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February 26, 1971

EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE HONORABLE JOHN N. MITCHELL  
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM: H. R. HALDEMAN

I'm informed by Roger Ailes, who still has some people working on some production in Indiana, that the political situation there is deteriorating badly -- to the point of disaster.

As you know, there's a bitter fight between Whitcomb and Snyder -- Snyder now having been elected State Chairman. Apparently there is a move by Whitcomb to dump Snyder within the next two weeks and get control of the state committee again. He is shutting off patronage funds from the state committee to try to squeeze Snyder out.

Whitcomb is hated in the state, his standing in the polls is going down from an already low point. Apparently, he also has tax problems.

The Snyder forces seem to be basically loyal to RN. The Whitcomb forces are controlled by Tabbert, who is an ultra-conservative, and another fellow who was Reagan's midwest manager.

There is a lot of talk of a Reagan move in Indiana.

As I am sure you know, there has been a suggestion that we give Whitcomb a major appointment right now as a means of trying to bring harmony back into the situation in Indiana. What's your view on this?

HRH:kb