about the Convention reapportionment problems, but thinks we're wise in following the Ehrlichman plan of staying out of the battle ourselves, and he's going to do so, too. Still thinks we can develop a compromise and that we should because we don't want to ruin the South.

Had a report from John Dean on the Watergate business, he says that things went okay with Magruder, on an informal thing last night and then with the grand jury today. Where he was in about two and a half hours, came off okay with no surprise questions or any new evidence. They focused on me, apparently, in trying to get Jeb to tie me into the case somehow, today, although last night they focused on Colson. John thinks that things are under reasonably good control there.

Ehrlichman called in several times on the rules fight in the convention. Says the problem is the Percy people have been working for a year on doing careful delegate work on the Committee—and of large delegates. On the matter of the reapportionment, to more delegates to the ten largest states. Their formula has been lobbied to the Committee on a whole series of votes. We lost one yesterday, six to five. We're against the large state formula but we could take a middle ground but that was defeated. Our people haven't done any delegate work, we'll win a few and lose a few. Other than that it'll be a floor fight, we have no apparatus to handle it. They're heavily organized, and so on.

So we have the VP under wraps. Goodell sees the problem, says the President's guys have it under control, so John's going to call our troops in this afternoon, let Morgan brief them, make the point of the Vice President's stake, say we don't want him to feel under wraps, let everyone do what he wants. This, as I said before, is basically an approach that's agreeable to the Vice President.



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Got into a big flap that the President called on in that Pat Nixon was set up for a TV interview with Marya MacLaughlin at CBS, and apparently really got a bad deal out of it, in that she was given a lot of rough, loaded questions. As a result of this, the President wants Ziegler to put someone on Mrs. Nixon to cover her at the Convention, get Barbara Walters and Virginia Sherwood of ABC and NBC out to her and be sure that CBS is cut out.

As a result of this, he decided to go back tonight at 5:15 and talk to Pat about the Convention and all that sort of thing. Then he also said that he was going to have to stay at the hotel in Miami, that he couldn't stay over at Key Biscayne, because Marya MacLaughlin in the interview made a big thing of Pat being separated from the President all the time. So he told me to work something out on that. I made a big pitch for talking him out of it, and then talked to Julie, and she agreed to try and straighten it out, and called later to say that she probably had, and also that the President should not come down, that things were in bad shape at home and it wouldn't do any good for him to come.

He got into a lot of little odds and ends that I guess were cleaning up notes he had before. He wants to be sure that Buchanan works on the questions and answers for the family, wants to consider doing Oral Roberts College during the campaign, thinks Eberle's a good potential speaker for the campaign. Wants to be sure Ehrlichman puts someone on the Wernicke thing and see if we can catch him on his security clearance. Wants to follow-up on Bebe with Bobby Baker. Make a deal to help him if he'll help us, and so forth. Wants to be sure Connally is really cranking on his state committees, as well as his doctors, lawyers, and so forth committees. Covered the plan for the Kissinger meeting on Saturday night, he doesn't want to see him until dinnertime.

Got into the Reagan problem. Agonizing back and forth on no interruptions. He'll work at the EOB tonight—down the hill. Got into the problem of souvenirs and mementos to the Convention people. Said he didn't want to get into the rules thing, he wanted Ehrlichman to handle that. He ended up staying here after all, working on the speech into the night.



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End of August 16.

As a general note, he's obviously kind of bouncing around and not really getting into focus on the speech, although he's putting quite a lot of time against it, but he's looking for excuses and ways out, and says so. That's why he's considering doing the Olympic crew and all that.