



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

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Monday, August 30.

Discussed the Ehrlichman report on the airline merger question with the President. He feels that the way it should be resolved is that DOT should file a strong brief in favor of the merger. Justice should file a reasoned brief against it, but say in their brief that it's a closed case. Then we should put the heat on the CAB to favor the merger. In other words, he wants it to go through, but realizes that he can't instruct Justice to file a favorable brief in this particular case.

Called Connally about his idea of doing an address to Congress, a Joint Session next week when they come back. He thinks that it's a very good idea. He suggested taking a question hour like the Prime Minister does in Parliament. Make his pitch first—why he did it, what he hopes to accomplish—then take on all comers for questions. He feels this is a chance to spell out the President's hopes for the next decade, new trading blocks, new partners; all this in broad strokes, not specifics. That we're in a new era, we have to find new answers, "I want your help; we're dealing with fundamental problems". He thinks he should admit he doesn't know all the answers, but this is not an attempt to be dramatic or melodramatic. Say we don't know what will follow the freeze, but we know the people want stability in the economy, the ecology, and drugs, internationally, etcetera. He thinks this would counter all criticism, and that the President needs to drive home the philosophical basis, that this is not a move of a politician to increase his poll standings. Only on this basis does he think it would work, and he can't see any disadvantage in doing it this way.

I reported this to the President, and he wanted Safire to pick up what the President used at the State Department sub-Cabinet meeting, and then have Ray Price take on the last part about where do we go from here, picking up from Peterson a little feel of the things he's covered. He feels that it's got to be short, make the point that it's time to put the country first, that it's a new era, and so on. Shultz felt that he should not get into the tax reform, because he should keep his options open and he may decide not to do it. He thinks that as of now two bridges have not been made; we have not related the New Economic Policy to the State of the Union initiatives; and we haven't



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He tied the New Economic Policy to the old economic policy. Thinks the speeches can accomplish those. Also he's worried about the tendency to indicate that there are going to be more controls in Phase II, and is concerned about people falling for the excess profit tax idea.

The President got into some odds and ends. He spouted out a few ideas on poll questions as the day went along. He wanted to see whether they show that people support Nader, and thus get into the advisability of taking Nader on. He has a feeling that Nader probably has some strong public support, and we should not take him on, even though we certainly should not agree with him. Also he wanted to get some feel of whether the people like the idea of the President going out to the country, and also among those who do not approve of the President, as to why they don't. He discussed Pat Nixon's schedule some, wants to be sure that we're working up some schedule activities for her, and he talked a little about fundraising in general. He wants me to talk to Kalmbach, because he's concerned that out of Kalmbach's list of contributors, where he's raising \$10 million, that \$8 million is coming from money we already had, such as Mulcahy, Stone, etcetera, and that we need to set a deal that broadens the base, getting some key people in New York, Palm Beach and Chicago, to hit the elites there. He wants to be sure we don't have a money problem, so that we can do every little thing that we want to do. Main thing he feels is that we should not have a huge central staff of high-priced PR people. We should have a lot of young people as paid operators, like interns, all over the country, college youth and non-college. Also we should be ready to buy the minority groups, women, Catholics, Mexican, etcetera. We should plan on plenty of paid workers at low levels, rather than big high-priced headquarters staff. We should especially encourage YAF, Jaycees, and types of that sort, as political workers in the field. In other words, a thin headquarters and a big field staff, spread out. He's also particularly concerned with getting young people on our state committees and in positions of high visibility. He was pretty distressed when he discovered today that Henry Kissinger had ordered the President's barber down to San Clemente for a haircut, and that got him to questioning Henry's use of helicopters to get around in Southern California also.

End of-- he put in a pretty much a full day at the office, finally left in mid-afternoon.



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End of August 30.