



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

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Saturday, March 11.

President's at Camp David. He went up yesterday afternoon, so my only contact was by phone, but he called several times, one-- the second time for over an hour. He was into the ITT follow-up, was concerned that we hadn't gotten our story adequately out. He wanted to check our files to see if there was any complaint from Janine about the settlement, which he thinks there is. He suggested that maybe we could just clear up the whole contributor thing by foregoing all our hotel contributions and demand that the Democrats do likewise. Then fund it through individual contributions to the Party, using somebody like Laskey to get the facts on it. He still thinks we should try to hit the character assassination in the fourth degree item. Overall, wasn't too disturbed about it.

He got into the Gridiron question again, and at first said to withhold any Gridiron commitment, because if-- although he said he would go if the Vice President couldn't go, but we should push him to do it, but he had heard that Jack Anderson was going to be there, and if he were, that the President definitely wouldn't go. Then he called a couple hours later and said there was a problem in pulling the VP out of the California Republican Assembly [CRA] meeting in California, because we need that anchor to the right. Also there's a problem of the President being in California and not doing the CRA. So he raised the question of whether the CRA can change their date, and then said to look at the Gridiron separately and look if there is not a negative in his not going. Maybe he should just drop the California trip, and go in June instead, and said he didn't want to distort everything just because of the Gridiron. So he leaned to doing the Gridiron, then going to Canada from Washington instead, although if he does do the Gridiron, he won't go to the VIP room ahead of time. He'll wait until after they've moved into the dining room before he arrives.

It ended up that he decided definitely to go to the Gridiron, and to do a Gridiron Church the following day only for our friends. Then he got into some other general schedule items on trip planning, and the Connally deal in Texas, plan for going to Rotary International, and so on.



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End of March 11.