



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

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Saturday, June 3.

President in Key Biscayne. I came up to Camp David with the family. The President called this morning analyzing the trip again. He felt the trip and the homecoming had more positive impact than we had realized and that the address to Congress was a good idea Thursday night.

He feels that if McGovern wins in California, the interest in the Democratic Convention will subside because it will be a locked up affair. He thinks we need to do some figuring on what appearances the President should make after the California primary.

I talked to Connally to get a reading from him at the President's request on how the President ought to pattern his schedule for the next few weeks before the Democratic Convention.

Connally feels that he's now sold the American people on a strong basis that he's not just an ordinary politician; that for June, he shouldn't create any big stir. He should appear publicly to be working on foreign policy, but privately he should be studying the domestic issues and political problems, analyzing what to do in the fall and planning the campaign. After the nomination, he'll have to take on McGovern. He thinks McGovern will be the nominee now, that they can't stop him. He thinks the President should then make some political forays but he should use this time for planning. He should work on economic conditions, his tax position, and so forth. Connally thinks Mills has sold out to McGovern and that his whole tax bill deal is to try and raise dollars for the campaign, as a hammer over the head of industry. He says the President could take Mills' program and destroy him, and Mills says he'll destroy the economy for the sake of being Vice President. His bill would suspend all tax preferences automatically. It should be hit as an irresponsible act of a man who was formerly a statesman. He feels the President should not be out into the country. He should not be identified in the minds of people with the present political situation, because there's a lot of political bitterness and fighting. He should posture himself very low key as President, it's OK to do a few conventions and all. In fact he suggested Lions International in Mexico City. He should keep talking about his trip, Moscow, Peking, and so forth, but he should start considering the domestic issues and politics.



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End of June 3.