



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

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Wednesday, June 9th. The President spent most of the day in the EOB with no fixed schedule other than a couple of things at 12:00.

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Audio Cassette 9, Side A, Withdrawn Item Number 6 [AC-9(A) Sel 2]
Duration: 13 seconds

He called over first thing this morning to say he will not do the Okinawa reversion signing ceremony with the Japanese, which State has laid on for Thursday.

Apparently he jumped Henry on this, first thing this morning.

Late morning, he had Ehrlichman and me over and got into quite a discussion on priorities. He is very anxious to get Mrs. Nixon identified with the Right to Read thing and to get the voluntary action people going on two or three key projects where it is known that something is happening, like their measles vaccination which they got some pretty good mileage out of. He wants to get some more like that and get them to do some big things, but a few of them, not just get themselves organized. He also told Ehrlichman to sit down and pick out the three main issues that really matter. He commented that revenue sharing only matters if it is tied to tax reduction, and welfare reform only if it relates to getting people off of welfare. He emphasized that we shouldn't be concerned if it is something we will actually accomplish and pointed out that JW--, JFK was doing all of his progress building on phony issues. But, rather, we should look in terms of how we create issues. We need an enemy. We need controversy. We need to do something that will build those things. Drugs and law enforcement may be one, especially since we're so



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weak in our standing in the polls on those. He doesn't want to make unemployment an issue, but he does need to bring it down. He makes the point again that out of all the things we've done, nothing comes through clearly. The Cabinet officers have no, have established no image of themselves.

Ehrlichman raised the point that he wants to do some polling and analysis and get out the whole question of fear; and thinks that the questions in the polls are not asked right. For instance, on crime, he thinks we have got to bring the issue back on allaying the fear of crime; that we've accomplished this. People aren't as afraid now as they were when we came in; they're not afraid about the war; they're not afraid about the crime in the streets; they're not afraid about the riots on the campuses; they're not afraid about the cities burning, etcetera. But they don't know why they are not so much afraid, and we have got to get that point across.

The President told John, on the domestic stuff, to scrape away all the crap and just pick three issues that will give us sharp image. He also makes the point that we have got to be on either one side or the other; we can't be neither.

He said that Connally argues that we should go for reorganization as a political issue just so we can be against things the way they are, but the President doesn't feel that's really taking hold. He raised the question of the importance of environment as an issue. And Ehrlichman pushed hard, on the basis of their poll, that it is and, that on the basis of the demographics, this is the way to reach new people that now are not for us. And we need to look at where the interest is there.



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On politics he discussed polling some, doesn't want to do the state-by-state polls until fall, but wants a plan ready to go on them, particularly to analyze the Wallace question, because on a national basis, the Wallace fallout is equal between us and any Democratic opponent. But we need to see it by individual states, where it may make a very substantial difference. Also he feels, politically, we may have to take a harder line with both business and labor that we are not gaining much by trying to play to either one of them. Then he gets to the need of building our establishment, working towards finding people around the country who want to be on our side, and get them built up as a new establishment of political scientists, educators, businessmen, etcetera, rather than playing to the existing establishment.

He raised the Teddy Kennedy question again, makes the point that we've got to do some long-range planning regarding him, on the basis that he, that it may very well go his way; and if so, there will be great pressures to forget Chappaquiddick, which is of course his most vulnerable point, and that we can't let be forgotten.

We got into a little discussion on foreign trips. The President made the point he will not go to Canada at all this year, although we had already tentatively scheduled a visit in the fall.

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This is a reaction to Trudeau's slamming us while he was in Russia and Europe. He feels that a trip to Canada won't do us any good and that on that basis we should not even consider doing one.



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And I think that basically makes sense. The only trips he will consider are the one to Midway this month and then the two to Moscow and China in the future, as we work them out. He doesn't want to do any other trips to get in the way of those. He originally also included Europe for the Big Four meeting but, after the Russian Summit, but agreed with my contention that it would be better to bring the European leaders into Washington and hold the meeting here rather than the President going to them.

Tonight he took Pat, Tricia, and Julie out on the Sequoia for dinner for Tricia's last dinner with the family before the wedding, since tomorrow night is her bridesmaids' dinner, Friday night is the rehearsal dinner, and Saturday is the wedding.

Deed of gift - Privacy withdrawal re-reviewed and released by MS, NARA, October 23, 2013
Audio Cassette 9, Side A, Withdrawn Item Number 9
Duration: 6 seconds

We got into the Drown problem for another hour or so today, with still no solution.

End of June 9th.