



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

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Sunday, June 25.

At Camp David. The President called me over at noon for about two hours. Had some ideas-- further ideas on this surprise trip thing. He thinks he should have Steve Bull along to handle that kind of thing rather than the military aide. We should keep the military completely out of it. He raised again the necessity for always doing something on Saturday morning for the Sunday papers, and that if we do anything in California we should do it the way he did the deal yesterday.

We got into some discussion of the family schedule at the Convention and that sort of thing. Julie's been complaining about the writing for her. Apparently Vera Hershberg, has been hired to do their stuff, came up with a two page piece praising Ralph Nader.

The President got into some political stuff. He's analyzing the McGovern thing, that they now are using three devices to change their image. First, the platform to get him off the hook. Secondly, the acceptance speech which he'll go very moderate on, and third, the turn to the right by the VP candidate selection. That's going to be a tough one to do, but it's possible that he'll succeed in it.

We were talking about Wallace, and he wants to be sure that maybe he ought to go out and see Wallace this week or at least give him a phone call. He wants to be sure we provide him with a plane to go to the Convention without any fanfare, or any obligation on Wallace's part.

Got into the Martha Mitchell problem. Apparently she not only called Helen Thomas the other night, and said if John didn't get his ass out of politics she was going to kick him out of the house, but her phones were then pulled out, either by her or someone in her room. She's demanded that they be reinstated, and the phone company has delayed on it, and she's now threatened to the phone man that if they don't get her phones in, she's going to "blow the whole Republican deal," whatever that means.

We talked some on general Southern strategy. The President wants to be sure the surrogates touch up the Deep South, cover all the small states and so on, and that we should ride herd very



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carefully on those states and not just take them for granted. He developed again his theory that in analyzing the '60 campaign, we started even in the polls in '60 and stayed even throughout the whole campaign. Where in '68, we started out way ahead and he rode it down to even. His conclusion is, therefore, that the '60 campaign was more effective than the '68 and that maybe we should be getting out and doing more as we did in '60. I've got to work out a way to talk him out of that viewpoint.

End of June 25.