



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

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[Friday], July 16th

The main focus today was on the aftermath of the speech and a follow-up on the Connally flap. President had some follow-up things. The response to the speech was surprisingly favorable from all quarters, even the conservatives, and this leads the President to want a poll this weekend, so that we can get a reading and counteract any adverse Gallup-type stuff. We had a few general discussions on follow-up and plans for the trip, etcetera, but nothing very significant. President had a NSC meeting most of the morning.

We got into the Connally thing a number of times. He had me call Connally and try to settle it, which I was not successful in doing, and we ended up getting back to the point that the President would have to talk with him. Connally requested 30 minutes with him on Monday. At the President's request, I asked Connally to come out here and talk over the weekend, but he didn't want to do it. So we left it that we'd meet on Monday, and the President's now decided that he wants to take Connally and me to dinner on the *Sequoia* and put it to him regarding the Vice Presidency. Making the point that we made a big play on China and now we're going to make another big play. If we can't work that out, then we'll go for Secretary of State, as was discussed earlier. So that's the way we're leaving it with Connally at this point.

[End of July 16.]