



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

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Saturday, October 28.

The President had a strong reaction to CBS's special report on the Watergate last night, says, "That finishes them". He means he's ready to write CBS off completely. Got into some schedule things, wants to add New Mexico and Oklahoma on the way out to California.

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Audio Cassette 26, Side A.

Duration: 7 seconds

Raised the problem of the Drowns who apparently are going to have to come back with us for Election night and he's trying to figure out how to get rid of them afterwards.

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Kissinger was in and concerned about his briefing with the surrogates and thought that Rogers should do it instead. Thinks that we need to make the point that the President has achieved his goals in the settlement the return of POW's, the cease-fire, and no Communist government, versus McGovern who would leave the POW's there, pull a unilateral withdrawal and disarm the South Vietnamese, and provide a Communist takeover. We should make the point we've been



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working on this all down the line, and that there's no concern with the election, our concern is to get it nailed down.

He told Henry to use the *New York Times* as his outlet, and to totally cut out the *Washington Post*. He feels that the opposition strategy now is to try to mar our victory. They know that they can't defeat us, so they're trying to make the victory as unimportant as possible by hanging the Vietnam thing in on a negative basis, by trying to hammer us down on the Watergate stuff, and that kind of thing. He feels that we have to be cold-blooded regarding those who have tried to crucify us on the politics-- playing politics with peace. That, we're not just settling the war, we have to play both games, thinks Henry should go ahead and meet with TV commentators. Henry says the problem now is with Thieu, on his going public. The President thought that maybe he ought to have a meeting with Thieu. Henry says no, but to send a Presidential letter, so they're gonna work on that basis. The big problem now, is for the next ten days, to keep the thing from blowing up either on the North or the South, so that we don't have an adverse reaction set in prior to the election.

We did the Ohio, Michigan, trip today, the motorcade went very well. We didn't get very good press on it on the TV tonight, but we had great crowds, great enthusiasm, and it should have been extremely effective in Ohio. And the Michigan stop also was a huge crowd at the airport, even on 24-hours' notice. So, it was a good campaigning day.

End of October 28.