



The Haldeman Diaries

H. R. Haldeman

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THIRD QUARTER: JULY—SEPTEMBER

Thursday, July 1, 1971

In discussing the Pentagon Papers question, in one of a long series of long meetings today, the P raised the point of the Hiss question again. One of the points he kept making about Alger Hiss is that his family was beyond reproach, etc. He wants E to realize that we have a great opportunity here, that this is a conspiracy. He really got going again on trying to get somebody in fast to take this whole project on, like the P took on the Hiss case, 18 hours a day, with total dedication, tracking down every lead, leaking stuff to the press. He made the point that the establishment has a new intellectual arrogance which leads them to think that they know best and that the determination regarding what the public should know should be made by them. We serve a different morality. Elected officials establish the law; the courts enforce them. Those who disobey, even if they think the laws are wrong, are immoral. If the cause is right, they say it justifies breaking the law, but that's fascism, the means justify the ends.

Friday, July 2, 1971

The P had his schedule free for the day except at midday with a bunch of open-office-hour-type things and a luncheon. He was interested in the follow-up on the conspiracy question. He wants to get Huston back on one special line of inquiry. He had some points that he wanted Colson to follow up on.

He had E and me in late this afternoon, making the point that there are two phases to this. One, that E should handle the whole declassification and protection of documents, dealing with the courts, etc., but the other is the investigation and development of the conspiracy, which requires a dirty guy

to really go after it. The committee can then call up the witnesses before they're indicted and we can start hauling all those people in. This will require great preparation, and a top staff man; depends on hard work, running down everything. He thought that it was almost worth pulling E off the domestic stuff and having him do it, because he really wants to get it done.

We had a flap with Rogers that Haig called me about. He had waited until Henry was gone and then sent a memo in saying that he was going to send Sisco back to the Middle East to try to bring Israel and Egypt together into a settlement. Haig feels this would be disastrous, and asked that I help in trying to cool it somehow. I talked to the P, he agreed that we should tell Rogers that this has possibilities, but he's a little uneasy about moving now, so he wants him to hold up until we can think it through. I told Haig to go ahead and handle it that way with Rogers, which he's going to do.

The other big item of the day was the unemployment announcement down to 5.6 from 6.2 last month, the biggest one-month drop in history, and obviously a great story for us. Unfortunately, as usual, the Bureau of Labor Statistics screwed it up and said that it wasn't really important because it was due to a statistical quirk. This drove the P right up the wall tonight, and he started hounding Colson on the phone every couple of minutes, demanding that we get Goldstein fired, etc. Colson overreacted and started bouncing around in the woodwork, getting action underway and finally got around to calling me. In the meantime he had Shultz on a special airplane being brought back down for a 7:30 meeting tomorrow morning to get things started so they can give the P a plan at 8:00, when he says he'll be at his desk. I doubt that he will, but he just might out of orneriness.

Monday, July 5, 1971

At Camp David, in the morning, he phoned while I was up at the pool. Concerned about the weekend's news on the economy and says we're going to have to start playing a harder game with Arthur, and also we've really got to put the screws on the bad guy at the Bureau of Labor Statistics. He's talked to Colson, told him to get a group together regarding Vietnam, making the point that we shouldn't fall for the Democratic line that Vietnam is not going to be an issue. That we've got to make it an issue, making the point that the Democrats got us in, Nixon got us out, and then the Democrats tried to sabotage Nixon's efforts to get us out. Also, he wants E's people to get going with major accomplishments: one, crime, pointing out that we've reduced crime in the major cities, we've reduced student unrest, we're launching successfully a war on drugs, we've strengthened the Court, and we've ended the era of permissiveness. The second being the war. Third is economics. It's what happens that will count, nothing that we can say is going to make any difference.

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