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November 28, 1972

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM : H. R. HALDEMAN

SUBJECT : The Dole Meeting Today

John Mitchell has talked with Dole and reports that he was not receptive to Mitchell's call and obviously not interested in discussing the matter with Mitchell. He kept saying that he would have to kick this around when he meets with the President.

Mitchell went through the whole pattern of the need for a fulltime chairman, gave him the full pitch that it is to Dole's advantage to get out now at the peak. He said that there had been considerable input from all around the country - Nelson Rockefeller, the Southern chairmen, various political leaders of all levels - that it was absolutely essential to have a fulltime chairman now. To all of this, Dole responded, "Well that's what we'll have to kick around with the President".

Mitchell feels that Dole will buy the concept of his departing immediately after the inauguration, announcing his resignation at the Committee Meeting prior to that, and letting the word out now that he's going to do so, but he will probably put up some argument on it.

Mitchell urges that you make the point first of all that, as he knows, there is a strong demand for a fulltime chairman throughout all levels of the party. Secondly, that you laud him highly for the outstanding work he's done as chairman, make the point that you look forward to working with him in the future in his role in the Senate, but that you be very firm that the change has got to be made.

Mitchell feels strongly that you should not tell him about Bush at this time, that we should get this one set first and then raise the Bush question later.

One problem DeLo has is apparently the stories about Ken Riets taking over the Committee, etc., and he doesn't want it to appear that the Committee to Re-elect the President is kicking him out of the National Committee. That point should be made clear - that you will be seeking a very high level, fulltime, outside, professional chairman, not someone who was involved in running the campaign.

HRH:pm