



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

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Thursday, August 26.

Again, stayed at home. Had no contact with the President during the day, but a number of phone calls from others. The President originally intended to come in the office, but ended up not doing so. Colson reported that he had talked to Fitzsimmons, and Fitzsimmons had talked to Meany, and they want a meeting with the President, with Fitzsimmons, Meany, and Abel, and Woodcock. Ehrlichman then called to say that Hodgson was planning to meet with Meany this afternoon, although Colson had reported earlier that Meany doesn't want to deal with Hodgson. Ehrlichman said he would try to turn off the Hodgson meeting.

John's concerned that we're going to be defensive when Congress comes back, and thinks the President should address a Joint Session, spell out what he's done and point out what's up to Congress to do. He says Peterson is shaken by the fact that Volcker has no guidance and is going into negotiations and may seal us in. He thinks there are real dangers in franchising this whole thing to Connally, because he tends to be a BS artist. Treasury has no real capability to do broad thinking, and Connally can't do it singlehandedly. Peterson and Kissinger should be in on this to orchestrate State and outside thinking. He thinks it's a mistake to assume that Connally can deliver. For instance, on tax reform, Treasury couldn't produce at all. He also mentioned that Richardson wants to come out to meet with the President for a symbolic meeting, because there's a lot of talk that he'll resign. And he's tracking very well, and this would be a good thing to do. John also suggested this was an ideal time to move on J. Edgar Hoover and urged that we give consideration to that.

Colson reported, in general that Connally's gone to Texas; the Cost of Living Council's going to hit the road next week; that Stans has backed off his position of continuing the freeze. That they're cranking with Ehrlichman on the Pentagon Papers; and that he's developing a lot of good ideas for a long-range plan on the economy. So all in all, things seem to be going pretty well.

End of August 26.